



**Annual General Meeting - held at
Surfleet Village Hall on
Thursday 8th October 2022 at 2pm**

Present

- Christina Tyler- Chair
- Steve Field – Vice Chair
- Beryl Brennan – Secretary and publicity
- Barbara Charity – Beacon Administrator
- Paul Berry – Speaker Finder
- Heather Girdlestone – Membership Secretary

Co-opted Committee members

- Jane Davies – Groups Coordinator
- Mel Gordon –web administrator

Apologies

- Dawn Ken - Treasurer

In attendance

- Lorraine Lenton - Minute taker

No.	Item	Action
1	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting With sufficient members present the meeting was declared it Quorate	
2	Members Apologies for Absence 23 - List available	
3	Minutes of 2021 AGM Agreed and signed	
4	<p>Chairs report</p> <p>With the exception of Steve and myself, we started out one year ago with an all-new committee. All of us determined to do our best for Spalding & District u3a. One of the first things that we did was to cancel our Zoom subscription and revert to our normal arrangements for monthly and group meetings. We have had some interesting speakers, starting with Stephen Brown who regaled us with tales from his career as a driving instructor through to Peter Barratt, our latest speaker who entertained us all with the history of Punch and Judy and who let us in on some of the secrets. One of my most enduring memories was watching members attempting to drink tea in the correct manner as described by Baroness Bolsover.</p> <p>We have unfortunately lost a few groups this year but have also gained some including Colouring for Mindfulness and the Ukulele groups, there are also some others in the pipeline. Whilst talking about groups, I must mention all of our wonderful group leaders, without whom we would not be able to function. They give of their knowledge and expertise willingly and freely and I would like to acknowledge their hard work.</p> <p>This year is ending in sadness, not only at the loss of our late Queen, HM Elizabeth the second, but also the loss of some of our members, only just</p>	

	<p>recently, Tessa Chapman, Eve Agate, and Ivy Tyler, each of them brought something unique to our u3a. We have also lost some members due to ill health and relocation and, to them, we wish all the very best for the future.</p> <p>On a happier note, I am delighted to tell you that we have had 16 new members join us, in July alone. We wish all new members a very happy and enjoyable time with Spalding & District u3a. Please, if you have any ideas for new groups or you feel that you can contribute to the committee, please let us know and, as I have mentioned elsewhere, you will be welcomed with open arms, a cup of tea and maybe even a biscuit or two!</p> <p>I was also delighted that we were able to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in style with our hog roast. I believe that everyone who attended, had a really enjoyable time.</p> <p>We have planted three apple trees "Annie Elizabeth" in the Memory Garden at Springfields and many of you will have seen photos and press coverage of the "unveiling" of our bench in the same place to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement. The garden is being extensively renovated to include a telephone box, a "London Bus" and a beach hut with many items designed to provoke memories and it is a lovely thought that people will be able to rest on our bench after looking at all of these items.</p> <p>It came to our attention that some members are not aware of Associate Membership. This allows people who are members of more than one u3a to receive a discount/rebate of £4.00. This is the amount that each u3a has to pay to the Third Age Trust each year. This amount is set to rise next year I believe. Associate members are only entitled to attend and vote at their parent u3a. As a committee, we agreed to this after receiving several requests. My apologies if this was not communicated to the entire membership, however, please be aware that minutes are taken at every meeting and are published on our website, so, please do have a read if you are interested in the discussions held and the decisions made.</p> <p>Beryl has asked me to let you all know that we have applied for a space at next year's Flower Festival and are currently on the waiting list as currently all spaces are reserved. We will keep you informed of any progress.</p> <p>I should also like to add a personal note. I only intended to sit as chair for one year. However, recently, it became quite clear to me that nobody else was going to come forward. Therefore, I decided to put myself forward for another term. I would, however, like to make it clear that I do not want to serve a third year as chair, so do, please think over the next few months if you would like to put yourself forward at our next AGM.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee, without whom, I would not have lasted the whole year. Each and every one of them has brought their own skills, sense of humour and coffee making skills! Thank you to Lorraine who somehow, manages to sort us out at committee meetings and produce accurate minutes each month. She is also an invaluable source of information on governance issues. Thank you to Jean, our newsletter editor who does such a good job producing our newsletter each quarter. Thanks also to the people who volunteer to help at the monthly meetings, setting out chairs, booking people in, serving tea, and clearing up.</p> <p>The very last thing is to ask you to give us, your committee, your full support and please remember, we are all volunteers</p>	
5	<p>Treasurers Report – Given by Barbara Charity in the absence of the Treasurer</p> <p>Independently examined accounts distributed to members prior to the meeting. I have received no queries about the accounts so far but just like to highlight a few points.</p>	

