

Tring U3A 14th AGM

11 March 2021

Via: Zoom conference, Ref Covid 19 Government Guidelines

Time: 11.00hrs

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Chair, Rob Jones welcomed the membership

2. Apologies were received from:

Mike Perry, Freda Gray, Moz and Fay Copestake and Alan Linfield

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 11 February 2020

Accepted: The Minutes had been approved by the Tring U3A Committee and had been made available to Members, via our website, for over 12 months.

4. Chairman's Report

Well that was the year that was and what a year it has been. We all have our own stories to tell some good some sad but we are a resilient group of people and have made the most of what life and Tring U3A has to offer. At the first lockdown it seemed that Tring U3A would cease for the year with notices being put up on the hall doors 'Closed for the foreseeable future' However, clearly we are made of sterner stuff and the committee and many of the groups have continued online thanks to Zoom

First and most important is to say a BIG Thank you to you the members for your support in keeping Tring U3A going; we could not do it without you. The membership numbers are around the 500 mark and we have had a few new members join us during the past year; unfortunately no welcome coffee mornings but thank you for joining a great community.

Your committee members and extended team have met monthly and worked behind the scenes on the operational aspects. Thank you Jill, Paul, Joy, Jennie, Mike, June, David, John, Barry, Liz and Sue who have done a tremendous job in their various roles. Also the unsung heroes, Catherine, who looks after the web site and Jane who organises the Newsletter delivery. All this talent makes Tring u3a happen

Special mention to Joy our Secretary, who is just brilliant at keeping us on track. Liz, our Fleet Street Editor creating our Newsletter that is one of our corner stones every month keeping us in touch and making us smile. John who has his fingers in all the technical pies. Sue who manages to find great speakers to entertain us each month. Paul, who does the numbers keeping us in the black. Barry, who is the co-ordinating voice for all the groups and Jill my co-pilot who organised the fun at the Christmas online show. I take my hat off to you all!

Normally this End of Year report would be full of coffee mornings, lunch clubs, trips and outings but of course our activities, physically getting together and travelling have been stopped. Currently there are some 30 interest groups and about 20 use Zoom to hold monthly meetings or messaging services. Group Leaders using technology have demonstrated how important it is to keep in touch with members and continue to meet albeit in virtual mode.

Some have gone further; Brian Porter, Science & Technology group leader produced a newsletter

for his group to keep them abreast of current information and topics. Graham Smith Table Tennis group leader was determined to ensure his group did not stop playing for a moment longer than necessary after first lockdown. He ploughed thru sets of documents in order to comply with local and government sport regulations. This group was soon back at the tables playing singles in the Victoria Hall. Tape measures were deployed to check that each bubble of six players complied with social distancing guidelines.

John Cameron`s day to day involvement to provide technical and practical help for Group Leaders who were not up to speed with Zoom made a significant contribution to increase the number of meetings. Thank you John. I also have to mention the Painting, the Patchwork, the Photography and the Ukelele groups who all contributed to the Christmas show. Well done to you and all the other groups who have kept going during these difficult times. I encourage you all to keep your groups going and why not make a New Year Resolution to try joining a new group perhaps.

So, although we have another lockdown to start the year I am feeling quite optimistic. The UK vaccination program is one of the best and I have been lucky enough to have been jabbed. I`m proud to live in a society which is successfully protecting its most vulnerable and those on the pandemic front line. Our children are returning to school and part of their curriculum now is to learn how to do regular self tests. The advantage of being in our age bracket is that most of us have been offered a vaccination that will give us some protection and keep us out of hospital.

Tring U3A will continue with our online activities and keep communicating through the Newsletter and online meetings for the foreseeable future.

Yes, that was the year that was and 2021 has the promise of some light at the end of the tunnel. The U3A strap line is Learn Laugh Live and if we keep those in mind life will be good!

Thank you and stay safe, Rob

5. Treasurer's Report

Firstly I would like to echo Rob`s thanks to all my colleagues who do such good work to keep Tring U3A going. One person Rob was unable to thank was himself so I`ll do that – thanks Rob for everything you do for Tring U3A. He and his co-chairperson Jill have had quite a baptism of fire, being presented with all the problems of last year so early in their joint tenure.

The financial accounts for 2020 look somewhat different to previous years for obvious reasons. You may remember my saying, last year that we decided to reduce the membership fee to £10 as we had a healthy bank balance at the end of 2019 and could afford to do so.

So this is the reason for the reduced subscription income in the accounts. Income in all the other headings has also reduced as a result of the lack of activity during 2020. Gift Aid income does not show such a reduction as this is paid based on the previous year`s membership fees.

Expenditure is also down. We have had to adjust the way we work so costs in some headings have dropped considerably whilst others have increased. However overall we are more or less on course so our bank balance is still healthy. Because of this we have, as you know, been able to reduce the membership fee still further for 2021, in recognition of the fact that we are unable to offer the range of activities we would wish.

Despite our curtailed activities last year, we have had a good take up of membership for this year so thanks to you all for your continued support of Tring U3A. We need you all.

The Accounts have been inspected and passed by our Independent Examiner and have been approved and signed off by the committee. Predictions for the future are obviously still difficult but we will continue to monitor the position carefully and regularly.

Copies of the Accounts have been posted on the website. If anyone requires further details or has any questions please contact me by phone, my number is always on the Newsletter, or by email at: treasurer@tringU3A.org.uk

As the Accounts have already been passed by the Committee and signed off by our Independent Examiner I would be grateful if somebody could propose acceptance of the accounts, for the purpose of this AGM.

At the meeting John Foreman proposed the Acceptance of the Accounts, seconded by Rosemary Rouse.

Ian Hines, our Independent Examiner, is willing to continue for a further year so again for the purposes of this AGM could I please have someone to propose and another person to second his reappointment.

At the meeting John Foreman proposed the reappointment of Ian Hines, seconded by Jennie Scott.

Lastly, could I mention that we are still looking for someone to shadow me in my role as Treasurer. The idea is to ease the transfer from one person to another, to avoid reliance on one individual and eventually to take over at the end of my tenure. It is an enjoyable job working with a great bunch so if anyone is interested could you please contact Rob or Jill in the first instance. Now would be a good time to learn as there is such a low level of transactions at the moment.

This completes my report. I am grateful for your attention. I will now pass on to John Cameron for the election of officers.

6. Election of three Officers

Officers	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rob Jones	Mary Lynn Moxon	Rosemary Rouse
Vice Chairman	Jill Collinge	Helen Dorritt	Sally Clark
Treasurer	Paul Simmons	John Foreman	Rod Burns

7. Election of four Committee Members

	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Ordinary Member	June M Courtney	David Thomas	Marianne Marshall
Ordinary Member	Mike Perry	Colin Drake	David Frieter
Ordinary Member	Barry Salmon	David N Smith	Joy Sheppard
Ordinary Member	Sue Gordon	Brian Porter	Linda Downey

John Cameron then explained to the members that as we were running the AGM via Zoom, due to the restrictions of COVID19, on this occasion only, we would ask any member who disagreed with any of the committee nominations to raise their hand. John checked through the screens of members attending this AGM; there were no hands showing, so the nominations were unanimously agreed.

8. Secretary Role

Rob noted Joy Petticrew, Secretary, had completed her three year term of office on the Committee; however, as nobody had stepped forward to replace her, with the unanimous agreement of the Committee, she has agreed to stay on for another year, but as an extended Committee Member.

9. Date of the Annual General Meeting: 10 March 2022

Minutes prepared by Joy Petticrew, Secretary, Tring U3A - 12 March 2021

Minutes approved for website by Tring U3A Committee - 29 March 2021