

Petersfield U3A (University of the Third Age)

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting Held 9th October 2017 at 2.30 pm in the Community Centre, Love Lane, Petersfield

Present 96 members with Philip Jones in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence:

Keith Hopper, Carole Hopper, Gordon Watts, Wendy Cheshire, Sarah Wallace, Mike Wallace, Mike Gadd, Sheila Gadd, Alan Reynolds, Jean Reynolds, Michael Wigmore, Kathleen Wigmore, Roy Kersley, Rosemary Swan, Jo Redgwell

2. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting: These were agreed and then signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minutes: There were none.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

This year has been one of solid achievement in several key areas, in particular, with communications (both internal and external), MC internal systems, inter- U3A relationships and member involvement both with regard to new groups, as group leaders and coming forward as volunteers in many different areas of our activities. I am indebted to all my colleagues on the Management Committee for their hard work, input, advice, and suggestions over the last 12 months. Thank you all very much.

Petersfield U3A now has an up to date website, a professionally edited quarterly magazine (News + Views) and an e-mail based news sheet (News + Views Extra) designed to "advertise" near term events.

Our thanks go to Ian Bradley + team, Dorothy Erskine and Heather Nichols and Les Jarman respectively for all their hard work in bringing these about. Whilst the website now let's anyone learn about who and what we are and what we get up to, for the last 4 years or so it has been Sue Potts, our Press and Publicity Officer who has mainly kept our U3A in the public eye with news and articles in the local press and magazines. Sue is standing down from the Management Committee today at the AGM, so I want to thank her both personally and on your behalf, for her ideas, contributions, dedication and success over this period.

Some of the Management Committee's (MC) key systems especially with regards to membership, finance and group coordination have been updated and fully computerised. All of the officers responsible, Linda Hutton, Gordon Watts and Steven Watts were new post holders this year. On your behalf, I would like to thank them for their focus and hard work in effecting these necessary changes, especially Steven as Group Co-ordinator for just 6 months, who has also been working very hard on organising (with others !!) the up-coming "Open Day" on October 11th and the introduction of an annual Group audit.

Many of you probably don't concern yourself about what other U3A's get up to, but as Chairman it is important that I am aware of the thoughts and actions of others, and share them with members of the MC. U3A groups are effectively allotted

membership of a large geographic area, such as ours -- NE Hampshire + SW Surrey. This accounts for just under 30 individual U3A groups covering a very large area, the vast majority of which we would never likely interact with. I have agreed and continued with my predecessor's course of action in meeting twice a year with 6 of them, our nearest neighbours, **but** I have now extended it to include a similar frequency of meetings south of the Downs with Horndean, Waterlooville and Meon Valley U3A's (SE Hampshire). These 9 U3A's all lie within an approximate 10 miles radius of Petersfield and represent a nice sized, sensible and practical cluster on which to build relationships.

Membership matters (in more ways than one!)

(a) membership numbers remain strong with 625 at the end of August,

(b) 4 new groups have formed this year and currently involve some 30+members. As ever, the need to be interesting and remain relevant, in a World of numerous choices, remains key.

(c) total number of Groups at the end of August = 54

(d) a Group Leaders /MC meeting was held at the United Reform Church Hall on 23rd May and a useful exchange of information and comments resulted. Many thanks to all the GL's for all the time and work that they put in for the benefit of all our members.

(e) hopefully, all members will try and support our Open Day on Wednesday 11th October at St. Peter's Church (10.30 to 14.00 hrs) ideally either by visiting /being there, **or** helping make cakes beforehand and possibly helping with the refreshments **or** helping set up and tidy up, **or** telling friends / acquaintances to come along and find out for themselves about the U3A. The Open Day performs two very useful functions (1) it affords us the opportunity to present ourselves, as fully as space allows, to the wider local community and (2) it is a very effective and previously successful means of attracting new members.

(f) Finally, I want on your behalf to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers involved with all the following "support teams", all of which play a key role in the running of our U3A and whose work goes on largely unseen and sadly almost unrecognised. The Rolling Show team, the Science + Technology Committee, the Arts + Heritage Committee, the Tea Rota team and the Computer Help group (who offered free help and advice but now has sadly wound up through lack of "customers," despite the fact that apparently some 20 / 25% of our members are not yet "computer capable". Absolutely tragic!)

There were no comments and the Annual Report was approved.

5. **Receive and approve the Annual Accounts**

The accounts which have been prepared and independently examined were available and distributed at the meeting.

They show that U3A Petersfield continues to be in a satisfactory financial state with net assets of £20,491 at 31st August, all represented by cash in the bank. Tim Salter

kindly responded to a query about why we needed so much money in the bank by explaining that it was necessary to pay the bills that came in after

31st August. Gordon Watts informed the meeting that, following approval by the Management Committee in September, next year's accounts (2017/18) would be based on an 'income and expenditure' basis as opposed to the current 'receipts and payments' basis. The accounts were duly approved.

6. Examiner of the Accounts

Mr J W Cleverly had approved the accounts as Examiner in advance of the meeting. It was proposed by Tim Salter that Mr Cleverly should continue as Examiner and was seconded.

7. Receive and approve the Social Account

Les Jarman presented the Social Account and at the end of August 2017 the closing balance was £1,484.31. LJ expressed his concern about the social accounts not being included in with the general accounts. In the light of his concerns the Chairman invited him to the next Management Committee meeting to discuss these. The social account was duly received.

8. Election of Honorary Officers and Committee

There being no vacant positions or nominations for membership of the Management Committee The President Len Kail confirmed that all current officers and members of the Committee were duly re-elected to serve for another year. He asked all members to support the work done by the Management Committee.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.00 pm