

**Perth u3a 36th Annual General Meeting
Held in St Matthews Church on 2nd May 2022**

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the 87 members in attendance.
2. Apologies were received from Colette Clenaghan, Val Marrian, Elizabeth Nicholson, Marie-Noelle Coates, Patricia Johnston, George Stonely, Willie Coupar, Percy and Olga Shelley, Robyn Mackie, Philip Byers, Joan A Fraser, Joyce Stevenson, Elsie Craig, Vi McGibbon, Sylvia Elsmere, Ena Robertson, Aileen Priestley, Ann Kellie, and Beryl Graham.
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of 35th AGM on 3rd May 2001.**

Adoption of the Minutes was **Proposed** by Anne Trant, **Seconded** by David Smith and carried unanimously.

4. **Chairman's (Robert Proctor) Report.**

Good morning and thank you for attending the AGM. It is really pleasing to be back to proper meetings as most of us have probably had our fill of Zoom, useful as it can be.

I know that quite a few members regret our move from Letham St Marks but that was not our choice. St Matthew's has made us more than welcome with both technical assistance and catering. I am very grateful for their efforts. For Open Meetings we have also relied on the technical skills of David Smith and Peter Trant and on Zoom occasions to Bob Thomson. Again we have had a wide variety of speakers and we have a full list (at the moment!) for the next session. I hope that someone else may be willing to look after arranging speakers for the 2023/4 session. It may be that the size of live audiences has been reduced by broadcasting the talks but the total number of recipients has increased and I think it is a worthwhile service for those who find it difficult to get out.

Most groups are now operating fully and we are very grateful for the unstinting efforts of the group leaders.

As a Committee we have been able to return to live meetings and I am glad to say we have been able to attract more members and candidates for membership. This is particularly important as four long-standing post holders are leaving the Committee. Group co-ordinator Peter Trant and

former Membership Secretary Anne Trant are taking a rest. I shall miss Peter's understanding of technology and Anne's eagle-eyed proof reading. You will probably notice the difference before long. Many thanks to both of them. Many thanks too to our Treasurer, Richard Coles, who very kindly added an extra year to his stint. His meticulous accounts and careful planning were of huge importance during the uncertainties of Covid and he has left us a blue print for the future. Thank you very much, Richard. I am delighted that Irene Twinn has agreed to take over.

David Combe has, over the last twenty years or so, covered just about every post. During my time as Chairman he has served as Secretary and no-one could have been more thorough or painstaking. Recently he has completed the task of re-writing our Constitution to make it compliant with the Third Age Trust's guidelines, particularly regarding on-line safe-guarding. Anne Trant and I shared the joys with David of looking through the legalese jabberwocky and, believe me, he has done a marvellous job of making it comprehensible. For this alone he would deserve our thanks and personally I don't know how I would have coped without him. Thank you, David.

These posts are to be filled. At present we have no new Secretary and no Vice-chair. We will, again be short of Committee members. Please give it serious thought.

Finally, I have an apology to make. Only just before our last Committee meeting I realised that I had completed three years as Chairman. The Constitution demands that I stand for re-election or, as a new Committee member for co-opting. Providing you allow me, I am doing the latter. I may add that it is my intention to stand down at next year's AGM. It is my belief that an ever-changing element within the Committee would provide a freshness of ideas and a better reflection of our membership now that, I am very pleased to announce our numbers are back on the rise.

5. Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

The summary accounts for the year 31st March 2022 are shown as Appendix A on page 7.

Richard Coles reported that over the last year Perth U3A had remained financially strong. The greatest outgoings by far are for accommodation – both external venues and Unit 7. During the previous year (2020-21) expenditure on external accommodation had been much reduced due to covid restrictions causing suspension of face-to-face groups, and also to the generosity of the Unit 7 Landlord. This had resulted in a surplus a year ago which enabled the subscription level to be slightly reduced in 2021-22.



The budget for 2021-22 had been set on the basis that things would be quickly back to normal, but in practice some ongoing covid restrictors meant, firstly, that several groups did not resume meeting until slightly later than the start the session and, secondly there was a further suspension of all indoor groups in January 2022 when national restrictions were temporarily tightened. Additionally, some other budget areas – notably the capital allowance – were significantly underspent. Also, and importantly, the membership numbers and subscription income exceeded expectations. The result had been that funds at the start of the new financial year are very healthy, with Perth U3A again having a surplus which can potentially be used to ease a rise in subscription levels, though in the year ahead it is far less likely that similar savings will be possible. It is to be hoped that pandemic restrictions will not return, in which case accommodation expenditure will be fully utilised. Also, inflationary pressures on costs, including accommodation, are already becoming apparent.

The new committee after this AGM would consider and approve a budget for the year ahead and agree on a subscription level, which is likely to be slightly up on last year.

Other things to report include committee's decision to close the Savings Account as the very low interest rate offered of 0.01% was deemed insufficient. The committee has also approved a temporary increase in the level of contingency reserve by £400 to £4,400 for the coming year. This £400 is towards the anticipated purchase of a replacement laptop computer in 2023-24.

Perth U3A continues to receive modest donation income from Amazon Smile – about £24 last year. We have a membership of 446 and of those just 13 support Perth U3A on Smile. The treasurer thanked those 13 and encouraged any members who buy from Amazon but do not yet support any charity to consider supporting Perth U3A in this way.

The treasurer also thanked the Independent Financial Examiner, David Washington, for his work checking the accounts, and for agreeing to continue in this role for the year ahead.

