

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, NEWMARKET  
HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019 AT 2.30pm AT EXNING ROAD CLUB, NEWMARKET

## MINUTES

PRESENT: 41 members plus 11 committee

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Barry & Sally Coles, Alison Giles, Liz Langley, Pauline Harper, Nigel Day, Monte & Mary Bowers, John & Rita Macro, Janet Neville
- 2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Read, approved and signed as correct.
- 3 MATTERS ARISING- None noted.
- 4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
Margaret Jocelyn reported that membership had increased over the past year and the membership fee remained at £10 per annum. There were now more interest groups, including two held at Burwell Museum – French Conversation and Needlecraft – and Model Making at the Exning Road Club. Venue changes had now stabilised.

Following changes to the Constitution Charity Status had now been granted.

Attendance at the coffee morning held at The Stable in June to welcome recent and new members had been disappointing and changes may be made to this event in the future.

The visit to the Houses of Parliament had been most enjoyable and Margaret thanked Niddy for organising it. Interesting topics at Speaker Meetings had included the Shipping Forecast, tales from the Bench by a Magistrate, the Music Hall and Women's Suffrage.

As well as doing various promotions, a Year Book had been produced and the Camera Club's displays in the library had brought a wider audience. Newmarket Memorial Hall had also agreed to publicise U3A events.

Margaret advised that she was standing down as chairman, having served six years in the various roles as website and newsletter editor, publicity officer and Chairman, and she thanked all the committee members for the excellent work they had done during her tenure. She also thanked those who ran the various groups and all the members for supporting the committee.

- 5 SECRETARY'S REPORT  
Rosemary Foreman reported that, apart from attending and writing the minutes of the monthly committee meetings, she had received and distributed to committee various communications from the U3A central office and passed on to the appropriate people any enquiries received via the website.

She had also worked with other committee members to organise and attend various events, including the Suffolk Networks meeting, where she and Niddy had met other U3A representatives and gained some ideas. The main event she organised was the Christmas lunch, which had been held at Scotsdales in January and had been attended by over 70 members. She was now looking for another local venue for 2020 which could cater for such a large number.

## 6 TREASURER'S REPORT

Joan Watkinson presented the annual accounts, which had been verified and signed by Mr Jack Merrell and which showed a general account balance of £5,060.80 and the events account balance of £1,513.12 (including ear-marked Garden Group funds of £701.46). Her report was received and noted.

## 7 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kath Gifkins reported that last year's membership reached a new high of 238, due in some way to the formation of new groups based both in Newmarket and Burwell. Unfortunately, several long-standing and active members had passed away during the year. Few new members had attended the coffee morning in June and the format for this event may change. Six new members had already joined so far this year and several more members had already renewed their membership.

## 8 REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

- **ANTIQUES** – Linda Swinson reported that David Palmer, a freelance auctioneer, continued to entertain each month apart from two occasions when he arranged stand-in speakers. David Field, an on-line art dealer, talked about the different types of art prints which are available, holding a quiz at the end of his talk – the winner, Linda herself, received a small Picasso print from amongst the samples he had brought with him. Dr Harry Sidebottom, author and lecturer at Oxford University, gave an amusing look at Greek and Roman antiquities. A Gredley bus outing to Felixstowe had been shared with the History group.
- **ART APPRECIATION** – Anna Smith advised that this group did not hold regular meetings but made visits to art galleries and exhibitions every other month from Spring to the end of Autumn. A lunch was held at Heath Court Hotel in November to chat over the year and hear suggestions for 2019. Visits had included trips to Norwich Castle, the Fitzwilliam Museum for the Whistler exhibition and Beggarstaffs and to Christchurch Mansion at Ipswich for a display centred around The Kiss by Rodin. Their Gredley bus trip had been to Burghley House where unfortunately it had rained all day! Anna had undertaken other commitments for the coming year and the group would in future be organised by Niddy Walpole, Diana Jones, Jenny and Andy Webb. A meeting was planned for the end of September, a lunch get-together at the end of November and various dates were set for 2020.
- **CAMERA** – Chris Timmins, reporting on behalf of Barry Coles, advised that the group now had four coordinators for the group, led by Barry as primary contact, and Kath Gifkins, John Herring and herself, who shared the honours. Barry expressed thanks not only to his three fellow coordinators, but also Lucy Clarke who unfortunately had to give up her role earlier this year; thanks also to Phil Boggie for being the archivist of the group's monthly winners' photographs. The group had continued to develop and had about 15 to 19 attendees at meetings and at events, which this year included a Gredley bus trip to Thetford visiting the town and the Ancient House Museum for their exhibition about the society photographer Olive Edis who had her studio in Sheringham. In May the group enjoyed an afternoon tea at Simpsons of Fordham, for which they thanked Kath for organising. The monthly selection of photos continued to provide interest for members and a good selection of various subjects were submitted. Exhibitions had been staged at Newmarket Library – one in September, using 42 photographs from the Camera Group and some of the space being used to promote the whole of Newmarket U3A. At another exhibition at the Library in May, 64 photographs by the group were displayed on the theme of 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Both exhibitions were very successful and an estimated 7500 library users potentially viewed the May exhibition. Some of the photographs exhibited were used to produce a Camera Group 2020

