



Jersey u3a Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12 July 2023

St Paul's Gate Community Centre

MINUTES

Welcome

The Chairman warmly welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Jersey u3a.

Apologies for absence had been received from members and convenors.

Annual Report

The Chairman presented her annual report to the AGM.¹

Highlighted in the report: -

Membership

The Chairman reported that Jersey u3a had weathered the storm of COVID and its aftermath and membership had increased significantly to 263 members – a net gain of 30 members on the year.

Committee

The Chairman reported that the Committee had been understrength for part of the previous year but it recently co-opted former Chairman, Michael Talibard, who would aid the Chairman on membership matters. The Chairman thanked the rest of her Committee for its invaluable support throughout the year and further thanked Graeme Witts for his work as our Examiner of Accounts and agreeing to put his name forward for another year. The Chairman was pleased to report that the current members of the Committee had re-submitted their names for re- election.

Finances

The u3a's finances, in the capable hands of our Treasurer Juliette White, continued to reflect a healthy situation. It was for this reason that the Committee had decided not to recommend any change to the annual membership fee of £18.00 per annum. The Chairman and Committee believed that this sum continued to be of excellent value. Our success would not be possible were it not for the voluntary band of members and convenors who not only gave of their time and skills but also supplied home hospitality. We were incredibly grateful to you all. Further, we are fortunate that organisations such as Santander Bank gave free use of their Buenos Aires Room at their Charing Cross offices. To persons such as Andrew Parker



who let out the music room at the Old Rectory at a very reasonable rate. The Chairman expressed her sincere thanks to all those who supported the Jersey u3a in its endeavours.

Groups

The Chairman was delighted that in the past year new groups had been set up which had drawn in new members: notably, Beginners' Spanish (with a second group started) Spanish Conversation, Mah-Jong, Existentialism for Dummies and Local History. A proposal from another member to start a 'Reading Shakespeare' group was hoped to get going in the autumn. The majority of last year's new groups remained popular together with those well established. The Chairman reminded the AGM that as a volunteer organisation we were entirely dependent on the activity and engagement of members. The Committee were here to support anyone who would like to start a new group – we could help with funding a venue and finding a tutor, if necessary.

The Committee was trying to make Jersey u3a more socially active by holding usually well attended monthly coffee mornings, lunches and by offering tea and biscuits after Social History to encourage members to stay behind and chat to each other and to the guest speaker.

The Chairman concluded by thanking individually the convenors and teachers of each of the Jersey u3a groups. *(The full list of names and groups was included in the Chairman's Report attached to these Minutes).*

The adoption of the Chairman's Report was -

Proposed by Julian Rogers

Seconded by Debbie Davey.

Members adopted the report by acclaim.

Finance

The Treasurer Juliette White presented the Statement of Financial Activities including income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Treasurer explained that the Statement reflected the continued strength of Jersey u3a's finances with a balance carry forward of £8,932.05. Income for the year totalled £4,580.00 and expenditure totalled £3,448.78. This resulted in a net income of £1,131.22 for 2022. Nonetheless, the Treasurer added words of caution. It was important to remember that the impact of the pandemic and the lack of spend on rooms and other activities reflected in part the healthy carry forward. Further, our bank – National Westminster International – had deferred again the imposition of bank charges on charitable accounts. The threat of these charges being imposed at a future date remained and we would remain vigilant. Added to which room rental rates had remained unchanged despite the steep rise in the cost-of-living



this past year, lessors could decide to increase their charges thereby affecting our bottom line.

The growth in membership had increased members' subscription income with the consequential increase in charges paid to the national organisation for capitation and magazine fees.

The Treasurer explained that she had been prudent in her estimation of costs of Jersey u3a's activities and had made allowances for fluctuations of this kind. It was because of the healthy state of our finances that she had been able to recommend to the Committee that the current subscription fee of £18.00 need not be increased for 2024.

Ahead of the Statement of Financial Activities being put to the AGM for approval. The Examiner of Accounts Graeme Witts commented that the Treasurer had prepared an exemplary set of accounts with detailed explanations for all matters of spend and income and should be commended for her professionalism. The AGM heartedly endorsed the Examiner's comments.

The adoption of the States of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2022 was -

Proposed by Beth Lloyd

Seconded by Eric Freeman

Members adopted the Statement of Financial Activities by acclaim.

Election of the Jersey u3a Committee

The present Committee formed -

Chairman – Anne Southern

Treasurer – Juliette White

Secretary – Steve Read

Members – Susan Firby, Tom Bunting, Judy O'Sullivan & Michael Talibard.

All members of the current Committee had given their names for re-election.

The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations. No other names were put forward.

The election of the Committee, as listed above was -

Proposed by Julian Rogers

Seconded by Geoffrey Winchester.

Members reappointed the current Committee by acclaim.



Appointment of an Examiner of Accounts

The Chairman and Treasurer were delighted to report that Graeme Witts had agreed to serve as the Examiner of the Jersey u3a financial accounts for a further year. The Treasurer expressed her personal thanks to Graeme for his advice and support throughout the year.

The appointment of an Examiner of the Accounts was -

Proposed by Helen Talibard

Seconded by Janice Eden

Members appointed the Examiner by acclaim.

Convenors' Reports

The Chairman and Convenors updated members on the activities of their groups for the past twelve months. Where spaces were available members were invited to contact the respective Convener should they be interested in joining that group. Most groups would continue throughout the summer months although one or two groups would pause and restart again in the autumn. Members would be updated on all u3a activities via the Chairman's regular newsletter. They were reminded also to view the Events Diary on the Jersey u3a website for changes. The Treasurer asked all Convenors to verify dates for their groups' meetings between now and the end of the year, accordingly.