The treasurer will be stepping down from the role after a stint of four years, and was pleased to be handing over a strong financial position. He also thanked the whole committee for their constructive support during his period of tenure.

The members approved this report.



6. Appointment of independent examiner.

The Committee advised that David Washington be appointed as Perth U3A's Independent Examiner. **Proposer** Robert Proctor, **Seconder** David Combe. The members approved this proposal.

7. Group Coordinator's (Peter Trant) report.

Although it has been far from 'business as usual', this year has been much less affected by COVID restrictions than the previous one. It was a great pleasure to be able to resume face to face meetings, albeit with some counter measures having to be observed to minimise the risk of infection. However, not all groups were able or felt willing to meet in person. Even when government rules allowed, the decision to meet face to face had, rightly, to be by mutual agreement of the group leader and members. This led to some groups not meeting at all for the second season in a row, some groups continuing to meet via Zoom and others using a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings during the season. All face to face meetings had to be suspended for a short period after Christmas when stricter rules were put in place to counter a surge of infections. Fortunately this only applied for one or two meetings and the outdoor activity groups were not affected at all this time around. Once again I would like to thank the group leaders and members for their patience and flexibility in dealing with the changing situation and providing as good a programme of activities as possible.

We began the season with 61 groups and 52 leaders. This was, maybe not surprisingly, slightly down on the 65 groups that we had run in the previous two seasons but, after the season began, two of the lapsed groups were able to resume when members came forward to lead them. During the course of the year we were able to launch a second Lunch group to accommodate a substantial waiting list and have recently launched a group to play a variety of card games. As always, the ability to start new groups depends on a member willing to act as group leader. We have a number of groups run jointly by several members, so it does not have to be a solo effort and in some cases the group leader does not have to be more than a contact name with the group members acting collaboratively to run the group. In fact this scenario is probably close to the u3a ideal for group dynamics.

I have recently been advised that a number of group leaders are standing down. Fortunately members have already come forward to take over four of these groups but the Travel and Listening to Opera groups are currently without an identified leader for the next season. A big thank you to those group leaders stepping down for their efforts over the past years and also to those stepping forward to take over groups.



I am standing down this year after 6 years as Groups Coordinator and so I would like to thank group leaders past and present for their help and cooperation in keeping the group activities programme running smoothly and providing such a wide range of interest groups for members of Perth u3a. I wish my successor every success in the post and hope that he finds it as rewarding as I have.

8. Election of Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 7 committee members.

Post	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Vice Chair	None		
Secretary	None		
Treasurer	Irene Twinn	Richard Coles	Joan Fraser
Committee 1	Joan Fraser	Richard Coles	Irene Twinn
Committee 2	Sue Hendry	David Combe	Dorothy Moir
Committee 3	Ray Hodgson	Peter Trant	Anne Trant
Committee 4	Wilma Coleman	Robert Proctor	David Combe
Committee 5	Bill Younger	David Combe	Rosemary Combe
Committee 6	Bob Thomson	David Combe	Robert Proctor
Committee 7	Robert Proctor	David Smith	Wilma Coleman

The above nominations were **Proposed** by David Thistlethwaite and **Seconded** by Florence Proctor and approved unanimously.

9. Adoption of revised Constitution.

The Secretary outlined the reasons why the Third Age Trust considered a revised constitution to be necessary. Virtual on-line meetings such as by Zoom had been valuable during the pandemic and are likely to play a part in how u3as function in future – hence the need to be formalised in the constitution. A draft constitution was produced by the Third Age Trust and was adapted for our use by a working group of the committee.

The revised constitution was available for the membership to examine.

Members approved the revised constitution by the following votes:

For 80 Against 0 Abstained 0

10. Any Other Business.

There being no other business the Annual General Meeting was closed by the Chairman.

.....Chairman

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2021-22

PERTH U3A

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Receipts and payments for the year ending 31 Mar 2022

	2021-22	2020-21
	(£)	(£)
Receipts		
Operating Funds		
Membership	8,900.00	10,400.00
Donations	33.76	50.79
Miscellaneous (Incl Trading)	194.00	116.00
Interest	0.81	16.14
Total Income (Operating)	<u>9,128.57</u>	<u>10,582.93</u>
Social Fund Total Income (Social Fund)	389.50	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	9,518.07	10,582.93
Payments		
Operating Funds		
Rentals - External Accommodation	1,605.00	182.00
Rentals - Lease of Unit 7	2,645.00	870.00
Affiliation Fees and Annual Dues	2,561.63	3,359.23
Open Meeting Speakers	120.00	0.00
PayPal Commission	125.60	151.95
Expenses - General (Incl. Trading)	530.33	301.73
Capital Expenditure	85.99	0.00
U3A National Day	136.90	0.00
Videoconferencing	335.88	496.91
Miscellaneous	58.55	82.80
Total expenditure (Operating)	<u>8,204.88</u>	<u>5,444.62</u>
Social Fund Total Expenditure (Social Fund)	393.50	352.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,598.38	5,796.62
Gain / (Loss)	919.69	4,786.31

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Bank Balances at 31 Mar 2021

Current Account	842.35
PayPal Account	426.14
Savings Account	13,016.14
Social Fund	<u>501.65</u>
	14,786.28

Bank Balances at 31 Mar 2022

Current Account	14,908.32
PayPal Account	300.00
Savings Account	-
Social Fund	<u>497.65</u>
	15,705.97

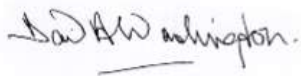
Change during year - Gain / (Loss) **919.69**

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
10 April 2022