

Tring U3A 13th AGM
13 February 2020
Venue: Victoria Hall, Tring
Time: 10.00hrs
MINUTES

1. Welcome

Chairman, Rose Rouse welcomed the membership

2. Apologies for Absence

David Griffiths

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14 February 2019

Accepted: Rob Jones proposed acceptance; Jonathon Rouse seconded.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Chairman's Report for 2019

After two busy years organising and celebrating our tenth birthday and dealing with new arrangements with head office, 2019 has been a little easier.

We started the year with 572 members and end the year 593. During the year we welcomed 76 new members but lost some members who moved away from the area, decided the U3A wasn't for them or sadly passed away.

We held 2 coffee mornings for new members so they could meet other new members and committee members and learn about the U3A organisation and what is involved in being a member. Although the numbers attending were quite low, those who came found it useful, meeting other new members and finding out about the working of the U3A organisation.

Our monthly coffee mornings have continued to be popular and open to all members. Many thanks to Mo Reeley who organises them, assisted by Carol Lawrence and Cynthia Griffiths. Some months there is a short talk and at our special Macmillan coffee morning in September, the members raised £208.20 for the charity.

When the U3A started in November 2007 there were 6 groups, photography, genealogy, music appreciation, gardening, painting and Spanish. By February 2008, French beginners, architecture, English literature, ceramics, themed walks, board games and computing had been added, making 13 in all. It's great that all but 3 are still going strong and we have added an extra 20 to the selection of groups we offer making 33 in all.

This year we saw 2 new groups start up; armchair travel and photography [which had closed a few years ago] and they both have regular members and hopefully they will grow in popularity. This year the Board games group has gone into hibernation but hopefully it will return.

At the end of this year 4 group leaders, have given up their positions. Jane Whigham has given up the Art Appreciation group after 5 years as leader and previously as leader of the architecture group for 5 Years. Christina Mungovan has given up the golf group after 7 years which overlapped with the painting group which she ran for 10 years. Thank you, Jane and Christina for your sterling service to Tring U3A. Also thanks to Sandra and Ivan Melbourne who have given up the croquet group after 3 years. I have also given up the architecture group after 5 years. Fortunately, all 4 groups are left in the capable hands of new leaders, Jillian Smith, David Eeley Julia Groom and David Collett respectively. We wish you every success with your group. It is important that new members put themselves forward to take over groups or start new ones. Many of our leaders have run their groups for many years and inevitably they may come to a point when fresh ideas are needed and they want to hand over to new leaders. It is hard work running a group but it is also very rewarding. The U3A is a self-help organisation, run by the members, from the organisation of the group

Approved by Committee on 09/03/20

meetings or trips out, to putting out the chairs at the meeting, to making the coffee and washing up. Everyone needs to contribute and help and all the jobs can be shared.

Christina Mungovan and Shirley Blake are retiring from the committee this year and Sue Williams's three years on the committee is up but fortunately for us she is continuing as speaker secretary, finding new speakers for our monthly meetings for a bit longer. She is now booking speakers for 2021. Thank you three very much for your valuable contribution to the committee and Tring U3A.

We are very lucky to still have the support from Liz Murray, John Cameron and Barry Salmon, who although not elected members of the committee, come to most meetings and do so much work. Their tasks on the Newsletter, membership and renewals and group leader issues are on-going all year.

This year we have had many interesting and varied speakers at our monthly meetings, 3 that stand out for me are the talk on Parks, the RNLI speaker and the Blood Bikes speaker. For the latter 2 speakers we had a collecting bucket for their organisation as they were both volunteers and your generosity after the talks gave £379.81 and £325.93 to the two organisations.

We are very grateful to John and Roberta Cameron, Graham Smith, Rod Burns, Dave Cameron and Brian Marston who come early every monthly meeting to prepare and put up the equipment for the meeting and to Vicky Baldock for providing the rolling programme.

Our December monthly meeting Social was again one of the highlights of the year. We had a very high attendance. The group leaders produced some very colourful and informative posters, thanks to Sue Gordon's helpful ideas; the 'art' groups put on some beautiful displays of the painting, photography, patchwork and needlework skills. We had some poetry from the poetry group and we were suitably entertained by the singing for fun group, the ukulele group and the recorder players, both separately and together as a finale to the meeting. Thank you all, performers and Phil Driver, who is pianist for the singing group, the organising team, the refreshment team led by Jennie Scott and you the members for making it such an enjoyable event and it is lovely to see the talent we have in the U3A.

