

U3A: MOSELEY, KINGS HEATH AND DISTRICT

Annual General Meeting 2019 Agenda / Minutes

Date: 14 th May 2019	Time: 1.15pm	Venue: All Saints' Church Hall	Chair: Nick Wright
Those attending: 94		Apologies: 0	

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2018 AGM
2. Report from the Chair
3. Financial report from the Treasurer
4. Resolution re fees
5. Approval of examiner of accounts
6. Reports from Interest Group Co-Ordinators; Social Secretary, and Membership Secretary
7. Election of new Executive committee
8. Talk from Lucy Hawking

MINUTES

1.	Minutes of 2018 AGM These were approved.
2.	Report from Chair Nick Wright Appendix 1
3.	Financial report from Treasurer Tessa Bidgood Reports were circulated. Appendices 2a and 2b.
4.	Resolution on Membership Fees For practical reasons the Executive Committee wish to decide upon the membership fees for the year ahead at the beginning of the calendar year. In order to do this, the committee request that "this AGM authorises the Executive Committee to decide an appropriate membership fee for 2019-20". The resolution was passed unanimously.
5.	Approval of Examiner of Accounts Thanks were given to Helen Mandleberg for examining the accounts. She is not a U3A member and is therefore independent of the organisation. She is willing to continue and a request for her to be approved as examiner for 2019/20 was approved unanimously.
6.	Reports from Interest Group Co-Ordinators; Social Secretary and Membership Secretary i) Interest group co-ordinators: See appendix 3 ii) Social secretary: See appendix 3 iii) Membership secretary: See appendix 4
7.	Election of new Executive Committee Proposals were for Chair - Sara Mayer and Anne Crerar to job share (this has been approved by national U3A)

Business and Communications Secretary - Ken Fisher
Treasurer - Tessa Bidgood
Interest group co-ordinators - Brenda Bingham and Roy Stove
Membership secretary - Jackie Spearpoint
Social secretary - Julie Allder

It was proposed that Mike Clark stay on the committee as an ordinary member to aid the transition for the new Chairs. This was proposed by Tonia Sharp and seconded by Cecilia Adams. Sylvia Butler was nominated as the Monthly Meetings' organiser by Jill Spearman and seconded by Dena Rankin.

As there were no other proposals the new committee was voted for *en bloc* and unanimously voted in.

This concluded the business of the AGM, which was followed by the speaker Lucy Hawking giving a talk titled "Exploring the Universe through Storytelling".

Appendix 1
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Year to 31 March 2019

This is my first and last Chairman's Report as I am standing down at the AGM after serving three busy but enjoyable years on the Committee.

Our U3A has now been in existence for six and a half years and I am pleased to say we are continuing to attract new members. The latest membership number is 624 compared to about 580 a year ago. So yet more people want to join in the fun of continued learning and the many chances to meet up with old friends and make new friends through a variety of social events.

It is pleasing to see that the number of interest groups has grown again. In addition our links with Kings Norton U3A has led to a joint Circle Dancing group and the opportunity to join in with some new interest groups that they run where we have no similar group ie Birdwatching and Table tennis groups. I hope that this trend will continue and further links with neighbouring U3A's will benefit us all.

Another initiative that has gone from strength to strength is our link with Birmingham University. At two of our monthly meetings we had presentations from students who wanted our help with health related projects they were undertaking. In return the university offers us access to their facilities and provides speakers for some of our interest groups. There will also be further opportunities coming from this source in the year ahead.

You will see from the Treasurer's report that our finances remain healthy with over £5,000 in the bank. Our reserves were much higher in the past but we took the decision a couple of years ago to reduce our reserves to a lower level by reducing the membership fee drastically. Subsequently our fees have gone up but only with the intention of covering increasing costs and breaking even.

Every year some committee members stand down and others join. This year is no different and due to various circumstances there are four people leaving and four people joining. Some of the roles are changing so this is not a like for like swap but I am very grateful to those people who have put their names forward to keep the committee at full strength.