calendar, available to buy at a cost of £5. The next exhibition would be in September at Newmarket Library.

- CARPET BOWLS – Alan Gifkins reported that 16-24 members attended the carpet bowls sessions and there was no longer a waiting list. Sessions would be held during August and he invited anyone to come and have a go. The group had enjoyed a Gredley bus trip to Jordans Mill near Biggleswade in May. No friendly matches had been played during the year but 22 bowlers had enjoyed a midweek bowling break at Potters in Norfolk proudly wearing their royal blue polo shorts embroidered with the U3A logo.
- DISCUSSION – Ann Lay reported that there had been plenty to discuss during the year and was grateful that John Herring had joined her in running the group. Apart from Brexit and global warming and all that covered, there had been many interesting meetings covering a number of other subjects. John and Ann each had subjects to discuss to start the meeting and then members joined in, always being encouraged to raise a subject, discussions being kept as light-hearted as possible.
- DRAMA – Tim Young reported that the Drama group now had about ten members and had given various performances in the Autumn term last year, with the themes of the First World War and the Suffragette Movement. These were serious topics and a more light-hearted programme was being prepared for the next performances. The group already had one booking and would also be performing at the November Speaker Meeting.
- FRENCH CONVERSATION – Niddy read Alison Giles's report, which stated that the course had gone well, with a wide range of members from those who had lived in France to those who knew very little at the beginning. Each month a different topic was covered, so members had found out about hobbies, families, celebrations and animals as well as some bits of French grammar. It was a friendly group with lots of laughter.
- GARDENING – Kath Gifkins advised that the group had enjoyed a variety of speakers during the year, covering the history of gardening, companion planting, traditional holly wreath making, propagation and chrysanthemum growing. They also enjoyed a quiz in January and the coach trip in August was to Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire, originally the site of the first horticultural college for women. The trip this year would be to Eltham Palace and gardens near Greenwich. Proceeds from the plant sale in May were lower than in previous years but Kath thanked all those who provided plants and produce and bought them to raise funds for the speakers, whose fees increased year on year. Transport had been shared in June for a visit to the garden at Dip on the Hill in Ousden. Suggestions for speakers, subjects and visits were always welcome.
- HISTORY – Niddy Walpole reported that group members had chosen someone they would like to write about from her list of famous people. Meetings had a diverse variety of historical talks from herself, such as Tulipmania, the South Sea Bubble, How Christmas has been celebrated through the Ages, and eight forgotten remarkable women. Two of the meetings were cancelled at Exning Road and she thanked Margaret Jocelyn for holding the first occasion in her own home; the second meeting had been cancelled altogether. In June the guest speaker was taken ill so Tim Young kindly prepared a talk on a similar theme - Women in the Space Programme - so topical as it is 50 years this July since they walked on the moon! On a lighter note, the group took part in a clue hunting trail around Ely, with coffee and lunch breaks included of course. The winners were Margaret and Richard Unwin. In July the group joined the Antiques group on a day trip to Felixstowe on the Gredley bus.
- LUNCHEON CLUB – Mike Hastings reported that he and his wife Brenda organised the monthly lunches within a 10-mile radius of Newmarket. Cuisine had included Chinese, Italian and, as a new venture, an afternoon tea, which had proved very popular. The Gredley trip in March had been to Rushden Lakes. Average attendance at lunches during the year had been 24 and he thanked all who had supported the group, especially Liz Langley who had stood in for them in May. The menu for the current month could always be found on the Newmarket U3A website.