There have been a variety of trips this year, including The Tutankhamen Exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in London; The Bucks recycling centre; The Amazon Fulfilment Centre; Charles Mackintosh's House in Northampton; Ightham Moat; Family Tree Live at Alexandra Palace; The Hertfordshire County Archives; John Lewis Archive and Spencer Gallery; Hyde Hall RHS garden show; Sissinghurst; Hidcote and Kifsgate Court Garden. There were also several visits to Waterside Theatre Aylesbury. These visits and our groups and monthly meetings fulfil our commitment to the aim of the U3A movement for 'the advancement of the education of people not in full time employment.'

We are also indebted to Catherine Yates who keeps our web site up to date, Ian Hines who audits our accounts; Jane Legge, who organises a group of members who distribute the newsletter to those who miss the monthly meeting. All these people work behind the scenes and help to keep the U3A running smoothly.

As my three years as Chairman comes to an end, I would like to thank the committee and John, Barry and Liz, who have worked so hard to continue the success of Tring U3A. We have had some serious and sensitive decisions to make during the year, but we have worked as a group and kept a good sense of humour throughout.

It has been a privilege to be the Chairman and I am confident that under new leadership it will go from strength to strength.

Thank you
Rose Rouse

6. Treasurer's Report

Approved by Committee on 09/03/20

The first thing I would like to say is to thank Rose for her chairmanship over the last three years and congratulate her on the excellent job she has done. Apart from what you see on the surface she has had the task of chairing our monthly committee meetings and she also has had the job of signing off all of the financial transactions that I have to deal with. Therefore much of her efforts take place behind the scenes and I thank you Rose for your help

Now onto my report as Treasurer on the Accounts for 2019:

As I mentioned last year, the Charities Commission decreed that all U3A activities had to be included in the accounts. Previously social activities had been separate and did not have to be reported. This changed our accounting procedures but the alterations have been carried out successfully, as evidenced by the signing off of the 2019 accounts by our Independent Examiner. As I said previously, we were able to merge the main and social accounts into one and we no longer need a separate bank account for our social activities, covering outings etc.

As predicted (and budgeted for) our income reduced, as gift aid receipts were just for one year this time and there was no donation from Riviera Travel. Also the effect of reducing the group meetings cost to a flat figure of £1 is reflected in the accounts. Administration costs also reduced as there were no purchases of equipment in 2019. In summary, income and expenditure balanced out for 2019 so we more or less broke even. Well done to group leaders for budgeting their trips successfully. Breaking even is also true of our main account activities (by which I mean the monthly meetings which take place here and the group meetings).

Our income for 2020 will fall as a result of our decision to reduce the annual subscription fee from £15 to £10 for this year. As I said when I proposed this reduction at the EGM in October, this action was taken as a way of reducing our reserves which had increased beyond a level that we need to hold.

The committee and I will continue to monitor the level of our reserves and a decision will be made later this year as to whether we will be able to continue this lower rate in 2021 or return to the previous amount.

Copies of the accounts have been posted around the hall for inspection if anyone is interested. If anyone has any detailed questions please see me afterwards for anything they may want me to look into and report back. Obviously I could not bring the whole year's records to this meeting.

So, the accounts have been signed off by our Independent Examiner and accepted and approved by the committee. At this meeting Sally Hains proposed acceptance of the Accounts, seconded by David Eeley.

Lastly I am pleased to say that Ian Hines our Independent Examiner as agreed act for us for a further year. At this meeting Roger McVey seconded this appointment.

Thank you
Paul Simmons

7. Election of four Officers

Officer	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rob Jones	Mary Lynn Moxon	Hazel Lovelace
Vice Chairman	Jill Collinge	Helen Dorritt	Peter Clark
Treasurer	Paul Simmons	Pauline Parslow	Jude Roust
Secretary	Joy Petticrew	Joy Sheppard	David Eeley

The Membership was asked to vote for or against each nomination or to abstain but all were unanimously voted for.

8. Election of four Committee Members

Officer	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
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Ordinary Member	Jennifer Scott	Val White	Liz Bendall
Ordinary Member	Mike Perry	Graham Smith	Peter Wilkinson
Ordinary Member	June M Courtney	G. J. Smith	Rod Burns
Ordinary Member	David Arthur Griffiths	Ken Parslow	Pauline Parslow

The Membership was asked to vote for or against each nomination or to abstain but all were unanimously voted for.

9. Any other business

(a) Change of month for future AGMs

Prior to the start today's AGM the Chair advised the membership that the Committee had recently checked the Constitution and unanimously agreed to change the month of the AGM in future years to March. This allows the Treasurer more time to finalise the Accounts following receipt of the final Bank Statements for the previous year after the Christmas and New Year holidays and get the Independent Examiner to review and approve the accounts prior to circulation to the Committee before the AGM.

10. Date of the Annual General Meeting: 11th March 2021

Minutes prepared by the Tring U3A Secretary: Joy Petticrew secretary@tringu3a.org.uk