

MARKET DRAYTON U3A

Minutes of AGM 15th September 2022

Held at 2:30 pm at the Festival Drayton Centre

Committee present: Alan Cartwright, Jan Bickley, Beryl Edwards, Phil Glover,
Pam Shyrane
Apologies: Colin Barthorpe, Jacqui Wright

Members: Total 52

A number of apologies were received from the floor.

Welcome and Introduction

The Chair thanked all those attending at such a sad time following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He informed all that books of condolence were available at the Festival Drayton Centre, Library, Town Hall and St Mary's Church.

The Chair on behalf of the membership expressed condolences to the Royal family and our loyalty to King Charles III.

Minutes of AGM 2021.

These were accepted.

David Smith thanked everyone for their support for his fundraising walk.

David is now a RNIB Community Representative.

Chair's Report

Concerns about the effect of the pandemic on membership levels has not significantly materialised with numbers approaching previous levels. A small number of former members have not rejoined but we have had a steady stream of new members.

We currently have 18 Special Interest Groups (SIG)..

Many thanks to Colin Barthorpe for arranging a good line up of forthcoming speakers at our monthly meetings at the Festival Drayton Centre. The next meeting is at 2pm Thursday 20th October.

There is no change in the subscription rate for 2022/23.

Committee changes From today Jan Bickley steps down as Membership Secretary and we wish her well for the future. Also from today Pam Shyrane steps down as the Treasurer but will remain on the committee. Many thanks to Jan and Pam for all the work they have done.

We do need now more committee members to maintain the minimum requirement of members required by the U3A. So please consider joining us.

Website:

Peter Childs has stepped down from his role as Website Administrator. Many thanks to Peter for his work over the years. He is replaced by Jill Glover.

In 2021 a new model constitution was introduced by the Third Age Trust clarifying the purposes and objectives of individual U3As and the administrative procedures they should have in place. The new constitution has been reviewed by the Committee and as it does not require any changes to our current arrangements we are proposing it is adopted.

SIGs

Although we have a reasonable number of SIGs we hope to have more. Similar size U3As sometimes have many more. All our SIGs are organised or facilitated by convenors rather than leaders. A group convenor doesn't have to be an expert on the subject and the only requirement in most instances is that they are happy to learn and discover more about the subject and enjoy that with other members of the SIG.

If anyone has a Special Interest of any sort and feels that others may be interested please think about setting up a group and speak to a member of the committee.

Questions from the floor (Jill Glover)

Were there any examples of SIGs from other groups?

What processes are there in place to support anyone thinking about starting a new SIG?

These questions were briefly discussed. It was decided to review them in more detail at our next committee meeting.

Candice Danleigh has relaunched Pub Lunches Group meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.

Don Prior has reluctantly had to step down as convenor of the Music Appreciation Group. A massive thanks to Don for his knowledgeable input, commitment and hard work over the years. It would be a shame to lose this Group and we would love to hear from anyone who is prepared to take over. Last Autumn we were unfortunate to lose Ian Picton-Robinson, former convenor of the Local History Group.

Unfortunately we were forced to cancel the Cultural Visit to Liverpool in May and also our Social Afternoon in July as levels of interest shown by members made these events unviable.

Comment from the floor. (Sarah Pitt)

Sarah explained the difficulties faced by the organisers of these trips. The selection of venue, timing costs and associated planning took time and effort. Sarah pleaded for more support and early sign up from members.

The next Cultural Visit will be in May 2023.

We would very much like to mention Meriel Blower who very deservedly became an Honorary Townsperson at Market Drayton's Town Council meeting in May in recognition of her hard work over the years in relation to the Theatre Club, the Home Library Service and Market Drayton U3A.

Belated congratulations from all.

Appeals:

Following the passing of Ian Picton-Robinson please note that Market Drayton Museum will be happy to receive any items that are directly related to the town. Not items that simply belong to people living in the town.

The Museum is looking for volunteers to assist for a couple of hours per month.

If you have a concern or any comment about the lack of public transport in Market Drayton then Climate Action will be running a survey.

Treasurer's Report.

The accounts for September 2021 to August 2022 have been audited by Mrs Gail Ackerly and were accepted.

Election of Committee

Nominations proposed and seconded were for the following:

Alan Cartwright, Colin Barthorpe, Judy Cowdale, Beryl Edwards, Phil Glover, Pam Shyrene and Jacqui Wright.

There were no nominations from the floor. The committee was duly elected

Any Other Business

Problems with the PA system were noted.

Meriel Blower gave thanks to the Committee for work done in the past year.

The meeting closed at 3:10.

Date of next meeting:

21st September 2023

Signed:.....
(Chair)