Our vice chair Mike Clark is worthy of special mention. His original intention was to stand down from the committee this year after serving on the committee from the very beginning but as there are so many changes he has agreed to carry on a bit longer in a 'non officer' role to smooth the transition. Mike has been the leading light of our U3A from the very start acting as Chair for three years and Vice Chair for three years. He has also produced our monthly newsletter for over six years when he had a spare minute or two! He is the person we all turn to for advice and support in times of need and so the new committee will be very pleased to still have him around a little bit longer. **Thanks to Mike.**

Another person who requires special mention is our Business Secretary Diane Worland who is standing down and like Mike she has served on the committee from the very beginning. Three years as an Interest group Co-ordinator and latterly three years as Business Secretary. Diane's main responsibility in recent years has been to organise the various speakers for our monthly meetings. These talks cover a wide variety of subjects ranging through pantomime dames, local history groups, button manufacturers, the National Memorial Arboretum and more recently prefabs, birdwatching and witches. They are always entertaining and informative and as a result attract a large audience. Diane has also been involved in many other activities including organising our Christmas festivities that have always been a great success. **Thanks to Diane.**

Also leaving us this year are two of the Interest Group Coordinators Chris Olley and Ruth Livermore. Chris has helped on the committee for three years and Ruth one year. Both have helped to grow the number of interest groups and have led the discussions on accessibility for all in our various activities.

In addition Chris, has organised the annual Interest Group Leader meetings that have proved very successful in providing a forum for additional training and allowed our Group Leaders to learn best practice from each other. **Thanks to Chris and Ruth.**

This also leads me on neatly to thanking all our Group Leaders. They are the backbone of our U3A.
Thank you Group Leaders!

I also need to mention Yvonne Jackson who had to stand down half way through the year due to health issues. Yvonne was Joint Membership Secretary and was a great contributor in the period she was with us. **Thanks to Yvonne.**

Another person stepping down is our meeting minute taker Linda Gresham. Linda has been bravely trying to record the 'words of wisdom' emanating at monthly meetings for four years now and thoroughly deserves a rest from the role. **Thanks to Linda.**

Also a big thank you to **all** my continuing committee members for giving up their valuable time and for their never-ending patience in dealing with a myriad of committee issues.

My final thanks go to all the background helpers who contribute so much to the smooth running of our U3A especially those who turn up early and help set up the monthly meetings. I'd particularly like to mention Dave Garfield who sets out the chairs. Special thanks also go to Frank Gresham who sets up the sound system every month and also looks after the website in his 'spare time'. Thanks also to Val Baxter who has helped Jackie with membership duties at renewal time.

I will close by thanking you, the membership, for your continuing support for our thriving U3A.

Nick Wright

Appendices 2a and 2b

MOSELEY, KINGS HEATH & DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT: 1st APRIL 2016 – 31st MARCH 2017

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This has been the fifth full financial year of our local U3A and the present financial position is a very healthy one. The attached Statement of Accounts shows the balance on the Current Account (the main U3A account) standing at £9,201.25. There are no payments to be cleared.

Our income from Subscriptions has decreased over this year as we made the decision last year to halve them from £20 to £10 per annum. We have also had a number of new Interest groups which meant an increase again in AVCs. (Additional Voluntary Contributions made at Interest Group Meetings)

The pattern of expenditure has been broadly similar to that of the previous year. It is worth noting that our dues to the National U3A (The Third Age Trust) for capitation and direct mailing of the magazine, 'Third Age Matters', have increased as charges are based on the total membership of the preceding year. There has been a substantial increase in money spent on Venues for the Interest Groups. We continue to encourage all groups to look at the issue of accessibility so that all can attend the groups they wish to be involved in. This has involved some extra expenditure. We do monitor the amount we get in from AVCS and the amount that is spent. The sum for Transfers seems high but this was money that is paid into the Main account that should have gone into the Social Account.

Members will be aware that a secondary account, the Social Account, was set up to ease the cash-flow of those who organise U3A social events. The 'floating balance' of £1,000 fluctuates as it is drawn upon by organisers (via the Treasurer who prepares the cheques) and then paid back when those participating pay for the trip or event. This account continues to work well and thanks are due to Paul Hunt, our Social Secretary, for continuing to arrange a variety of events; all have been much appreciated by members. Paul has handed on this job to a Committee of people who are continuing the work he started.

This year we have increased the Subscription to £12. The other change is a move to the Beacon system which operates under the auspices of the Third Age Trust. This is a system which makes the administration much easier. We have only just started to use it but one main advantage is that subscriptions can now be renewed through Beacon and the link to our PayPal Account. As of the end of March 90 of you have renewed this way. The other options of paying by cheque and cash are still available but many have welcomed the new option

This has continued to be a busy year for me as Treasurer. I would like to thank all for their help and co-operation which have made my task so much easier. Thanks to Helena Mandleberg for auditing the accounts.

Tessa Bidgood

Treasurer

24th April 2018

Appendix 3:

Interest Group Report May 2019

Brenda Bingham

We currently have 68 Interest Groups, too many to mention individually. Our interests are many and varied, covering our thirst for knowledge and understanding in groups such as Science and History, our love of literature as evidenced by many book groups, poetry, play reading. We have recreational and practical groups such as scrabble and crafts, several walking groups to get us out and about and keep us healthy. We can enjoy cultural experiences through concerts, theatre trips, cinema visits.