	<p>As at 31st May 2022 the main account stands at £8688.37, the social account at £386.90 and we have £25.00 cash.</p> <p>The membership fees (Capitation) that we pay Third Age Trust are now £4.00 per member but it was decided not to put up the membership fees and they were kept at £10.00 for the year 2021 - 2022. For this year 2022 – 2023 we have put them back up to £16.00 (£13.00 if paid in June and July) as we are now having our monthly meetings at Surfleet Hall again.</p> <p>You will see there are two payments for Capitation, the payments made to Third Age Trust, as the invoice we should have received in the previous year did not come in till this year.</p> <p>We bought some new capital items, the two main ones being a new projector and screen.</p> <p>We also had the June hog roast for the members which was money well spent as it was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.</p> <p>Due to the social account not being in use for a few months you will see money for social events going in and out of the main accounts but whatever came in is what we spent on that event so the money in the social account stays the same as at the end of last year.</p> <p>We now are able to pay money out of the bank by online transfers which is making life much simpler both for us and our creditors and our members.</p> <p>I look forward to being the Treasurer for you for another year.</p>	
6	<p>Group Coordinators report</p> <p>Firstly, I must start by thanking David Brennan, my predecessor who provided such a smooth transition and handover for me.</p> <p>Secondly an enormous thank you to all the group leaders who have provided such a wonderful supportive service throughout Covid and beyond. There will be a Meeting for all group leaders, when I can find a date that more than 50% can attend. Who knew we were all so busy?</p> <p>We now have 39 active Groups after welcoming two new groups – Colouring for Mindfulness and the Ukulele Group in the past few weeks, which is a great number to have, thank you all for your participation.</p> <p>In order for groups to continue each Group needs a Leader, this is not an onerous task and can be shared.</p> <p>Many people have asked “why do we need a Group Leader”? The role, perhaps better termed a Co-ordinator, is primarily an organisational role, sorting out times, dates and places. It also serves to close the potential for a tutor/student divide within each group or learning circle.</p> <p>Therefore, if anyone is interested in being a group leader, please let me know.</p> <p>Current Groups requiring a Group Leader are Aviation, the Strollers Walking Group and the Coffee Morning. If you feel you can help please contact me.</p> <p>I would like to take this moment to remind us all that u3a provides chances for people to carry on learning and acquiring new skills. To become “your best self”, by taking advantage of the various interest groups on offer.</p> <p>Eric Midwinter, who founded u3a 40 years ago expressed his philosophy as; “Everyone in u3a should be an involved member, not a customer being served”. In other words we need to put in as much effort as we want to take out. Again, quoting Eric Midwinter; “Each u3a group should not be a service charity in which a few provide a programme for the many”.</p> <p>Many of our group leaders spend a large amount of time preparing for each meeting, therefore it is respectful if you show up and give your full engagement. If a group is no longer for you, please can you let the Group Leader know, many of our groups have waiting lists, which means more people can experience different groups.</p>	

	<p>Given that non-working years can occupy over 40 years of your life u3a provides a significant opportunity to enrich your lives. But to take advantage of those opportunities there has to be a commitment to attend, and a desire to learn. By doing so you will not only grow in knowledge but in confidence too.</p> <p>I would also ask that if anyone has a skill they feel they could share, or a pressing need to learn something that isn't currently on offer, then please let me know.</p>	
7	<p>Election of Officers and Committee members</p> <p>Chair – Nominated - Christina Tyler Seconded – Paul Berry and Beryl Brendan Elected</p> <p>Vice Chair – Nominated - Mel Gordon Seconded – Christina Tyler and Heather Girdelstone Elected</p> <p>Secretary = Nominated - Beryl Brenden Seconded – Christina Tyler and Heather Girdlestone Elected</p> <p>Treasurer – Nominated – Dawn Kent Seconded – Beryl Brenden and Christina Tyler Elected</p> <p>All Other Committee Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Girdlestone • Sarah Jane Davies • Paul Berry • Barbara Charity <p>Elected en bloc</p> <p>Christina then thanked Steve for is support as Vice Chair and wished him well in his 'retirement' from the Committee.</p>	
8	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiners of Accounts</p> <p>Members in attendance agreed the committee appointment as appropriate.</p>	

Signed _____
Christina Tyler Chair

Date _____