

U3A SOUTHEAST LONDON

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Horn Park (Old Colfeians), Eltham Road, SE12
on Friday 13 May 2022 at 10.45 am

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Eileen Wyatt (Treasurer) and from over 30 members.
The meeting was attended by about 58 members.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 26 March 2021, via zoom

The minutes of the AGM held by zoom on 26 March 2021 were adopted unanimously.
Proposer: Richard Beck, Seconder: Mark Serebriakoff

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chair's report

Sue Mead welcomed those attending and said how great it was to meet in person.
The Chair's report included the following points:

- It has been a difficult two years, coping with the Covid pandemic, but we have managed to keep going and provided a varied programme using zoom, open-air meetings and small-group gatherings.
- Several new groups have started up, including Wine Tasting and Heritage groups, which are going well.
- We have sadly lost some groups including Fantasia, Art at the Ringway and Bridge at St Mary's.
- Sue appealed for members to start new groups, for instance some groups such as the Theatre group are over-subscribed and it would be a good opportunity for a member to open a second Theatre group.
- Chris Melville and Tim Crossley have been working hard on the Recruitment and Retention initiative, and would welcome new ideas on how to boost recruitment. Membership numbers are currently around 550, compared to around 750 before the pandemic.
- Sue Mead said farewell as Chair, as she and Eileen Wyatt are standing down as Chair and Treasurer. She thanked Eileen for all the work she has done on the committee. She thanked Roger Mead in particular, the committee and members for their support and energy during the 8 years she has been in the role of Groups' Co-ordinator, Co-Chair or Chair.

Tim Crossley gave an address thanking Sue for her work as Chair, and a presentation of flowers and chocolates was made to Sue and Eileen from the committee.

5. Treasurer's report and appointment of Examiner

Eileen Wyatt sent the Treasurer's report, which was read out by Tim Crossley. This included the following points:

- Receipts for the year totalled £13,078, and outgoings totalled £12,904.
- There was a surplus of £6,239 cash over the year, as a result of claiming gift aid for two years and having no room hire charges during the pandemic.
- Current bank balances are:
Acct No.11714648 - £14,117.79; Acct No. 62106183 - £7,054.92
- Members are asked to pay subscriptions by bank transfer if possible, to minimise bank charges. The current annual membership fee is £20.
- Simon Tovey agreed to be Examiner for the accounts again for the coming year. His appointment was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Tim Crossley, seconder: Roger Mead. Simon said that copies of the 2021 accounts, which he also examined, were available for anyone to see if wished.

The accounts were accepted unanimously. Proposer: Mark Serebriakoff, seconder: Joanne Sanderson.

Sue thanked Eileen and Simon for their work on the finances.

6. Election of Committee Members

Sue introduced members of the Committee including Tim Crossley, who is taking over as Treasurer, and two new nominees - Susanne Byrne and Pat Mahoney. In addition, Brenda Lobo offered to join the Committee at the meeting.

Susanne Byrne, Pat Mahoney and Brenda Lobo were unanimously voted on to the Committee. Proposer: Chris Melville, Secunder: Joanne Sanderson

7. Any other business

- Roger Mead said 50 zoom meetings were being held per month during the pandemic. Martha Fox is taking over the administration of the zoom accounts from the beginning of June, as Roger is standing down.
- The Heritage Group has 36 members and has several events coming up, including a guided tour of the sundials in Horniman's Park and a tour of the hidden spaces of St Alphege's church in Greenwich.
- Stroll with a Camera have a walk planned in Wapping – book with Roger.
- Richard Beck said 135 members still have not renewed. He asked group convenors to encourage members of their groups who attend to renew. They could send lists of members to Richard to check whether or not they have renewed.
- Richard said he could provide people with a Powerpoint presentation on using the Beacon database, if members might like to use this.
- Several group convenors appealed for more members to join their groups. These include Country Dancing (Bridget Timbers) and Comedy Writing (Marleen Mitchell). Martha Fox encouraged members to use the weekly Newsletter to publicise their groups.
- Chris Melville and Tim Crossley gave reports on research into Recruitment and Retention, and opened up discussion to the floor. Richard said that before Covid we had 750 members and if the 135 who have not renewed do not renew it will take us down to just over 400, so will have lost nearly half our membership in the last two years.
- People's Day will be held in Mountsfield Park on Sat 16 July. Chris and Martha are planning a stall with leaflets to publicise U3A SEL.
- It was agreed that the Friday general meetings will be re-introduced on a two-monthly basis. A different venue will be found, as the hall in Lewisham is not a very cheerful venue.
- Several members asked if meetings could be held further west, ie based around Lewisham rather than Eltham, to reduce travel time. As a first step towards this, the Computer Club is moving from St Mary's Centre, Eltham to Age Exchange, Blackheath.
- Incentives were discussed for encouraging new members to join, eg reducing the subscription to £10 if people join in the autumn.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served. Attendees were asked to provide their own mug if possible, to reduce wastage and to reduce possible spread of infection.

Following the AGM, the Committee held a brief meeting to arrange the next committee meeting. It was agreed that this will take place on Monday 30 May at 2 pm, to be hosted by Tim Crossley at 47 Cambridge Drive, SE12 8AG. The Agenda will include an item on Friday general meetings.

The meeting ended at 12.15.