

Annual General Meeting Whitley Bay u3a
May 17th 2023

Meeting started at 14.16pm with the Chairman's greeting and welcoming the eight new members:

Liz Chater; Lynne Lake; Michael Lake; Helen Pennington; Alan Hart; Sarah Muir; John Fraser and Vanessa Cameron. Please make them all welcome.

Apologies for absence Dorothy Chapman; Helen Perfect; Ann Empson; Dave Haddock; Peggy Robertson; Joan Lawson; Pat Clark; Marion Johns

Minutes of the last AGM meeting.
Accepted with no matters arising.

Chairman's Annual Report

Derek Reynolds presented his Annual Report beginning with the enlistment of many new members and the popularity of our ever-increasing range of activities, noting that in the case of some activities a second group has been started.

Our 25th Year Anniversary Celebrations finally took place on 31st August 2022. This belated event was held at the Linskill Centre with an afternoon tea and entertainment. In addition to this we planted a cherry tree at the front of the Centre to commemorate the occasion. A competition for a commemorative plaque was won by Jean Lawson, incorporating our motto of 'Learn, Laugh, Live'. This will be attached to the wall adjacent to the path, next to the tree.

During the year a number of collections were made and donations went to The Earthquake Appeal (£113) and Ukraine (£100+). This was in addition to the support we gave to our local Food Bank. These were voluntary donations separate from Whitley Bay u3a accounts.

To publicise our u3a we printed credit-sized cards and encouraged each member to take two for distribution in response to any queries about 'What is the u3a?' The card includes a QR code (Quick Response Code) which links to our comprehensive website.

We are fortunate that a high percentage of our members can use a computer, (we even persuaded Jean Lawson to get a mobile phone this year!).

DR closed giving thanks to his team of whom he said:

'My time as Chair has been relatively easy with the support of an excellent team. I thank them all'.

Membership Secretary's Report

Read by DR in the absence of Peggy Robertson. At the beginning of PR's tenure the membership total was 284. Since May 1st 2022 we have had 101 new members join us and now, we currently have 383 members with seven pending applications and two resignations.

With no numbers to act as a comparison, PR believes we have had a very successful year.

Peggy wanted to pay tribute to her predecessor Ray Taylor. His teaching, mentoring, patience and most importantly humour, made Peggy's transition to the role very easy. They had many laughs together and he was always there to give advice when needed. He will be sorely missed.

Financial Report

Yvonne Bedwell presented the Treasurer's report and reiterated that a monthly report is on display both on the boards at the monthly meeting and posted on the website.

We are now fully functioning with online banking although it has taken a year to transfer signatories with Nat West Bank.

Whilst our membership fees will remain the same at £20 for this current (2023-4) financial year, they will need to be increased next (2024-5) year to £25. This was the annual membership fee during Covid, when a decision was taken to return the fees to £20 again, to assist the transition following the pandemic.

However, even though we have a healthy opening balance of £7,815.84, we did operate at a loss this last financial year ending with a closing balance of £6,459.66.

Our predicted spend in the forthcoming year will be £3,500 on hire of the hall, refreshments and speakers, with membership of Northumbria u3a, our u3a membership and the monthly magazine fees coming to around £2,700. This total is over £6,000 before any other administrative costs e.g. printing of yellow booklets etc.

New subs are due on May 1st each year. This year we are issuing receipts as proof of payment. For those who have online banking and paying by BACS, a bank statement will suffice as receipt. Online banking is the simplest method of payment for those that can use it.

Group Co-ordinators Report

Kath McEachen and Dorothy Garman welcomed our new members. There are 12 new groups pending and some active groups are up to maximum numbers with waiting lists. However, several groups still require a Leader to start them off. Bell Ringing and Gardening are thriving.

KMc gave a gentle reminder to members to please inform their group leader if they no longer intend to continue. She finished her report by thanking our outgoing Chairman, Derek Reynolds.

Election of Officers

DR read out the nominations for:

Chair: Ian Bedwell proposed Dorothy Garman, seconded Kath McEachen

Programme Secretary: Kath Reed proposed Yvonne Bedwell, seconded Dave Haddock

Group Coordinators: Kath McEachen proposed Kath Reed, seconded Yvonne Bedwell

Dorothy Garman proposed Dave Haddock, seconded Kath McEachen

Committee Members Susan Greaves proposed Anne Paterson, seconded Peggy Robertson

Terry Annan proposed Kath Reed, seconded Yvonne Bedwell

Oonagh Mallon proposed Vicky Landles seconded Dorothy Garman

A vote was taken for all nominees and carried.

There were no nominations for Business Secretary so DR put it to the floor to vote for an appeal to the membership to volunteer. The vote was carried but there were no volunteers. This means Ian Bedwell, as incoming Chairman will cover the role until it is filled within the membership.

Thanks go to Dave Haddock, Dorothy Chapman, Brian Bailey, Pat Clark and Ann Empson for their continued support.

Nomination of Independent Auditor

Brian Johnson was nominated and the vote carried.

Presentation of Crystal Vase

This was presented to Vicky Landles as a valued Member who has always been helpful to our u3a.

AOB

Kath Reed gave a vote of thanks to Derek Reynolds for his tireless work as Chairman over the past two years and presented him with a gift on behalf of our u3a.

Derek Reynolds gave thanks to all and the meeting closed at 14.40pm