AOB

The Chairman asked whether there was any other business for consideration of the AGM prior to her closing the meeting.

Publicity

One or two other members made mention of the lack of awareness of u3a amongst the wider public of the Island. There was general discussion as to whether we should be more active across local media and other forums, Parish Halls for example, to broadcast the merits of our organisation. The Chairman explained measures that had been taken to publicise the organisation, but she had found that word of mouth and personal introductions were still the most effective method of garnering new members. She was not in favour of a high-profile campaign that might encourage a large influx of new members in brief time-period. The organisation would find it difficult, given our limited voluntary resources, to manage a large step increase in numbers. We had seen sustained natural growth and the Chairman saw no reason this would not continue. Nevertheless, the issues raised here would be listed for further discussion by the new Committee at its meeting next month.



Vote of Thanks

The Secretary asked members to show their appreciation for our Chairman Anne Southern who had led the organisation out of COVID, who was tireless in her endeavours and whose commitment to the organisation was second to none. Members showed their appreciation by a hearty round of applause.

Close

There being no other business the Chairman closed this year's AGM and thanked all members for their attendance.

Members were invited to join the Committee for afternoon tea.

ⁱ **A copy of the Chairman's annual report is attached.**



CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF ANNUAL REPORT 21/22

Jersey U3a has gone from strength to strength with more new groups and a membership of 263 – a net gain of about 30 members. I understand that it is a busy time of year but have been disappointed with the numbers attending the AGM and am relieved that we voted to do away with the need to have a quorum. However, I am pleased to welcome those of you who were able to come, and especially to thank those who have made contributions to our tea party.

Committee: We were under strength for most of the year, with only 6 members, so were pleased to recently co-opt Michael Talibard who volunteered to return to the committee and has taken on some of the tasks performed by our secretary, namely sending in the list of those who wish to receive the magazine, and sending out communications to the dwindling number of members who don't have email. I would like to thank Steve Read for being a very efficient secretary, Tom Bunting for compiling the diary, and Juliette White, our valued treasurer and webmistress. I am delighted that she is prepared to stay on for another year and to Graeme Witts for continuing to offer to be our examiner. I would also like to thank committee members Judy O'Sullivan and Susan Firby for their continued support. I'm delighted that they are all willing to stand for a further year, as long as they have the endorsement of members at the AGM. I am pleased that all are willing to continue on the Committee. We would be happy to co-opt any member who would like to join our bi-monthly tea parties, and I would like to remind convenors that we are happy to welcome one of you to any of our meetings.

Finances: a detailed report has been sent out and available today, but our finances continue to be healthy enough for our subscription to remain at its current rate for the time being. I believe it represents excellent value, especially compared to other u3as in the UK that charge for each meeting. This is due to members who offer hospitality in their homes, to Santander Bank who gives us free use of their Buenos Aires room, and to Andrew Parker who lets out the music room in The Old Rectory at a very reasonable rate. Thanks to all.

Groups: I am delighted that we have had some very successful new groups, which have drawn in new members. These are Beginners' Spanish (with a second group just started) Spanish Conversation, Mah-Jong, Existentialism for Dummies and Local History. There is a proposal from Genette Dagtoglou to start a 'Reading Shakespeare' group in the autumn. Most of last year's new groups remain popular as well as those that are well established- Chess is now being successfully convened by Suzie Webb, though her Wellness Group is not meeting due to lack of interest and Knit and Natter has not continued due to the illness and retirement of the convenor. I think there would be some interest in this group re-starting if we could find someone to offer to convene it. We are a volunteer organisation and as such are entirely dependent on our members. We are trying to make the u3 more of a social group by holding usually well attended monthly coffee mornings, lunches, and by offering tea and biscuits after Social History to encourage members to stay behind and chat to each other and to the speaker. Though some groups are led by experts, others like Spanish and French Conversation and Italian are self-help groups, just requiring a convenor to send reminders and sometimes offer hospitality. I know many members just want to be passive participants, but without our more active members, and especially convenors, we would have nothing to offer. The committee



are there to support anyone who would like to start a new group – we can help with finding a venue, and sometimes a teacher. I would like to thank: Helen Talibard for *Art*, Beth Lloyd for *Book of the Month*, Anne Pasturel for *Canasta*, Suzie Webb for *Chess*, Christine Pemberton for *Creative Writing*, Derek Gray for *Current Affairs*, Janice Eden for *Existentialism for Dummies*, Judy Mantel, Odette Touzel and the rotating chairs of *French West* for the various French groups, Roy Le Herissier for *Global Issues*, Judy O’Sullivan for *Politics, Philosophy and Scientific Thought*, Jill Hamon for *Literature and Maps*, Juliette White for *Local History*, Nan Waters for *Mah-Jong*, Mick Humphrys for *Make do and Mend*, Marlene Morris for *Poetry Reading*, Margaret Marquis for *Play Reading*, Tom Bunting and Donal O’Hagan for *Social History*, Pat Davis for *Walks*, Rosemary Sanchez de Vega for *Italian*, Hamish Kean for *Films*, Geoffrey Winchester for *Jazz Appreciation*, Karen Wilson for *Spanish Beginners*, Fiona Palasmith for *Spanish Conversation* and Michael Talibard for *Art History, Music, Philosophy* and for offering individual support for *Mac/iPad Users*. To complete the list there is my *Crosswords* and I’d like to thank Eric Freeman for organising the lunches.

AMS

July 2023.