



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023
in
ST. MARYS HALL, OVERTON

The preceding monthly meeting was attended by 83 members; some stayed for the AGM.

1. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the AGM of 20 April 2022, submitted to members prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record and duly signed by Bob Denny, Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Bob Denny reported.

Thanks for showing up on another chilly and bright Wednesday morning. A year ago Jonathan handed the baton of chairmanship of your U3A to me after capably holding the post for the previous 3 years. I was new to the movement having only been involved for a short time with the walking group and I quickly came to realize what a capable team he had been at the helm of. The strength of any organization is greatly determined by how the key players interact and work together and their attention to detail in planning and execution. I'm proud to have watched the folks around this table produce a year of activity which you should all be proud of.

The 2 major elements of U3A are the groups and monthly meetings. Teresa's enthusiasm and solid support and guidance of group leaders have moved this aspect forward and in the last year we have benefitted from the splendid talks which Margaret has arranged including the one which you've just enjoyed. I've found them to be educational and entertaining, core aims of the U3A, and Michael is already hard at work on the 2024 meeting programme. An efficient secretary is essential to keeping any organization on the rails and I'm always intimidated by how quickly Maureen produces concise and accurate minutes. The other key behind-the-scenes player is the money man. You've been privileged to have had David's steady hand on the purse strings for a number of years. Aably assisted by Sue he's also built the membership back to a steady healthy number after Covid. Our numbers are below 3 years ago for a number of reasons but as Jonathan noted last year in Overton small can be beautiful. Largely as a consequence of David's work there will be no increase in your membership fees for the forthcoming year. Michael is also responsible for the new website, many hours of work have resulted in a much more polished showcase for your group which better informs you. Without Adrian, aably assisted by Carol's IT skills, you wouldn't be aware of the events which your committee has put in place. They also make the monthly meetings flow, allowing the speakers to use this hall's quirky audio visual system. Unlike Jonathan, I'm a figurehead in this organization with the real work of co-ordination and vision being provided by your vice-chair Margaret who has been working hard in other committee positions for you for many years previously.

Sadly, we're losing two stalwarts from the committee. Lizzie can't be with us today but this time last year she thought she had escaped but I'm pleased that she stayed on in an ex-officio capacity producing the regular newsletter. This year her departure is for real. Maureen is also leaving from the committee. As important as her skills as secretary has been her ability to fill a 52-seater coach on its way to an exciting summer destination as part of what are known as extra-curricular events. I hope we see both Lizzie and Maureen continue to take part in our regular activities.

You'll have your own highlights over this year but the things I fondly remember were the August tea party: although the weather didn't co-operate, it was a grand get-together. And who can forget Tony Harris's portrayal of Winston Churchill – again educational and entertaining which is what we're all about.

Many of you contribute to your U3A. As I've previously noted the groups are the other key to our success and we rely on our group leaders ably guided by Teresa. These meetings wouldn't be successful without the work to provide the refreshments from the kitchen and I have to single out Edith for her efforts. We also wouldn't function as well without the meeters and greeters at the door and all your work to lay out the chairs and stack them at the end. Finally, if you didn't show up and support your U3A all of the effort would be for nothing. I hope you continue to enjoy the friendship this year within this lively part of Overton's social life and I encourage you to provide us with feedback, good and bad.

Bob then presented Maureen with a bottle of wine, a gift from the U3A to thank her for her service as secretary over the last few years. This was gratefully accepted!

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

David Carter reported.

I report today on both the membership and financial aspects of your u3a for the year just ended.

On the membership front, a big thank you to all those existing members who rejoined and to the new members who joined once we were allowed to commence meeting again after the various lockdowns that we were subjected to. Our membership numbers at the end of our 2021 financial year, that is prior to the pandemic, stood at 286. When we restarted our activities again part way through 2022 the membership numbers were reduced and at the end of 2022 stood at 232. I can report that for the year just ended the membership has increased slightly by 5 to 237.

In addition to members attending the monthly meetings, some 40 visitors attended the meetings we had during 2022 and in this last year this figure increased to some 61 nonmembers.

This of course is reflected in the accounts, and I am pleased to report that our finances are still in a healthy state despite the disruption to operations during 2021 and 2022. The combination of membership fees and nonmember receipts totaled some £3,660 and after spending £1,052 on the monthly speakers, £928 on capitation fees to u3a central together with £449.50 on Third Age Matters magazine plus other costs associated with the running of your u3a, a surplus of just over £400 was achieved. This is subject to an independent examination which is being carried out by Jeff Teagle a u3a member and once he has finished his review the accounts will be published. On a final note, the healthy state of our finances has allowed the committee to maintain the annual membership fee at £15 despite the rising costs associated with running your u3a.

4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Maureen Tory confirmed that she, Margaret Aldgate and David Carter are ineligible for re-election, having served their full term of appointment according to the constitution.

Re-election en bloc of remaining committee members – Bob Dennay, Adrian Good, Michael Humphery and Teresa Reynolds – was proposed by Sue Carter, seconded by Sue Teagle and duly elected unopposed.

Two nominations have been received:

Diana Churchill, proposed by Jeff Teagle and seconded by Sue Teagle

Madeleine Whitlam, proposed by Maureen Tory and seconded by Sue Carter

Both elected unopposed.

5. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Jeff Teagle was re-appointed as Examiner of the Accounts for 2023/24, with the sincere thanks of David Carter and the Committee.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

From the floor, Jane Anthony paid tribute to David Carter for his long and excellent service as Treasurer – this was enthusiastically endorsed by members present with applause.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 12:00 noon

mt/03.05.2023