

**Torbay U3A Annual General Meeting
Central Church Hall
Wednesday 9th September 2021 at 2.30**

Present:

128 Members as per attached list. This represents a quorum.

1. Apologies for absence

Mary Ross, Jackie Rowley, Marlene Huff. Yvonne Watson, Alma Pearson, Ann Moore, Sue Evanon, Jo Mitchel, Karen Daley, Sylvia and Richard Crosby, Kate and Edgar Halton, Jenny Holyoake, Tammy Thomas, Eddy Smith, Val Brooks, Jenny Powell, Jean & Dave Walton, Ann White, Rosemary Cornaglia-Solas, Andrew Howlett, Katherine Bestwick.

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

These were accepted as a true account.

Acceptance was proposed by Ray Roberts

Seconded by Peter Brooks

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

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's report:

This report must be unique in that I am looking back on a period much longer than the usual 12 months of a normal report. The last 18 months or so has been a very strange time for us all with 'lockdown' being an experience we hope never to be repeated.

In the early months of 2020, we began to learn a little about the impact that Coronavirus was going to have upon us, a member rightly anticipated what was going to happen and advised the committee not to bring members together for the AGM in March 2020. Little did we know what the outcome was going to be, and we lived in the hope that with the arrival of summer the problem would go away, so that life would return to normal and we could have our AGM. March saw the first lockdown and many things changed and the reality started to hit home. We were not able to meet with friends and family and we had to queue to get basic shopping or hope to get an online delivery. But the sun shone and many people took advantage of their one hour exercise allowance to get out of the house.

Groups of members kept in touch by various means. They realised the difficulties that isolation could cause and recognised the importance of regular contact. A few interest groups were able to continue online and a big thank you to those interest group leaders who kept this regular contact with their members. As time and medical thinking progressed groups were allowed to meet outdoors when the weather permitted.

And so, to the present; some groups have resumed and are meeting as they did before. Some leaders are waiting for premises to reopen, and others are waiting for reassurance that it is safe to restart. A number of leaders, officials and position holders have decided it is time to retire and we thank them for the years of service they have given to the u3a membership.

There are a number of people who deserve a special mention.

- With the cancellation of the AGM Linda Nolan continued her role as Chairman beyond the usual 3 year period and dealt with matters as they arose, she even took on the role of Membership Secretary when a replacement was required and collected, labelled and posted the newsletters. She carried on with those roles until she felt it was time to devote more time to her family and rightly so!
- Suki Tomas has been the Welfare Officer for many years and maintained contact with members when they became unwell and/or isolated by their advancing years. I am sure there are people at this meeting today who have been grateful for her contact.
- Jane Owen-Hutchinson was the first face that many new members saw in her role as New Member Coordinator, and was always at the front door to welcome people in.
- Cindy Davies took on the task of Speaker Finder a few years ago and maintained a range of visiting speakers covering a wide range of topics and interests.
- Peter Treadgold has kept Torbay u3a on the right path over many years with his knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations. He has also created many of the documents and files which we will continue to use into the future and has now retired as Membership Secretary and Website Manager.
- Cathy Walls was a group leader and organised the many trips to a wide variety of places.
- John Herve supported Suki Tomas on the welfare side and was a valued member on the Committee.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the remaining members of the Committee; this has not been an easy time with many concerns over directives from the Third Age Trust and government.

I would also like to thank the people who work in the background to provide the many services that we sometimes take for granted, teas, audio vis, speaker finder and registers are just a few. We would notice them if they were not there!

The future brings us all in the u3a a number of challenges.

- We need to fill the vacancies we have on the committee and find people to take on the other vacant roles which do not require them to be on the committee. With these vacancies unfilled the u3a cannot function to the maximum benefit of the members!
- We need to find new leaders to take on existing Interest Groups where retirement has put those groups on hold!
- Encourage the establishment of new groups and hope the membership will give them sufficient support to get them up and running.

The Committee and I are ready to take on these challenges so it is now down to the membership to give us the support to enable Torbay u3a to resume its place as a varied and lively organisation which serves the membership to the best of its ability. Thank you!

This was accepted and
Proposed by Bertie Berwick
Seconded by Gwen Smith
Accepted by a show of hands

5. Treasurer's Report

I have copies here of the full account statement if anyone wishes to see it.

The major items were

Income: subs of £4,507, interest of £40 and outings repayments of 40.

Expenditure: Affiliation fees TAT £1935, TAM £1,347, expenses £192, newsletter £921 and meetings £868.

In all the year cost £933 – 2019 also cost £933.

Notes on accounts:

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

Last year and the current year are untypical due to the pandemic so we cannot judge our accounts as we normally do.

By looking at previous years I believe we should have a reserve of about £5,650.

For 2019 we had a figure of £7,895 at end of year and for 2020 we had £6,962.

With our expenditure so far this year (2021) and forecast further expenditure I estimate that our balance at end of year will be around the £6,000 level. I therefore believe that our membership fee for 2022 can revert back to the pre-pandemic level of £10 for the year with a reduction for new members joining in or after August of £5.

Questions:

The cost of newsletters is because of printing and postage for those without email. All groups are self financing and therefore pay for Zoom or room costs.

I therefore propose that the membership fees remain at £10 for a full year in 2022.

Acceptance of the Treasure's Report was
proposed by: Peter Brooks
Seconded: Jan Dann
Accepted by a show of hands

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner (IE) for 2019

Our current IE is Keith Jury who was appointed by the committee during 2018 and examined the accounts since then.

He is willing to continue in this role and I proposed he is appointed to examine the accounts for 2021.

Proposed by Philip Gorin
Seconded Angela Treadgold

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: Peter Snowden

Proposed by: Christine Gaspari

Seconded by: Neil Dike

This was agreed by a show of hands

Vice Chairman:

The audience was asked for volunteers, there were none so the post will remain vacant and the committee will appoint someone to act as VC.

This was agreed by a show of hands

Secretary: Linda Dewis

Proposed by: Pat Bidder

Seconded by: G Thomas

This was agreed by a show of hands

Treasurer: Philip Gorin
Proposed by: Jenny Holyoake
Seconded by: Pamela Oatley
This was agreed by a show of hands

Membership Secretary: Kate Parsons
Proposed by: Pat Gorin
Seconded by: Linda Nolan
This was agreed by a show of hands

Election of Committee Members

David Campbell. Proposed by Jean Campbell, seconded by A. Williams
Patricia Bidder. Proposed by John Herve, seconded by Linda Nolan
Jane Trulock. Proposed by Leslie Pascoe, seconded by M.A. Fitzpatrick

There were three nominations for the remaining five places on the Committee. As there were no contested places, the Chairman, Peter Snowden asked that the Membership approve by show of hands to agree the 3 nominated candidates *en bloc*. Agreed

This was agreed by a show of hands

The members were asked if anyone else willing to serve. No volunteers, so will remain vacant.

Two Co-opted places available on committee

- 1) Peter Brooks, looks after AV equipment
- 2) Vacant

8 AOB notified in advance

Pat Gorin will take on the role of refreshments
Thanks to all those who work behind the scenes catering and other jobs.

Date and Venue of Next AGM: 9th March 2022

Signed **dated**

Chairman