



Thorley

Registered Charity No 1182852

Minutes of the AGM held on 4th January 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom

1. Welcome by Linda Ketteridge, Chair

2. Members in attendance

100 participants were logged by Zoom. In many cases there were two people sharing a screen, giving an estimated total attendance of more than 130.

3. Approval of Minutes of the last AGM on January 6th 2020

Minutes had previously been emailed to members and made available on our website, as well as being mailed to members without email. As no members had raised issues with them, the minutes were deemed to be approved and Linda Ketteridge (Chair) signed them off.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. The Chair's Report

Linda Ketteridge said it was easy to think we haven't done much in the U3A this year, but in fact quite a lot has gone on. But the year divides into two parts: before the first lockdown on March 23rd and afterwards, when we have had to do our activities in a different way and we've all had to brush up on our computer skills.

Before the first lockdown we had three 'live' speakers at our meetings in the Barnabas Centre:

January - Performance poet Andy Smith on 'Wartime and Romance'

February - Tracey Mackness, Essex bad girl turned pig farmer, on Turning her Life Around

March - Tricia Thompson on the 'Funny Ladies' Victoria Wood and Julie Walters

There were also several notable activities:

Richard Masters organised a group to mend the potholes in the carpark at St James Church

Customs and Culture had a food tasting at Smoke BBQ in January and a night of Indian

Culture in February, organised by Jim Hook

Book Club 1, organised by Pam Wilde, visited Ely and an exhibition of costumes and props from movies shot in the cathedral

The Walking Group's annual Soup Walk took place in the 2nd week of January - with a soup lunch provided by David Herbert & Carmen Konopka

There was also a particularly interesting walk from Ashwell, near Baldock, taking in a sculptor's home and work

The Strollers enjoyed a guided tour of Thaxted in January led by Linda Ketteridge

Garden Group 3 visited a lovely garden in Widford, organised by Linda Maxwell

And there was an excellent Coffee Morning for New Members at the Coach & Horses on March 10, organised by Jenni Kemp

After the first lockdown we sadly had to cancel lots of things, including our monthly meetings and also:

- A second trip to the Tutankhamun exhibition in London organised by Liz Happer
- Theatre trips to ABBA and Hello Dolly organised by Sylvia & Ed Poole
- National U3A Day on June 3, for which we were planning a U3A Quiz run by Dave Willett
- U3A Singers' Summer and Christmas concerts
- A trip to North Wales, run by Maggie Bennett
- A trip to Weymouth & Dorset with Stansted U3A, run by Nigel Johnson
- Family History Group presentation for all members organised by Sue Swan

But we continued lots of other things...

- Notably Richard Masters got the Walking Group to create lots of self-guided walks that all our members could enjoy, with maps and full details on our website
- Bridge continued online
- New Facebook groups started, including Birdwatchers, Armchair Travellers and Gardening
- Recorders met on Zoom
- The Art Group shared their work via email
- U3A Singers met on Zoom and had online tutorials on YouTube
- Photography group shared work online
- Pilates and Spirals met via Zoom with Mandy Springham
- Zumba Gold met on Zoom with Adriana Potts
- French classes with Catherine Blunderfield continued via Zoom
- Mahjong members met for coffee at South Mill when they could

And from July we started to hold our Monthly Meetings on Zoom. To date we have enjoyed several speakers, including:

- The Beefeater Mick Casson in July on the Tower of London
- Rosemary Cook about a murderous doctor in August
- Fools Gold in September
- Anthony Poulton-Smith on 'Old Wives Tales' in October
- Bob Sinfield on 'The Gag Trade' in November
- Sun Jester in December

In addition our Speaker Co-ordinator Sue Warren has now started Wednesday Workshops on Zoom. We have now heard:

- Carmen Konopka talking about Malbec wine in November
- Photographer Roger Hance on Wildlife in December

Linda finished by saying that it has been encouraging that so much has been done this year in Thorley U3A despite the pandemic. Once it is over we will all need to pull together to make our organisation strong again.

6. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts, prepared by Ken Blethyn, Treasurer, were available to members by email and on the website and posted to those without email prior to the meeting. There were no queries about them prior to the meeting so they were deemed to be approved.

7. Thanks to Retiring Committee Members and Election of New Committee Members

Linda Ketteridge explained that she had to retire as Chair and Carmen Konopka as Newsletter Editor/Vice Chair because both had served three years. In addition, Martin Fidler stood down from his post as Minutes Secretary last year.

Carmen Konopka was proposed as Chair by Barry Maxwell and seconded by Linda Maxwell; Sue Warren was proposed as Vice-Chair by Ceri Why and seconded by David Pyatt; and Diana Austin was proposed as Committee Member by Pamela White and seconded by Ruth Kelbie. As all three were standing unopposed, they were deemed to be elected.

On behalf of all the members, Linda Ketteridge was given a bouquet and a garden voucher by Sue Warren and Carmen Konopka thanked her for her work over the last three years.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date of Next AGM

10th January 2022.

Linda Ketteridge
10th January 2021