

**Torbay U3A Annual General Meeting
Central Church Hall
Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 2.30**

Present:

Members as per attached list, this represents a quorum.

Linda Nolan, Chairman, welcomed members and introduced the present committee to the AGM and opened the meeting at 2.45 after the quiz. She explained that we were going to use proposers and seconders as per the nomination papers and we would not require further proposers, we had a quorum present.

1. Apologies for absence

Frank Turner, Austin and Carol McIlwaine, Joan Tylecote, Henry Naudi, Rosemary Cornaglia-Solas, Susan Wilcocks, Jean Tozer, Cindy Davies, Roy & Vivian Smith, Joy Wells, Paula Williams, Penny Whitaker, Derek Oatley, George Oxley, Anne Moore.

2. Minutes of the last AGM (14th March 2018)

These were accepted as a true account.

Acceptance was proposed by Peter Brookes, Seconded by Pat Gorin

The minutes were accepted by a large majority and there was no dissent. They were signed as a correct account by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's report

Chairman's Report 2019

Here we are again, at the point where we mark the end of our U3A year, which at the risk of sounding repetitive has been one of growth, in member numbers and the groups and activities we have on offer. Last year our membership passed the 500 mark, all ably looked after by Peter Treadgold, our Membership Secretary who has taken great pains to ensure that our records are kept securely and within the new Data Protection Regulations.

But it is not just about numbers. We are fortunate to have members who are committed to U3A and who work not only to keep it going but to improve it, allowing it to thrive and survive for ourselves and future members. As with all organisations we have our ups and downs, and this year while we have welcomed new friends, we have said sad goodbyes to old ones. Who said life is easy?

And what about our new members, what do we do for them? Our New Members Secretary, Jane Owen-Hutchinson has continued to host the monthly Meet the U3A coffee afternoons at the Coffee House in St Marychurch. In addition, Jane has organised our regular New Members meetings to which brand new and nearly new members are invited to come along and meet not just committee members but also group leaders to learn about the various groups and activities on offer. A kind of 'what we the U3A can do for you' and vice versa.

Our Groups Co-ordinator, Peter Snowden has continued to do a fine job looking after our many Group Leaders, helping members start new groups; as well as organising and hosting the popular annual Group Leaders lunch.

Just when we think we have covered enough bases with our wide variety of groups you find gaps and immediately fill them. Our new groups this year include Ten-Pin Bowling and an Ad Hoc Train Journey group which has proved popular. You have also started a second Swimming Group. Thank you to all those who have taken the time and effort to continue running groups, start new ones and of course to those who loyally take part. Without your commitment and support U3A would not exist. As well as groups we do try to offer a variety of excursions and over the year Cathy Walls has put together some superb day trips, including Sidmouth Observatory and the Christmas lights at Longleat.

Our annual lunch continues to be popular with our members, ably organised by Anne McKinnon who has continued in this role in addition to arranging theatre trips; all while recovering from her terrible accident over a year ago. Thank you Anne.

Now we don't just lunch once a year, we have a selection of eating experiences on offer, including Adventurers Dining and Sunday lunch Groups, all of which need organising. For many of us it is just wonderful to have opportunities to dine out in company. Such as with The Dining and Sunday lunch Groups. So again, thank you to all those who have taken the time to organise these events and to those who support them.

In addition to dining out we continue to hold various coffee mornings; giving ample opportunities for informal get-togethers. Thank you to those who regularly organise them, creating opportunities for us to catch up with old friends and again make new ones.

Now we know that it is not just about the groups, or the eating and drinking; throughout the year we hold a monthly meeting, again giving us opportunities for socialising. It is also an opportunity for new members to get to know us, and for prospective ones to give us a test run and find out what is on offer.

It is not an easy task to put together a programme of speakers for these meetings; to suit all tastes. Cindy Davies our Speaker Secretary has made great efforts to book a variety of speakers and topics. I hope you will agree that she has done very well indeed. Cindy is in hospital at the moment, I'm sure you join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

As you can imagine, our monthly meetings do require some organisation, I am referring now to the teams of people working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of these events, namely; Our team of greeters who each month provide a friendly welcome to old and new members. The ladies who sign us in with a smile and friendly word and who check that those who are not on the internet receive their paper copy of the Newsletter.

The sound guys who set up the sound and hearing loop systems as well as ensuring the speaker's requirements are met.

And catering to our needs at these meetings is our team of volunteers who each month provide the refreshments and take responsibility for the washing up; leaving the kitchen spick and span (I'm told there are only 90 cups in the kitchen, so when we have a full house there's a lot of collecting and washing going on!).

Thank you all for your unfailing hard work and commitment to making it a pleasure to come along to these meetings.

The monthly meeting is not our only way of keeping in touch with members; thanks to our editor Peter Brookes and to you for your contributions we have maintained our monthly Newsletter.

Peter has also looked after our website, which is informative and lively.

As you know Peter has recently stepped down from these roles, passing his baton of office to Roger Williamson, in what can only be described as a seamless manoeuvre.

I know that you will wish Roger well in these roles and also thank Peter for his dedication and hard work over the years in these roles and also on the committee.

Just as a point of interest, we are now using the U3A Sitebuilder, which I think not only looks good but is easy to use.