In February, members of the various literary groups enjoyed a joint meeting organised for us by Paul Hunt. We heard from a local author Sybil Ruth (who is a member of our U3A), and heard from each group about their favourite reading. Thanks again, Paul.

At the end of January we held a get together for group leaders, to enable them to share experiences with each other and to make valuable comments and suggestions to the coordinators. And a nice lunch!

You will have seen in the newsletter that we are trialling a venture with the Kings Norton U3A to enable members to share some interest groups. More information soon.

We are always open to suggestions for new groups, contact details for IGCs are in each newsletter.

Thanks to all Group Leaders for their work in running their groups – you make our U3A successful.

Thanks also to my colleagues, Chris Olley and Ruth Livermore who are stepping down as Interest Group Coordinators – it has been good to work with you.

ii) Social secretary:

Report on Social Events 2018/9

Julie Allder

In 2018/19 a wide range of social events were organised for members of MKHD U3A by the Social Committee. The 2018/19 committee included: - Julie Allder (Social Secretary), Sue Baker, Paul Hunt, Carey Baff and Roy Stove.

This is a taste of what was organised for members in 2018/9

Lunches: - **Currently 76 members have asked to be notified of lunch trips.** In 2018/19 lunch trips, including fine dining, were organised by Paul and Carey. Visits to a wide variety of different restaurants were organised, these included two Xmas lunches at Bistro Pierre as well as lunches at Simpson's, Purnell's, the Covered Wagon and Ming Moon.

Coach trips - The trips to Bath (19/6/18) and Gloucester Docks and Quays proved very popular. Sadly, the trip organisers (Sue Baker, Tonia Sharp and Val Baxter) decided that they will not be organising further trips. A big thank you to Sue, Tonia, Val and Barbara Ashworth for organising these trips.

Cinema – **Currently 61 members have asked to be notified of cinema trips. In 2018/9.** Paul Hunt has now handed over the reins to Roy Stove. A big thank you to Paul for all his hard work and enthusiasm.

Theatre trips – Currently 76 members have asked to be notified of theatre trips. Trips organised in 2018/9 included the following performances: - One Man, Two Governors at Hall Green Little Theatre, Miss Littlewood and The Taming of the Shrew at the RSC, This House, The Wipers Times and The Messiah at the Birmingham Rep and Kinky Boots at the Hippodrome.

Concerts – The following trip was organised by Carey in 2018/19: CBSO Concert -in November 2018. The programme included music by Brahms and Tchaikovsky.

Quiz - Following the success of the U3A quizzes in 2017/8 a there was another quiz night held in May 2018. Thank you to everyone who helped in the organising of this enjoyable evening.

Please let Julie Allder or a member of the committee know if you have any ideas. About future social activities or would like to volunteer to help organise social activities.

Finally, a big thank you to all members of the social committee, past and present, for all their hard work and thank you to all the members who joined in to make the social events a success.

Appendix 4:

Membership Secretary's report Jackie Spearpoint

You may have noticed that we started out this year with two Membership Secretaries but have ended up with one! At last year's AGM Yvonne Jackson was appointed along with me, but sadly, due mainly to eye problems, things were become tricky for her. At the same time it was becoming

clear that Beacon, the U3A electronic database, was making the task of Membership Secretary much less time-consuming, so Yvonne was able to step down, leaving me to carry on single-handed. The last couple of months have led me to wonder if this decision was a little hasty as I have experienced the considerable workload that the membership renewal period brings with it. It may be that at some point in the coming year we may appeal for someone to help during that time. Our thanks go to Yvonne for her work earlier in the year.

At the start of May we had 624 members, 126 of whom had yet to renew their membership, whilst about 500 have either already renewed or are choosing not to renew for various reasons, such as moving away or having too many other commitments. I am grateful to the majority who have renewed online, which does lighten the workload. Not everyone has found that process straightforward; it has been a learning process for me too, and I have thoughts about how next time I can make instructions even clearer. During this last membership year 118 new members have joined us – all except 4 have email. Our membership is broadly three-quarters female to one quarter male, and 96% have email.

Many of you are aware that, unlike many other U3A's, we do not currently offer Associate membership for a reduced subscription, to those who already belong to another U3A; your new committee will be reviewing this in the year ahead.

My thanks go to Yvonne for her work earlier as we got to grips with our new roles, to Val and Tonia for their work in setting up Beacon – no mean task – leaving us a fully-functioning system, and to you, members, for your support and, when needed, forbearance!