- MAH JONG – Iris Boggie reported that each month about 9-12 members enjoyed playing the friendly, non-serious game of Mah Jong (known as the game of four winds). No meeting would be held in August or December.
- MUSIC APPRECIATION – Mike Jocelyn advised that the three presenters of the Music Group had provided some interesting descriptive pieces of classical music. Richard had taken members on a trip around the solar system via Holst's The Planets, plus many performances from the Promenade Concerts. Judith presented a programme of 'auction lots', such as the Magic Flute, a Silken Ladder, music by Mozart and Rossini – a grandfather clock and lots of mechanical toys which come to life in a charming ballet. She also presented a 'flower' programme, including Roses of Picardy. Members also enjoyed music by Rimsky Korsakov, Puccini, Chicchi and Leoncavallo.
- NEEDLECRAFT – Alison Giles advised that the Needlecraft Group started well but had dwindled through the summer as people enjoyed the sunshine. Thanks to various generous donors to the Burwell Museum, there were lots of materials available for knitting, crochet, cross stitch and quilting. The group had enjoyed looking at some of the things members had made using a wide range of techniques, including some very impressive hand-made lace. The group would continue meeting until the end of the year and then see if there were enough members to make the group viable for 2020.
- REALM OF BOOKS – Margaret Jocelyn reported that there were usually about 15 attendees, who had chosen to look at a varied selection of books using the theme of children. The book list had included Night Rainbow, The Book Thief, The Children's Book, The Kite Runner, The Go-Between, The 100 Year Old Man Who Jumped Out of the Window, and Ghosts. The group had enjoyed at lunch at Mangiare in May.
- RUMMIKUB – In Rose Baxter's absence, Chris Timmins advised that the Rummikub group usually had 10-12 attendees and new members continued to come along to try and game. They had enjoyed two Gredley bus trips shared with other groups, to Boundary Mill in April and Felixstowe in July.
- SCRABBLE – In her absence, Margaret read Liz Langley's report, which advised of a successful year with several new members attending. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves so, for the first time, a meeting would be held in August. The group had combined with Rummikub and Mah Jong for a successful outing to Boundary Mill.
- SPEAKER MEETINGS – Niddy reported that the topics of the monthly talks had been many and varied, including talks from The Water Company on the merits of being on a metered system, Rick Peacock-Edwards talking about his life as a fighter pilot, a potted history of Heffer's Bookshop, Celia Stevens on her life as a woman racing driver, Tanya Harrington on portraiture, Adrian Wright talking about volcanoes, the history of advertising, and women's suffrage.
- WALKING – Rosemary Foreman said the Walking group continued to thrive with often more than 20 walkers enjoying a variety of walks and, of course, the lunches afterwards. Walks had included visits to Bradfield Woods, Ashley, Rech, Upend, Woodditton, Mildenhall, Wicken Fen, Landwade, Stetchworth, Witchford, Rushbrooke and Lode. The group had enjoyed a Gredley bus trip to the Norfolk coastal path, when they walked in a howling gale, pouring rain and hail – despite which a good time was had by all. A planned Gredley bus trip to St Ives had to be cancelled due to the illness of the driver. Rosemary thanked Alan and Kath Gifkins, Ann Cant, Margaret and Richard Unwin for leading some of the walks.
- WINGS, WHEELS AND WATER – Tim reported that the group was now coming to the end of its fourth year, during which time they had covered a wide variety of themes, all related to wings, wheels or water. The themes frequently focussed on individual inventors, designers or constructors, such as Henry Ford, Barnes Wallis, Roy Chadwick, Henry Rolls and Charles Royce, all giants in the field of technology and the design and production of vehicles of one sort or another. Actual machines had ranged from tractors to airships and from Rolls Royce cars to their Merlin engines so crucial to the Allies in WWII. Sessions were often enriched with first-

hand information from members on the topics under discussion. The current season had finished with the Golden Years of Flight: 1909 – 1939, and the new season would begin with a session on Concorde; one member had worked at Marshalls, where they designed and built Concorde's nosecone – the 'droop-snoot'.

#### 10 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations for committee members had been received as follows:

NAME	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Joan Watkinson	Michael Jocelyn	John Herring
Rosemary Foreman	Glenda Preece	Ann Cant
Kath Gifkins	Ann Cant	Glenda Preece
Barry Coles	Phil Boggie	Richard Unwin
Grace Crump	John Wilding	Pam Moffatt
Angie Harrison	Vanessa Gernat	Gill Hudson
Chris Timmins	Linda Swinson	Doreen King
Tim Young	Richard Unwin	Phil Boggie
Nigel Day	Alan Gifkins	Judy Herridge
Cheryl Bampton	Alan Bampton	Phil Boggie
Andrew Webb	Jennifer Webb	Victoria Arnold

All nominations were approved by members present.

#### 11 APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS VERIFIER FOR 2020

It was hoped that Jack Merrell would once again verify the accounts for 2020.

#### 12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As Margaret Jocelyn, Niddy Walpole and Sharon Wall were retiring from the committee, they were thanked for all the work they had done for the Newmarket U3A and were presented with suitable tokens of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 1525.