During 2018 the committee undertook an in-depth review of the Welfare Provision for our members. They found that the welfare provision as required nationally by the Third Age Trust was more than adequately fulfilled by Sukie Tomass, our dedicated, efficient and professionally qualified Welfare Officer. The Committee restated its commitment to fully support her in her work. She and John Hervé gave a presentation of their findings at the Group Leaders Annual Meeting; apprising them of their roles in this. A further undertaking has been made to make our members aware of general welfare issues which may arise from time-to-time.

As a committee we have held regular monthly meetings, which have been accurately recorded by our Secretary, Linda Dewis who has duly posted the minutes on the noticeboard as well as keeping us informed of the all the latest information emanating from the Third Age Trust.

This year our U3A took part in the Ageing Well Festival, we shared a stand with our friends from Paignton, promoting the benefits of becoming a member of U3A. It was a very lively day, full of activities and information about what's on offer for our mature population. It was well worth our efforts, and I hope that we may take part in this year's event.

We also held a Driving Safer for Longer event, which I am delighted to say, was well attended and I feel well received.

You may wonder why I have not made any reference to financial matters, which are very ably and diligently looked after by our treasurer Philip Gorin. We are fortunate to have someone of his calibre carrying out this task. The answer is simple; he will be giving his own report for the past year, in just a moment.

Now it is all very well having a committee (a necessary requirement for all organisations) to look after the financial and administration side of things. But for any organisation to succeed and flourish it requires a strong and constant membership of people willing to get involved, keeping it going. Whilst presently we are fortunate to have such people, we cannot and should not sit on our laurels. We always need more volunteers to step forward and seriously consider becoming more involved with the operational side of things; whether it is as a committee member or helping at the monthly meetings; which is why we will continue to ask for more help.

Six people showing such an interest came along to our volunteer/committee recruitment drive in January. But we do need a few more of you to step forward.

On a personal note may I thank you for another pleasurable year as Chair. But an even bigger thanks to this extremely able committee who have given their time, continuing to support our U3A and me.

I hope I have summed up our year, and I hope you will agree that our U3A does continue to thrive, with members dedicated to the worthiness and continuation of our organisation.

The issues around loneliness have not gone away. We all need the stimulus of the company of others; outlets for exercising our little grey cells as well as a bit of physical exercise, I am thinking here of the various active groups such as walking, swimming, bird watching and bowling etc.

U3A is unique in being an organisation where local branches such as ours decide for ourselves what we want to do etc. Because of this we can make every effort to do what our members want. We have the freedom to change and adapt to create new and interesting activities; to move with the times, if you will. To keep on going all it needs is your continued support, your willingness to help and of course your ideas. Long may it continue.

This was accepted and

Proposed by Susanne Kowal, Seconded by Stephen Royle

Accepted by a show of hands

5. Treasurer's report

Notes on accounts

The current advice from TAT is that we should have a minimum of 6 months expenditure in reserve and a maximum of 12 months.

2 years ago I looked at the expenditure for the years 2014-2016 and found that a good average to use was £6900 and said that reserves (the amount left at the end of year) of in the range £3,500 to £6,900 were needed to conform to the above advice.

For 2018 we had a figure of just over £8,800 compared with 2017 figure of £9,400.

The figure for 2018 includes £400 advance payments for outings so the true figure in reserve was £8,400 a decrease of reserves of £1000 compared with a decrease of £1,700 in 2017.

This leads me to believe that our reserves at the end of 2019 will be just above the upper figure in the above range.

I therefore propose that the membership fees remain at £10 for a full year in 2020, subject to a review by the committee in October.

Bertie

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was

Proposed by: Bertie Beswick, Seconded: Margaret Roper

Accepted by a show of hands

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019

Our current IE is Keith Jury who was appointed by the committee during 2018 and examined the accounts presented today. He is willing to continue in this role and I propose he is appointed to examine the accounts for 2019.

Seconded by Peter Brookes

7. Election of Officers for the Committee for the following year There were no contested nominations so there is no need for a secret vote

Chairman Linda Nolan

Proposed by: Mary Armitage, Seconded by: Mary Ross

This was agreed by a show of hands

Vice Chairman Peter Snowden

Proposed by: Mary Ross, Seconded by: Mary Armitage

This was agreed by a show of hands

Secretary Linda Dewis

Proposed by: Christine Snowden, Seconded by: Sheila Brooks

This was agreed by a show of hands

Treasurer Philip Gorin

Proposed by: Freda Cooper, Seconded by: Margaret Donkin

This was agreed by a show of hands

Membership Secretary Peter Treadgold

Proposed by: Joy Wells, Seconded by: Susanne Kowal

This was agreed by a show of hands

Election of Committee Members

There were five nominations for the remaining five places on the Committee. As there were no contested places, the Chairman, Linda Nolan, asked that the Membership approve by show of hands to agree the 5 nominated candidates *en bloc*. Agreed

Catherine Walls: Proposed by Pat Bidder, seconded by Janice Salt

John Hervé: Proposed by Peter Treadgold, Seconded by Sukie Tomass

Sukie Tomass: Proposed by Philip Gorin, Seconded by John Hervé

Jane Owen-Hutchinson: Proposed by Leonie Tyas, Seconded by Tammy Thomas

Cindy Davies: Proposed by Carol Woodford, Seconded by Pat Bidder

This was agreed by a show of hands

We expect to co-opt Roger Williamson at the first meeting of the committee.

8 AOB Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th March 2020 Central Church - unless otherwise notified.

Signed **dated**
Chairman