

WALTHAM ABBEY U3A

AGM Minutes dated 10th May 2016 at Town Hall, Waltham Abbey

Present: Vernon Gurtner, Chairman: Alistair Webb, Vice Chairman: Terry Hoye, Treasurer: Jean Goodwin, Secretary: Pam Phillips, Membership Secretary: Gillian Hoye, Group Co-ordinator: Mary Maynard, Assnt. Group Co-ordinator: Janet Woolston, Assnt. Group Co-ordinator: Gordon Goodwin, Speaker Co-ordinator: Christine Coleman, Newsletter Editor: Chris Sumner, Equipment Co-ordinator: Carol Harper, RUMS Coordinator: Brenda Dale, Refreshments: Maureen Piekuta, Raffle: Doreen Stirrup, Raffle: Kay Ellis, Publicity:

1. Apologies for absence received from Chris Waldron, Assnt. Membership Secretary: and Jean McAlpin, Website.

2. Report by Vernon Gurtner, FCA Ret'd, Outgoing Chair

U3A Waltham Abbey is one of over 1,000 U3A independent branches across the country. It was born out of a notion by Maureen Dennis, the regional representative, based on an idea about how difficult it was for people in Waltham Abbey to get to the then nearest branch in Cheshunt. An initial cafe meeting of 20 in August 2014 became a groundswell meeting of 200 on 30th September approving the setting up of our own group. The first monthly meeting in November was marked by an excellent talk by an ex-Beefeater on the Anniversary of WW1 and the 888,000 commemorative poppies placed in the Tower Moat. Subsequent guest speakers have given a wide range of talks to meet the varied tastes of our members, including a double helping from the Padwicks covering Music Halls and Pantomime History and a gruesome offering from Maggie Radcliffe on Scandals of the 20th Century.

Our membership numbers have grown steadily and recently passed 366. We currently cater for 25 interest groups ranging from a variety of walks and outings to calligraphy, beginners Spanish, a trivial pursuits quiz and, most recently learning the ukulele. The number of different groups is growing all the time fitting the imagination of our membership - the largest groups, being singing for fun and line dancing, have nearly 40 members. The Branch has been well-advertised and was promoted by two appearances on 'Keep it Local' days in Sun Street and a stall at the King Harold Day Event. On 27th June members added a large splash of red to the Historical Society's Human Chain around the perimeter of the former Abbey Monastery foundations. In November we marked our own anniversary with a well-attended disco and supper night. With the support of our membership the success of our Branch has been largely due to the team effort of the 20 volunteers on its steering committee - and without their considerable efforts the branch could easily fold. We are looking for new members to join the committee all the time - to sustain interest and bring in fresh ideas. Anyone who is interested in the coming year will be welcome to shadow existing posts and sit in on Committee meetings to see if such an opportunity appeals. We look forward to another year of camaraderie, learning and FUN.

3. Financial Report by Terry Hoye, Outgoing Treasurer

The accounts for the period ending 31st March have been sent to those who have email and copies available and displayed on the notice board. I am pleased to report that our accounts are very pleasing as we have a closing balance of £6800 which includes £3900 subscription fees for 2016/17. The closing balance of £4117 includes monies collected for outings and theatre trips etc. so much of this is due to be paid out. The steering committee have plans to purchase equipment such as a projector, laptop and software for use at our meetings and to be used by groups. Every U3A has to pay £3.50 of your membership fee to the Third Age Trust plus £2.25 for each member for Third Age Matters so £2,000 of this year's membership fee will be used.

Taking all this into account and providing there are no unexpected expenses it may be possible to reduce the 2017/18 fees but this will be decided in early 2017 by the executive committee as there is no purpose in having a large bank balance if it is not going to be used. It is proposed to keep a reserve balance of six-month expenditure. That is my report which I wish you to accept, and I wish to thank John Hore for examining our accounts.

4. As there were no questions - formal acceptance of accounts 2015 - 2016

5. Formal acceptance of Accountant John Hore

6. Constitution circulated to all members prior to AGM was unanimously accepted by a show of hands.

7. Election of new Committee Nominations for Waltham Abbey U3A Committee for the year 2016 - 2017 Terry Hoye, Chairman - proposed by Bernard Leverett and seconded by L. R. Bolt Vernon Gurtner, Vice Chairman - proposed by Susan Everett and seconded by Maureen Brown. Michael James Lydon, Treasurer - proposed by Chris Waldron and seconded by Kay Ellis. Lynn Hall-Pearson, Secretary - proposed by Felicity Fisher and seconded by Gordon Goodwin. Gillian Hoye, Groups Co-ordinator - proposed by Linda Connors and seconded by Alice King. Pam Phillips, Membership Secretary - proposed Harvey Phillips and seconded by Gordon Goodwin. Chris Waldron, Assnt Membership Secretary - proposed by Olive Bott and seconded by Pamela Sparks. Mary Maynard, Committee Member - proposed by Brenda Baker and seconded by Felicity Fisher. Gordon Goodwin, Speaker Co-ordinator - proposed by Maureen Brown and seconded by Joan Poole. Christine Coleman, Newsletter Editor - proposed by Helen Wilson and seconded by Richard Clayton. Chris Sumner, Equipment Co-ordinator - proposed Pam Phillips and seconded by Christine Coleman. Carol Harper, RUMS Co-ordinator - proposed by Chris Hamer and seconded by Joan Pitman. Maureen Piekuta, Committee Member - proposed by Sue M Smith and seconded by Peter Hilton. Doreen Stirrup, Committee Member - proposed by Gillian Hoye and seconded by Pauline Johnson. Janet Woolston, Committee Member - proposed by Gillian Hoye and seconded by Valerie Lee. By a unanimous show of hands the new Committee was elected. Vernon handed over the position of Chair to Terry who received a warm welcome from the members. Terry said it is an honour to be Chair and thanked the members and appealed for new groups and leaders as we must continue to grow. Our motto is Learn, Laugh and Live. Terry thanked previous Steering Committee and presented gifts to Vernon, Alistair - thanking him particularly for his help in distributing all the necessary paperwork prior to the AGM and the PowerPoint presentation - Jean, Brenda and Kay. Jean McAlpin is standing down but will stay in charge of website. Pam thanked Terry and Gill and presented a gift adding - "Every U3A needs a Terry and Gill!"

Next AGM - Tuesday 9th May, 2017 Notices Chris Sumner - Commemorate Arrival of Holy Cross - Saturday 11th June meeting at Cornmill Car Park 10.30am - Link Hands in a Human Chain marking out the Abbey at 11.00am. Jackie Sullivan - Kaluki - Library 27th May 1.30pm 2nd September - Coach trip to Wrexham Broads. 23rd September - trip of Waverley - Thames by Night Gill is trying to co-ordinate weekend 11th November to Burlington Hotel £159 including coach travel, day out and four free drinks at bar. A deposit of £45 required next month. The Bon Marche trip had to be cancelled by Pam - not enough interest. 22nd July White Water Rafting - seven already booked - £8.00 cheaper at £38 as it is on a Friday evening. Party Evening - 24th June - tickets still available £12.00 - Fish/chicken chips at Town Hall Entertainment by Steve Somers followed the meeting A great finish to our first AGM - an opportunity for the members to singalong with Steve Somers playing the guitar. Also a wealth of stories from Steve telling us about the stars he met and worked alongside. An AGM to remember.