

**WARWICK DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**  
**Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of Warwick District U3A**  
**held at the Leamington Spa Centre**  
**at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 13 February 2019**

**Meeting Chairman: Chris Forse**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending in large numbers. He announced that Lady Hamilton would give a talk on her book '*The Warwickshire Scandal*' immediately after the AGM.

The attendance of 199 members was recorded.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from 15 members.
2. **Acceptance of the Minutes** of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held on 14 February 2018 (available on the website and circulated in INFO) was proposed by *Deborah Bates*, seconded by *Ann Bailey*, and were unanimously approved by the meeting. The Minutes were signed as an accurate record by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** None
4. **Chairman's Report 2017/18** (available on the website):  
The Chair announced that he did not intend to read his full report but would highlight its most significant points.

The last U3A year, which had ended on 31 August 2018, had been a successful and exciting year. Membership had increased to about 1,100, making the Warwick District U3A (WDU3A) one of the few U3As numbering over 1,000 members. With nearly 90 active groups on offer, it was among the biggest providers in the country.

The past year witnessed a range of interesting activities opened to all members, involving visits and excursions to places of interest (such as Bletchley Park, stately homes and gardens), cultural trips to exhibitions (the Terracotta Warriors), to theatres and two trips abroad (Normandy and the Italian Riviera), all courtesy of the hard work of Maggie Watts and Jean Hardwick.

It was also a year in which the WDU3A had extended its reach into parts of the community less represented in the membership: a visit to the Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple and the Chinese and the Islamic Days. In cooperation with the University of Warwick, it celebrated the centenary of the Russian Revolution and also of the closing months of WWI with a talk which culminated in a visit, led by Alan Reed, to the war graves of the Western Front in the summer.

In March 2018, Warwick District U3A celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a party, which was attended by Evelyn Harley, the founder, and a dozen of the original members.

It had also been a year of change with the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust (TAT) making increasing demands on U3As to improve accountability and transparency to safeguard the members. There have been a number of measures which had to be implemented such as GDPR, insurance, financial accounting, intellectual copyright and safeguarding. These measures were not only imposed upon the Trustees but also on the Group Leaders who deserved sincere thanks for their forbearance and for meeting these demands.

The Chair reiterated his thanks to those Trustees who had left the Management Committee last year (Margot O’Keeffe, Stella Gill and Margaret Coggins) and Patricia Sanchez who stood down as Membership Secretary in the summer. He welcomed the new comers Mike Cronin and Richard Piggott as Treasurers, Mary Holden as Membership Secretary and Sue Roy as Speaker Secretary. He also extended his thanks to Roger Williams who had organised Education Days for a number of years. On behalf of the membership, he extended his appreciation to all the volunteers who made the U3A so active and dynamic.

He finally announced that, in accordance with the Constitution but with some reluctance, he was standing down after three years as Chairman. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Management Committee, and stressed that it had been a privilege to serve the U3A. He concluded by thanking the members for their participation in the AGM and recommended Margot O’Keeffe as the next Chair of the WDU3A.

As there were no questions arising from the Chair’s Report and his comments, acceptance of the report was proposed by *Margaret O’Keeffe*, seconded by *Sharon Hancock* and unanimously approved by the meeting.

##### **5. Proposal to endorse the adoption of TAT Resolution:**

The resolution was to change the first object clause in the Constitution from:

“to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full-time gainful employment in the Warwick District and its surrounding locality” to:

***“the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”***

The following amendment was proposed from the floor by *Judy Morgan*:

First proposed amendment — “the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”

As the removal of ‘*by all means*’ did not make sense grammatically, the following amendment was submitted for voting:

Second amendment — **“the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work, by any means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”**

This second amendment was proposed by *Sue Roy*, seconded by *Ann Bailey* and overwhelmingly, but not unanimously, approved by the meeting.

**6. Group Coordinator's Report** (available on the website)

John Wilks reported that a number of groups had closed during 2017/18 but had been replaced by new groups, thus maintaining the current number at 87 active groups offering a wide and diverse range of activities, with a membership of over 1,000. During the year, a few long-standing Group Leaders had stood down. He thanked the Group Leaders, past and present, as without their hard work the groups, which are the life-blood of U3A, would not exist. As there were no arising questions, acceptance of the report was proposed by *Tricia Scott*, seconded by *Sharon Hancock* and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**7. Treasurer's Report:**

Mike Cronin said he would mention key points from his report on 2017/18 which was available on the website.

The accounts, which had been reviewed by the Examiner of Accounts were in 'good health' as the overall cash position at the end of August 2018 had strengthened by 14% to £25,807. In line with the Charity Commission's guidelines WDU3A will continue to maintain a general reserve of funds at a level of at least six months' normal expenditure.

The finances were divided into three categories: administration and educational activities open to all; social events and trips; and individual group finances. Social events and trips as a whole had been self-financing and group finances totalled £4,061 at the end of the year. The remainder of the expenditure related primarily to administration (TAT membership, direct mail, insurances etc.) and some significant educational events.

The main income was membership fees, which had been kept at £14 for a number of years. Currently there were no plans to raise the amount of the fee. A budget for 2019-20 will be drawn up in May 2019, which will help determine if the membership fee needs to change for the forthcoming year.

Gift Aid funds had been used to buy the portable hearing system to assist those members who were hearing impaired, as well as used to help meet the cost of the hiring of halls for events such as the Christmas social, the AGM and contribution to the costs of the Open Meetings.

As there were no arising questions, acceptance of the report was proposed by *Roger Williams*, seconded by *Richard Piggott* and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**8. Election of the Management Committee**

As no nominations had been received from members, the Chair proposed to take an en bloc vote on the re-election of the Committee as follows:

- The four officers' post-
 

Chair	Margot O'Keeffe (as the current Chair was standing down)
Vice-Chair	Sharon Hancock (re-election, third year)
Treasurer	Mike Cronin (re-election)
Secretary	Sue Sheen (re-election)
  
- Re-election as Committee Members-  
Ann Bailey, Sam Sexton and John Wilks
  
- New Members who had been co-opted on the Committee after the last AGM-  
Margaret Coggins, Richard Piggott and Mary Holden

The vote for the approval of the Management Committee was proposed by *Kate Balfour*, seconded by *Sam Sexton* and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**9. Appointment of the Examiner for Accounts 2019/20**

The re-election of William Clemmey was proposed by *Margaret Coggins*, seconded by *Denise Fowler* and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**10. AOB:** None

Before the meeting closed, Sharon Hancock, on behalf of the Management Committee and the membership, thanked Chris Forse for being an outstanding Chair over the last three years and for his huge enthusiasm for long-life learning. She presented him with a book-token and a bottle of wine.

Chris Forse thanked the members and said that acting as Chair of the WDU3A Management Committee had been “a fantastic experience” and declared the AGM closed at 2.54 pm.

The AGM was followed by an interesting talk given by Lady Hamilton on Walton Hall and the Warwickshire Scandal.