

MINUTES OF THE 26th ANDOVER U3A AGM

Held at The Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 2pm on 17th May 2022

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There was 1 Apology for Absence. The secretary counted the attendees and confirmed that there was more than the required minimum to constitute a quorum.
2. **Minutes of the 25th AGM held on 18th May 2021.** The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chair's Report.** Peter Villalard read his Chairman's Report:

Good afternoon and welcome back to a more normal world. Last year the AGM was held via Zoom, groups of 30 were allowed to meet out of doors, indoor meetings were restricted to 6 people and we all lived in some sort of bubble. Who calls them: The Good Old Days? Most of us have now resumed our former activities and it appears that this will continue. I can only suggest that you read the latest Newsletter to get a full flavour of all the group activities that are flourishing again. Our membership did not collapse during the pandemic and as at 31 March this year we had 485 members.

There have been a number of changes in the committee: Jan Ward has retired from her role as Webmaster after a fairly hectic time in post. It is easy to forget issues that were a problem at the time but who can remember the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations or GDPR. Many of us thought that this would mean the end of the internet as we knew it. However, Jan became our expert, she was able to explain to us all what it actually meant and produced our policy on the process. Jan thank you for that work and all the time and effort you have put in updating the website to its present state.

Gary Adams decided to leave the Groups Coordinator post and Linda Fanning was co-opted for a short time but family reasons meant she couldn't devote as much time as she would wish to the post.

By a quirk of our rules Caroline Mills has had to step down having completed her 4 years as a committee member without portfolio and Eleanor Rust, who did have a short break from her membership of the committee, has decided that she will also stand down. Without portfolio is a bit of a misnomer because they have both organised the recent Christmas events for the years that we have been allowed to hold them and have also been involved in other committee work. Caroline and Eleanor, thank you both for all your hard work and support to the U3A. The Membership Secretary, Gail Hunter will also be leaving in the near future to live in Somerset. Although she has only been with us for a short time, she has contended with the membership issues presented post Covid for which I thank her.

One individual we are rarely aware of but who provides vital support to us all is our auditor. David Benwell has slaved away on our behalf at the end of each financial year to provide the official certification of our accounts. He has done this tirelessly for a number of years now but has decided that he must move on. David, thank you for all your work and enjoy the rest.

We do have replacements and I welcome John Pickford as the new Webmaster, Melenie MacKay has agreed to fill the post of Groups Coordinator and John Reid has agreed to become our new Auditor. All these posts to be voted on later this afternoon. This does leave us with two vacancies. The committee members without portfolio, so if we have any volunteers with appropriate proposer and seconder here in the audience today, please come forward. There is still time.

There are other people to thank this year. We do not normally thank group leaders at the AGM but this year there are 3 exceptions. John Barrell who was the original Treasurer 26 years ago has decided that it is time to relinquish his role as leader of the Family History group, and Beryll and David Laurillard for their leadership of the Nature group for the past 17 years. The other final thank you is to Rita Hanna who for as long as I can remember has provided the ever-welcome tea and biscuits at our monthly meetings. She does this as well as leading other groups, so a true stalwart of the Andover U3A. Rita thank you. Ruth has very kindly taken over the role so we will continue to get our afternoon teas. Thank you, Ruth.

I believe that many of you have now heard that Jean Owens sadly passed away last year. She was a keen member of our U3A and especially the Art and Singing groups as well as helping out with the all-important teas. The reason I am mentioning her is that her family, knowing how much she enjoyed her time with us, have made a very generous donation of £1000, which combined with the Gift Aid that came with it, means we have a fund of £1200 in her memory. I have corresponded with her daughter and we have agreed that the money should be spent on capital items for the benefit of all groups. To this end all group leaders have been made aware of this legacy and have been asked to put in bids for any capital items that would enhance their group.

Aside from this please note that gift aid is very valuable so if you are a tax payer do claim it on your membership fee.

Finally, the future. Where do we go from here? All is looking good. We have the membership numbers, we have the finances, more on this from the Treasurer, and we are active again following on from Covid.

We have one or two vacancies for group leaders and without them the groups are not active. Melenie, the Groups Coordinator, has come up with several ideas for new groups and published them in the Newsletter. Indeed, the proposed Poetry group is an example.

This really is my final message today. We are a voluntary organisation and we can only survive with volunteers. The essence of the organisation is the groups. People mainly join for the group activities so if you can please consider stepping forward to be the leader of a group, do so; we need you.

Thank you all for your support over the last 2 years not helped by the lack of activity due to Covid. The biggest support you gave was staying on as members. Let us hope that we can now continue with a bright future.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. For those of you who have not met me before I am Su McNamara and I have been the treasurer for just over a year now. The first piece of good news I have is that the account was audited on the 23rd April and a copy of the audit report is on the noticeboard at the back of the room and it has also been on the website for over a week. 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 available to you as already mentioned.

Our income from subscriptions and gift aid was £6,300. The Jean Owens memorial fund started at £1,200 from which the croquet club has already received a grant of £166.

Our other major expenses were:

Monthly meetings including hall hire -	£1,500.
Third Age Trust capitation fee -	£1,250.

Third Age Trust mail - £600.
Our newsletter and all postage - £800.

We also drew £400 from the savings account.

Therefore, although the overall account shows that we had an excess of income over expenditure last year we did not. As the Chair has already said the Jean Owen's fund is now ring fenced for capital items only and we 'borrowed' £400 from the savings account which we have to replace. Therefore, we actually overspent by £663.

Some group leaders may wonder from time to time why we direct them to put all their financial activities through the general u3a account. Apart from it being a directive from the Charity Commission, when you realise that last year the events account saw an income of £22,000 and an expenditure of £22,000, you see why we have to keep an eye on it.

This brings us to the future. We will face the following increases: The Third Age Trust capitation rate increasing from £3.50 to £4.00; second class postage increasing to 68p; speaker travelling costs increasing due to the increase in fuel prices; employment of a person to put out and put away the chairs at monthly meetings at £25 a month.

Although we have a reserve fund which we have to maintain under Charity Commission and Third Age Trust rules we need to increase our income. We have looked at savings and other than speaker costs the only other expense that we can reduce is the use of the Royal Mail. This is a plea to use the website for all your information and, if you can, please use it to obtain your copy of the Newsletter. That said we are looking at an increase in our membership fee of £1 as from 1 April 2023. The Chair will cover this more under 'Any Other Business'.

6. Election of New Committee Members:

Webmaster: John Pickford
Groups Coordinator: Melenie McKay
Member: No nomination.
Member: No nomination.

Proposed by: Peter Villalard Seconded by: Richard Selley

7. Re-election of Committee Members:

Chair: Peter Villalard
Vice-Chair: David Gollings
Secretary: Richard Selley
Treasurer: Su Mcnamara
Membership Secretary: Gail Hunter
Newsletter Editor: Chris Ward

Proposed by: Bridget Rawlings. Seconded by: Ruth Gollings

8. Election of New Auditor:

John Reid.

Proposed by: Richard Selley. Seconded by: Peter Villalard.

9. **Any Other Business:** A Proposed increase in the annual membership fees from £10.00 to £11.00 per annum. This was voted on and agreed unanimously.

10. **Date of Next (27th) AGM.** The 27th AGM will be held on 16th May 2023 at the Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 1400 hours.

The AGM ended at 1420hrs.

Signed:

Dated: