

MINUTES OF THE 27th ANDOVER U3A AGM

Held at The Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 2pm on 16th May 2023

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were 8 Apologies for Absence. The secretary counted the attendees and confirmed that there were 73 attendees. Thus, in total there was significantly more than the required minimum number (44) to constitute a quorum (10% of our membership of 432: as at 31-March-2023).
2. **Minutes of the 26th AGM held on 17th May 2022.** The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair. **Minutes of a Special General Meeting (SGM) held on 17th January 2023.** The minutes of the SGM were also accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters Arising.** At the SGM the following changes were agreed to our Annual Membership Fee.

Change 1. In order to preserve our reserve fund without putting up the membership fees for all members, it was agreed that those members who opted to receive the Third Age Trust Magazine (TAM), as a posted copy, would pay for the postage.

Change 2. It was also agreed that we would keep the general membership fee at £11 and charge those who wanted the TAM by post an annual fee of £15. (Note: for a couple living at the same address one member would pay the £15 and the other member would pay £11. It should also be noted that all u3a members can still gain free access to the TAM, on-line, through the Third Age Trust website).

4. **Chair's Report.** Peter Villalard read his Chairman's Report:

Good afternoon and welcome to our 27th AGM. Following on from the more intense days of Covid we are now back into our normal routine and I am pleased to say, we continue to thrive. We have a slightly lower membership than in previous years but we were still 432 strong as at the end of the last financial year. I am assuming this slight reduction is because a number of people did leave following Covid and I am aware, as are other organisations in Andover and elsewhere, that a number of people are still wary about going out to large gatherings. As you have seen in the latest newsletter, we attracted 37 new members in the last 6 months so we are still a going concern. We have 40 active groups engaged in all forms of leisure activities and many have reported on their proceedings in the newsletter.

Moving on to the only major concern that has been an issue for the committee in the last year and that has been the activity of our HQ organisation, "The Third Age Trust". As you are aware £4 of your membership fee goes to them. This is in addition to the £3.60 charge for their magazine, "Third Age Matters", which Su will mention in the Treasurer's report. Back to the capitation fee of £4, TAT wished to increase this fee and obtain a vote giving them an automatic right to increase that fee by 5% a year. You will be pleased to hear that there was an overwhelming defeat for this proposal. Indeed, TAT are now having to review their activities which includes providing us with job descriptions for the 24 full time (equivalent) staff they employ. There may be more to follow but wait for next year's report.

Since this time last year there has been a few changes within the committee. Jan Ward has replaced Gail Hunter as our Membership Secretary, who you may remember has moved to Somerset to be closer to her family. Jan has been in the chair for several months now and is working with Chris to make this year's renewal process proceed as smoothly as possible. Jan is

no stranger to the committee having been Webmaster until last year. You are asked to endorse her co-opted status later in the proceedings.

During the year, two of our members very kindly came forward to become the "Committee Members without Portfolio". The committee therefore co-opted Ruth Gollings and Dorothy Connor as members. You are all aware of the work they already do, Ruth runs the all-important tea roster (the main reason I suspect many of you come) and Dorothy who has taken on the role of, "Greeter" for any new members who attend these monthly meetings. Again, I hope you will endorse their status later in the proceedings.

On the farewell side I have to give a big thank you to David Gollings who has now completed his 4-year tenure as vice-chair. David took on this role not quite realising the work that can be involved in organising the monthly speakers. Finding the speakers, choosing the subject matter and then keeping an eye on the costs all takes a bit of juggling. It is all a bit of a gamble especially if you have never heard the speaker before. David you have done this excellently and I am sure most of you will agree the recent run of speakers has really been superb. Thank you, David.

What does the future bring? Not taking away any of Su's thunder, the finances look strong; people are still keen to join; the groups are thriving and all is looking well. Long may it continue. Finally, I must say farewell for I have also come to end of my 4-year tenure as chairman. You have all been such an excellent group of people to get to know and enjoy many of the group activities with.

I wish to thank all the committee members who have kept us all on the straight and narrow for the past 4 years, not least Richard who has taken on the painstaking role of Secretary, but most of all for putting up with my style of running a committee where most meetings lasted for about an hour – if I could get away with it...

My final thank you is to the group leaders. In my 11 years on the committee, it has always been obvious to me that the only way this organisation keeps going and attracts members is to have a selection of activities that individuals wish to partake in and enjoy with like-minded souls. The way that happens is to have someone who is prepared to organise the outing, the walk, the event and all the minor admin activities that ensure that something happens. To me that is the group leaders so to you, thank you and may you continue to thrive.

We now move on to the next item on the agenda. Su, The Treasurer, will now give her report.

5. Treasurer's Report. Su Macnamara read her Treasurer's Report:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The first piece of good news I have is that the account was audited on 24th April and a copy is on the noticeboard at the back of the room and has been on the Andover u3a website since 8th May. I will just highlight some of the more important points. For ease of speaking, I will round the figures up, but the exact details are on the copies of the accounts available to you as already mentioned.

Our income from subscriptions and gift aid was £4513. This is down on last year by £1358. The Jean Owens memorial fund started at £1084 and this year the cribbage group and Flora and Fauna group have received a total of £88.46, which leaves a balance of £995. If there is a group who would like a grant towards equipment, please apply to the committee stating the cost and what it is for.

Our other major expenses were:

Monthly meetings including hall hire - £1,732.

Third Age Trust capitation fee	- £1,612.
Third Age Trust mail	- £750.
Our newsletter and all postage	- £508.

Therefore, although the overall account shows that we had a deficit of income over expenditure last year, as the Chair has already said the Jean Owen's fund is now ring fenced for capital items only. Therefore, we overspent by £797, which equates to the whole of the TAT mail costs for TAM.

Some group leaders may wonder from time to time why we direct them to put all their financial activities through the u3a events account. Apart from it being a directive from the Charity Commission, last year the events account saw an income of £18918 and an expenditure of £18324; you see why we must keep an eye on it.

This brings us to the future. We will face the following increases:

- Second class postage increased to 75p from 1st April 2023.
- Speaker travelling costs have increased due to higher fuel prices.
- Employment of the person to put out and put away the chairs at the monthly meetings is £25 a month.
- The hire cost of the Fairground Hall is increasing by 34% a month from £30 to £40, due to increased fuel and lighting costs.

Ladies and gentlemen, following this decision to transfer the TAM postage costs to those who receive the magazine, I can confidently state that our finances are now looking strong without having to increase the membership fee in the foreseeable future.

Unless you have any general point to raise on the account I will hand back to the Chair. Thank you.

6. Election of New Committee Members:

Chair:	David Gollings
Proposed by:	Peter Villalard. Seconded by: Richard Selley.
Vice Chair:	No Nomination
Membership Secretary:	Jan Ward
Proposed by:	Richard Selley. Seconded by: George Kirby
Member:	Ruth Gollings
Proposed by:	Peter Villalard. Seconded by: Richard Selley
Member:	Dorothy Connor
Proposed by:	Richard Selley Seconded by: David Gollings

7. Re-election of Committee Members:

Secretary:	Richard Selley
Treasurer:	Su Mcnamara
Groups Coordinator	Melenie MacKay
Newsletter Editor:	Chris Ward
Webmaster:	John Pickford
Proposed by:	David Gollings. Seconded by: Peter Villalard

8. Re-election of Auditor:

Proposed by:	Richard Selley. Seconded by: David Gollings.
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9. **Any Other Business.** There was no other business.

10. **Date of Next (28th) AGM.** The 28th AGM will be held on 21st May 2024 at the Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 1400 hours.

The AGM ended at 1420hrs.

Signed:

Dated: