

Perth u3a 35th Annual General Meeting

Held online on 3rd May 2021

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all members who had joined online.
2. There were 90 members attending online, and apologies were received from:
Pat Brown, Jennifer Irving, John Shedden, Yvonne Norris.
3. **Adoption of minutes of 34th AGM on 29 April 2019**

Voting for the adoption was **For 82 Against 0 Abstained 7**

4. **Chairman's report.**

There is little point in saying what we have not been able to do this year. Much of the pleasure in belonging to something like u3a is to meet people. Meeting people only via 'zoom' has about as much enjoyment as, I imagine, reading a version of 'Moll Flanders' edited by Mary Whitehouse. Nevertheless, a remarkable amount has gone on. Our Open Meetings, brilliantly chaired by Bob Thomson, seem to have gone down very well, judging by attendance on the day and subsequent viewing. Farida Amiri could not have addressed us in person. Other talks with film or illustration, such as Harry Wilby's 'Convoys', Ken Brown's 'A9 Duelling' or Anthony McCluskey's 'Butterflies' were well suited to the medium – and who can forget James Hae's balloon experiments? Most of this year's talks were arranged by Margaret Hynd and David Washington. My thanks to them both. For the present I have taken over the responsibility but if anyone would like the job.....

Many of our groups have functioned well on line and outdoor activities have really started to lift off again. To all Group Leaders very many thanks. I have every hope (I shall not tempt fate by adding 'expectation') that groups will be able to meet again by August, though probably with some restrictions.

Sarah Lawson and Ann Adamson are stepping down from the Committee. I am very grateful to both of them for their efforts and input. Dave Smith and Joan Fraser have joined but we are still well short of our ideal number and lack a Vice-Chair. Anne Trant is handing over as Membership Secretary, a job she has carried out with meticulous care. I am glad to say that she will stay on the Committee and continue to plumb the

mysteries of Beacon. Peter Trant and Wilma Coleman have continued to look after the interests of Groups. You may think they have had nothing to do. Wrong.

Richard Coles is due to stand down as Treasurer. He would have done so were there a successor. He has very kindly agreed to carry on for the time being but has warned that he may not be able to complete the year. A successor is needed and ideally one who will be able to shadow Richard as soon as possible. The post is essential to the u3a. Richard has done a superb job but, even in a very difficult Covid year, the job is not impossible.

Bob Thomson, in addition to his other commitments, has taken over as zoom-master-extraordinaire (important, given a techno-phobe Chairman) whilst Ian Hunt has very kindly done all the Open Meeting taping.

This brings me to another point. Members can still help the Committee, even if they would prefer not to join it. It would be very helpful to have someone to take the minutes (they would not have to attend every meeting) and someone with PR experience would be of great value with advice. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Committee if you think you could help.

My final thanks must go to David Combe. In effect he runs the whole show. His patience and wisdom in Committee combined with his efficiency as Secretary make my job a doddle in comparison.

I think the future looks good. We have a stall at the Farmers' Market on 5th June.

Please drop in and pick up a brochure or two to give to friends, or, better still, send them along. We could do with the return of some members who, understandably, gave this year a miss and it would be good to have some new blood. By September the great majority of us should be immunised and we are planning for a return to nearly normal – to meet again.

5. Treasurer's report for the Financial Year 2020–2021.

The summary accounts for the year to 31st March 2021 are shown as Appendix A on page 7 below.

The full accounts and related paperwork have been reviewed by Mr. David Washington, Financial Examiner appointed at the Annual General Meeting of Perth U3A held on 20th July 2020, who has issued the required statement of approval (see page 8).

Overview

The last financial year for Perth U3A was exceptional in many ways, our operations having been greatly curtailed by the COVID pandemic and the many restrictions imposed as a result.

The budget for the 2020–21 session was drafted in the hope that normal indoor gatherings would be permitted at least at some point, but in the event this, of course, did not happen. Accordingly, no costs were incurred for external accommodation in 2020–21, though £182 was paid for room hires in the previous session which were not

invoiced until after the year end. The lease for Unit 7 contains no automatic relief for the prevailing circumstances, but the landlord has been very generous allowing – when it became apparent the facility would not be accessible for many months – Perth U3A to pay a nominal retainer sum rather than the full rent. This is on the understanding that, when we can, Perth U3A will resume the lease at a commercial rent for at least as long as we have benefitted from the retainer concession. A rising financial liability is therefore being created, but it is hoped a resumption of access will be possible before the 2021-22 session starts.

The greatest single cost in most years is accommodation, but because of the exceptional circumstances of the 2020-21 session the year's greatest cost category was annual fees and affiliations, including the Third Age Trust, U3A Scotland, the Beacon administration system, and the charge for Third Age Matters magazine.

To allow the committee of management to meet virtually, and to run virtual Open Meetings a singlehost Zoom "Pro" account has been purchased, and from August 2020 (for open meetings) an augmented service has been purchased on a month by month basis to allow the number of Open Meeting attendees to exceed 100. Comparatively modest costs have been incurred for stationery, printing and posts, including for the deferred 2020 AGM and for the 2021 AGM, but overall costs incurred in 2020-21 have been very much lower than had Perth U3A operated as normal.

Membership renewal via PayPal was introduced in the previous year, and has proved popular, with an increase this year in the number of members renewing in this way, from 269 in 2019-20 to 295 in 2020-21.

During the year, the organisation registered with Amazon Smile, so members and friends who are Amazon customers, and who so choose, can nominate Perth U3A to receive a modest proportion of the purchase price when they buy from Amazon. A small number have already done so, and it is hoped the support will rise over time.

No social programme could take place in 2020-21, and a planned trip to Dumfries House in May 2020 had to be cancelled. The expenditure of £352 on the Social Fund during the year represents reimbursements of ticket price to members who had booked. In two cases members chose to donate the ticket price to Perth U3A unrestricted funds, which was appreciated.

