

Minutes of the U3A AGM Held at the St. Paul's Centre at 3.00pm on 16th June 2021

Anne Southern welcomed all present and confirmed that the attendance was quorate. About 60 members were present, and there had been 29 apologies received.

1. To Approve the Chairman's brief Annual Report

Anne apologised to Marlene Morris for having not included her Poetry Reading Group in the list of active groups.

She reported that the membership had risen to 218 and that this was largely due to the more popular groups such as Canasta and Art History, and new groups of Film and Jazz Appreciation started by new members

She welcomed new members, and especially those who were prepared to act as convenors. She reminded members that although some convenors act as teachers, it is not necessary to be an expert to start a group, giving as an example the Italian Group was successfully started as a self-help group with no Italian speakers.

Members have indicated an interest in science and maths, so if anyone would like to start a new group we can give help in finding a venue.

The motion was proposed by Michael Talibard and seconded by Beth Lloyd and carried unanimously.

2. To Approve the Accounts and Appoint an Examiner

Juliette White reported that income last year was £3962 and expenditure £2529 so that approximately an additional £1400 was transferred to the bank account.

This was largely due to the reduced expenditure on room hiring and lower convenors' expenses because of the pandemic. This year 2021, we would benefit from the members capitation numbers being paid at 31st March, when they were lower, than paying for the usual highest number of members for the year.

However she flagged up a possible increase in bank charges as NatWest plan to charge £10 per month and £2.50 for every cheque put into the account. This would cost about £400 in a full year. It is in theory possible to reduce the cheque transaction costs to 15 pence by photographing each cheque and using a mobile application. She is still exploring this option as well as opportunities with Lloyd and HSBC and possibly Santander Banks.

It was pointed out that if members paid by online banking or by visiting their bank or by standing order these costs would be saved.

However it was also emphasised that standing orders do need to be updated as and when subscriptions change.

On that note Juliette mentioned that consideration had been given to lowering the sub, but on balance it was decided this would best be reviewed at the end of 2022/23.

Juliette reported that Graeme Witts had offered to be the examiner for a further year.

The motion was proposed by Steve Read and second by Silvie De Gruchy and passed unanimously.

3. To Elect the Next Committee.

Anne thanked the retired committee members, and in particular Michael Talibard who founded the Jersey U3A and acted as Chairman for 20 years. The committee entertained Michael and Helen to lunch as a token of their appreciation. She also thanked long standing committee members Christopher Davy, Julian Rogers, and Derek Gray who also retired.

Also thanked were the new committee members John Pugsley membership secretary, Tom Bunting, Robin Snart, secretary, Judy O'Sullivan, Susan Firby and Juliette White, treasurer.

Anne emphasised her gratitude to Juliette White for not only all her work as treasurer but also for taking over the management of the website following the sad death of Derek Turner.

The Committee members were re-elected, proposed by Chris Davy and seconded by Jaci Graham and carried unanimously.

4. To Amend the Constitution.

The following amendment to the constitution "In the event of there not being a quorum at any Annual or Special General meeting, resolutions shall be determined by those present and voting. In the case of any equality of voting the Chair of the present meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote."

This was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Anne pointed out that the question of changing the reference in the constitution from being a charity to a non-profit organisation was flagged up at the last AGM. Michael Talibard confirmed that when he drafted the original version this should have been the wording. Replying to a query from Janice Eden, he confirmed that gifts and donations could still be accepted. The amendment was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

5. To Hear Brief Reports and/or announcements from some of the group convenors.

Anne Southern said there were spaces in the Crosswords group and was thinking of ceasing Walking Group 2, started during pandemic restrictions, as it now clashes with Art History, unless more people wish to it to continue. She also thanked Dot Perks for taking over the Tennis Group.

Anne Pasturel mentioned that her Canasta Group has a few vacancies.

Beth Lloyd said there was room for one or two more to join her Book of the Month Group, which covered a wide range of titles.

Michael Talibard announced that his Mac/iPad Group would change to an on request basis for one to one advice.

He also mentioned that there is room for one more to join his Music Group and encouraged members to “just turn up’ at his Art History Group.

Marlene Morris said there was room for a couple more to join her fun Poetry Group.

Jan Jackson made the point that her French Conversation West was very informal and would welcome enquiries.

Janice Eden told the meeting that 44 people had signed up for the next lunch at the St Helier Yacht Club on Wednesday 30th June.

Geoffrey Winchester reported that the Jazz Appreciation group was thriving.

Hamish Kean announced that the Film Group was due to start on 29th June.

Christine Pemberton said her Creative Writing Group had space for a couple more.

Judy O’Sullivan emphasised that her Philosophy, Scientific and Political Thought Group ranged over a number of interesting and stimulating topics.

Margaret Marquis reported that her Play Reading group was full now but thanked Juliette for helping to find a suitable location.

Tom Bunting said his Social History Group will start on 10 September with a talk about Jersey’s Connection with the Slave Trade. He will also e-mail the programme to interested members and if you are not on the list but wish to be to please contact him.

Anne Southern reported that the first coffee morning held at the Jersey Pearl was well attended but that attendance was dwindling, and we still haven’t settled on a suitable East of Island venue. The committee will review the future options at its next meeting.

6. A.O.B.

Juliette asked members to tell her of any amendments or updates required for the website.

Anne asked any member present who had not already told her they were coming to please put their name on the attendance sheet for track and trace purposes.

Anne also thanked Juliette for organising the refreshments

Finally Janice Eden thanked Anne Southern for all the work she has and is putting in to the Jersey U3A for our benefit .

