

MORAY COAST U3A

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018 AT 2.30 pm IN THE McBOYLE HALL PORTNOCKIE

1. **Welcome** The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the 7th AGM of the Branch and said that with the good turnout, there were more than sufficient numbers to satisfy the requirement for a quorum of 20% and the meeting could therefore proceed.

2. **Apologies** These had been received from the following members:
Ann Barnes Lynda Cameron David Clark Petra Cortis Jeanette Crockett
Bob Croucher Elma & Murray Hendrey Caron Hunter Liz Jones Lorna Reid
Hazel Taylor Jean & Donald Thom Sue Whelan Alison & Trevor Wilson.

3. **Minutes of 2017 AGM** a. & b. These were proposed by John Mills and seconded by Brian Thorpe.

4. **Matters arising from minutes of 2017 AGM** The Chairperson said that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the Agenda or in her own (following) report.

5. **Reports:**
 - a. **Chairperson (Joan Coverley):** Her first observation was that the Moray Coast Branch seemed to be in pretty good shape these days and she paid tribute to all those members who had set it up in the first place way back in 2011 and also to those who had carried it on ever since to build the thriving organisation it had become today. The Membership had steadily grown year on year (largely through personal recommendation) and it had been decided to keep the membership fee at £12.50 per annum which represented wonderful value for money, considering all the benefits on offer. In an effort to create new interest in the U3A, Joan said that the Membership Secretary had recently designed some eye-catching U3A bookmarks and posters which had now been placed in all places/areas where they would be accessible to the general public locally, and it was hoped this publicity would result in some new people joining the organisation. Joan reported that there had been an increase in the number of Interest Groups this past year to include Astronomy, Canasta and Local History and it looked as if Short Tennis would be making a re-appearance soon. She added that Group Leaders were still required for Pétanque and Spanish and mentioned that if anyone was interested in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) or the occasional IT Users Group, they should sign up on the list available at the Membership desk. It was possible, she explained, for just two or three people to start

up a new group as long as they were willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for a subject, reminding them that there was plenty of U3A online support/resources for new Groups; they just had to let the Committee know of any ideas they had. She also encouraged members to look at our website from time to time for details of latest developments and she thanked John Mills for his sterling work in keeping the website up to date. Joan said that she personally belonged to many different Groups but it was not just self-interest that motivated her: it was the upholding of the ideals of such a wonderful organisation that had led her to serve on the Committee and get involved in every aspect. She stressed that in the U3A there were no examinations or qualifications needed and none was awarded; it was, rather, a learning co-operative to enable members to share their combined knowledge/expertise with others. Joan then turned to the necessity to amend our Constitution in order to benefit from membership of the Third Age Trust. We had been asked by the Trust to adopt their new Object Clause and, after reading aloud the existing clause to the membership for comparison's sake, she read out the new one as follows:

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.'

Joan then asked if all those who agreed we should adopt the new clause would raise their hands; the response was unanimously in favour and our Moray Coast Branch's Constitution would, therefore, be duly amended to reflect the change.

Finally Joan reported that she had become a Trust Volunteer during the year in order to gain more insight into how things worked within the wider U3A and also to attend (and eventually deliver) training courses on what's involved in becoming a branch committee officer. Whenever possible she tried to combine these events with visits to family so that the travel and accommodation costs to the Organisation were kept to a minimum. At this stage Joan ended her report.

b. Treasurer (Ali Forsyth): In Ali's absence on leave, the previous Treasurer (Isobel Murray) was standing-in. Regarding the Statement of the Accounts, she apologised for the fact that owing to a printing error the current financial year's statement was not available at the meeting but it would be posted on the website as soon as possible. She said that, as usual, the Accounts had been examined and passed as correct by our examiner, Marjory Whyte. Furthermore, the credit balance in the Bank at the end of March 2017 had been £533.61 but transactions since then had reduced it currently to £290.51. Turning next to the Fixed Assets Statement for 2017/18, she said that as there had been no new purchases during this period, the only

changes were due to depreciation as shown on the Statement provided. There were no questions on the Accounts and their acceptance was therefore proposed by John Myles and seconded by Ann Rennie.

c. Membership Secretary (Eilean MacDonald): Eilean reported that the number of fully paid-up members had risen during the 2017/18 session by 13 to 71. She then explained about the new requirements arising out of the General Data Protection Regulation, coming into effect on 25th May 2018, for existing members to complete annually a renewal form which had been designed specifically for the purpose. The existing application form for a new member had also been revised and both new forms were now available at the Membership desk for completion where appropriate. She said that the fees for the forthcoming session 2018/19 were now due and requested payment of these as soon as possible or during the intervening summer break. If anyone was still in arrears by September, she would then issue a reminder and again in January 2019, if necessary. Finally, she drew attention to the new Moray Coast U3A bookmarks which were on the Membership desk and invited people to help themselves.

d. Group Co-ordinators:

Joan Coverley, with power-point support by John Mills, gave a short account of each Group's activities during the past session. These details would be posted on the website in due course.

Current Groups are as follows:-

<u>GROUP</u>		<u>GROUP LEADER</u>
* Astronomy	-	Ian Fairbairn
* Canasta	-	Lynda Cameron
* Conversational French	-	Helen Mills
* Current Affairs	-	Joan Coverley
* Geology	-	Dr Roddy Owens
* Local History	-	Eilean MacDonald
* Lunch Group	-	Helen Mills
* Music Appreciation	-	Brian Morrison
* Pétanque	-	Position vacant
* Philosophy	-	Bob Sutton
* Scrabble	-	Kathy Hawkes
* Short Tennis	-	New Leader about to be appointed
* Table Tennis	-	Les Hammond
* Textile Studies	-	Eilean MacDonald
* Walking Group	-	Ian Fairbairn

6. Election of Committee

Chairman: Joan Coverley said she had one more year of her 3 year term to serve in this capacity and whilst she was perfectly happy to complete this, she would also be willing to switch to the Business Secretary's post to enable the present incumbent to stand down and have a well-earned rest, having done the job for 4 years. This would, of course, mean that a replacement Chairman would have to be elected in her place but, unfortunately, no one came forward for this post.

Treasurer: Ali Forsyth had just completed her first year as Treasurer and had done an excellent job. She will continue in post to finish out her 2-year term.

Business Secretary: There were no nominations/volunteers for this post and Roddy Owens therefore valiantly offered to carry on for the time being.

Membership Secretary: Eilean MacDonald had come into this post during the past year to relieve the previous M/Secy John Mills, who at one point was covering three positions - far too much for anyone! Since her appointment she had produced some brilliant design/publicity work which should prove fruitful for future recruitment. Eilean was happy to continue in this post for the coming year.

Minutes Secretary: Since the previous incumbent, Gillian Herman, had moved away from the area during the session, Isobel Murray had covered the position on a temporary basis. There was therefore a vacancy to be filled and nominations/volunteers were invited from the floor. Ann Rennie (the Speakers Secretary) said she would be willing to take on this position in addition to her current one; this was seconded by Iain Rennie. Many thanks are due to Ann for taking on this extra workload.

Committee Members: Once again nominations/volunteers were invited from the floor, unfortunately to no avail. Joan Coverley said that Ann Rennie had been co-opted onto the Committee during the year and had since been appointed as the Speakers Secretary, making an excellent start in arranging Speakers for next session's monthly meetings. Of the other existing members, Joan said that whilst John Mills continued to do a first-rate job as Webmaster, he had now done it for a number of years; therefore if anyone else had good IT skills to offer, John would be ready to hand over the position, including some mentoring if required. Another serving committee member John Myles (Joan's fount of information on all local matters affecting the Branch and always very helpful as well) was prepared to continue serving on the Committee, which was much appreciated. Our other 'wise head' Bob Sutton was standing down this year as he found it difficult, in view of his other commitments, to find time to attend Committee meetings, bearing in mind the distances he had to travel to and from home. Joan thanked him for his valued work in the past.

The re-election of the above Committee was proposed by Rob Barsby and seconded by Helen Mills.

At this point Ian Fairbairn, speaking from the floor, suggested that it might be a good idea to form a group of interested members to observe at some Committee meetings to get a 'feel' for how things were handled. In response Joan agreed, adding that U3A Scotland were planning to set up workshops in the future for serving and prospective committee members, possibly to be held in Inverness, and details of these would be posted on the website when available.

7. Future Guest Speakers

The Speakers Secretary, Ann Rennie, reported that she had arranged Guest Speakers for September, October and November this year as follows:-

September 2018 - Steven Gillies, Police Scotland Cybercrime Unit - cybercrime prevention and social media

October 2018 - Gordon Methven, Elgin Street Pastors about the volunteer work they do in Elgin

November 2018 - Norman Newton, Nairn U3A, who will speak about his unusual family tree: "A Really Weird Family"

January 2019 - (to be confirmed). Duncan Leece, The Boyndie Trust.

Ann said she hoped that the above topics would prove interesting to members and invited them to come forward with any suggestions for subjects they might like to see covered in the future.

8. AOCB

a. New Groups: discussion of this item had already taken place within the Chairperson's report at Item 5a above and there was nothing further to report.

b. Groups operating during the summer break: it was announced that Canasta and Textiles would be continuing to meet as usual.

c. 2018/19 subscriptions: the Membership Secretary said that she had all this in hand and the new forms were available at her desk for completion and payment as already explained in item 5c above.

d. Tea rota: it was confirmed that the Scrabble Group would be responsible for the current meeting and then the Textiles Group for the next monthly meeting on 19 September 2018.

The AGM closed with a word of thanks from Joan to everyone for their attendance at the 2018 meeting, plus a reminder to keep looking at the Moray Firth U3A website for updates on developments - for example, details of the U3A Scotland AGM in East Kilbride towards the end of June. On behalf of everyone present Ann Rennie thanked Joan for her chairmanship of the meeting and all her hard work, particularly behind the scenes, during the past year.