Financial Reserves Policy

In accordance with good practice, the Trustees have this year formally reviewed the policy on the appropriate level of financial contingency reserves, and have left the sum unchanged at £4,000.00.

The Treasurer spoke to the above narrative which had been circulated earlier and drew attention to the following key points:

- *We had fewer members resulting in lower income*
- *To counter this we had savings mainly from the lack of expenditure on external accommodation*
- *We also had savings on the rental costs of Unit 7 where our landlord had reduced our charges during this period when we could not use the room*

The Treasurer added that the committee had been looking at the budget for next year and based on a reduced membership and planning for a resumption of meetings in external accommodation we were hoping to pitch the membership subscription at £20

The members approved this report by the following votes:

For 81 Against 0 Abstained 3

6. Appointment of independent examiner

The Committee proposed that David Washington be appointed as Perth U3A's Independent Examiner.

The voting on this proposal was **For 82 Against 0 Abstained 0** and David Washington is therefore appointed as Independent Examiner.

7. Groups Coordinator's report.

I concluded last year's Groups Coordinator's report by looking forward to most of the then current restrictions being lifted or alleviated by September, so that our next season could begin in as normal a way as possible. I find myself a year later with the same wish!

This last season has, of course, seen a complete absence of face to face indoor meetings so it has been like no previous season. That does not mean, however, that there has not been a wide range of u3a group activity. Thanks to the hard work of group leaders and the flexibility of both group leaders and members many groups have used video technology to keep group activities going. A poll of group leaders at the half-way point of the season revealed that nearly 70% of groups had continued to meet in some form, with their activities largely unchanged or modified to take account of virtual meetings. Other group leaders kept in contact with their members even though no group activity took place.

The walking groups have experienced an on-off season. Walks with restricted numbers and COVID-safe measures were restarted in late September, in line with SportScotland protocols for adult organised non-contact sport and recreation but these had to stop again after Christmas. They have recently been able to restart, so walking groups have been able to enjoy the current fine weather and spring sunshine (as I write this in the second half of April!).

Unfortunately the restrictions have made it impossible for some groups to continue to function and not all group leaders and members have been able or willing to embrace the technology needed for virtual meetings. Thank you to the affected members for their patience and looking forward to a resumption of normal activities next season.

The season began with 65 groups including 3 new ones although, sadly, one of these has been unable to meet at all. Five groups continued with new group leaders and, as always, the Committee extend their thanks to those group leaders who came forward to take over existing groups or to start a new group. Several group leaders have expressed their intention to step down at the end of this season. Thank you to those who have led groups for, in some cases, a considerable number of years and I hope you enjoy a well-earned rest. As ever the continuation of these groups depends on another member coming forward to take over. This has been achieved in some cases but the future of a handful of groups hangs in the balance without a new leader coming forward.

I shall finish by repeating the last paragraph of last year's report:

I am looking forward to seeing most of the current restrictions being lifted or alleviated by September so that our next season can begin in as normal a way as possible. Finally a big thank you to all the group leaders who enable Perth U3A to offer such a wide and varied programme of activities.

8. Election of Honorary Officer and committee members.

The following nominations have been received

Nominee	Proposer	Seconders
Vice Chairman		
None		
Treasurer		
None		
Membership Secretary		
David Smith	Margaret Hynd	William Petrie
Committee members		
Robert Thomson	Aileen Priestley	Rosemary Drysdale
Joan Fraser	Chris Mackreth	Carol Thomson
Anne Trant	Katharine Melville	Alison Bertie
Peter Trant	Cynthia Mitchell	Richard Coles
Wilma Coleman	Ann Adamson	David Combe

All the above nominations were approved by For 81 Against 0 Abstained 0

9. Any other business

Bob Thomson drew members' attention to the forthcoming u3a day when Perth u3a would be taking a stall at the farmer's market on Saturday June 5th and volunteers to staff the stall would be welcome

.....Chairman

Appendix A
PERTH U3A
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Receipts and payments for the year ending 31 Mar 2021

	2020-21 (£)	2019-20 (£)
Receipts		
Operating Funds		
Membership	10,400.00	13,555.00
Donations	50.79	399.90
Miscellaneous	116.00	384.92
Interest	16.14	31.26
Total Income (Operating)	10,582.93	14,371.08
Social Fund Total Income (Social Fund)	0.00	2,114.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,582.93	16,485.08

Payments

Operating Funds		
Rentals - External Accommodation	182.00	4,281.50
Rentals - Lease of Unit 7	870.00	4,220.00
Affiliation Fees and Annual Dues	3,359.23	3,430.80
Open Meeting Speakers	0.00	365.00
PayPal Commission	151.95	136.95
Expenses - General	301.73	972.95
Capital Expenditure - Unrestricted	0.00	1,051.96
Videoconferencing	496.91	
Miscellaneous	82.80	5.00
Total expenditure (Operating)	5,444.62	14,464.16
Social Fund Total Expenditure (Social Fund)	352.00	1,660.55
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,796.62	16,124.71
Gain / (Loss)	4,786.31	360.37

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Bank Balances at 31 Mar 2020	
Current Account	646.32
PayPal Account	0.00
Savings Account	8,500.00
Social Fund	853.65
	9,999.97

Bank Balances at 31 Mar 2021	
Current Account	842.35
PayPal Account	426.14
Savings Account	13,016.14
Social Fund	501.65
	14,786.28

Change during year - Gain / (Loss)	4,786.31
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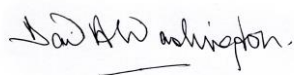
Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements ...

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and

Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations ... have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Washington
Financial Examiner
08 Apr 2021