

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Monday 21st January 2019 at Crofton Halls

Present :

William Sear, Elaine Clarke, Pauline Dawson, Linda Haward, Mike Winder, Janet Holmes, Sue Howe, Sybil Robinson, Steve Cooling, Janet Tucker

Apologies : Frank Rowe, Peter Richards

Minutes of last AGM - January 2018 were accepted and approved by all.

Reports

1. Chairman

- The Chairman, Elaine Clarke welcomed everyone to the AGM.
- She gave members the sad news that Group Leader, Betty Sell died at the weekend.
- Acceptance of the Chairman's report was proposed by Beryl Rumgay and seconded by Dee Mann. Carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer

- Although the overall expenditure had shown an increase this was a result of the expenses of the 20th Birthday Celebrations. When this is factored out there was a reduction in expenditure as against last year.
- The Treasurer made mention of the postage costs and that of TAM. He asked if members did not require TAM or Newsletter to inform the committee.
- The Treasurer made further reference to Gift Aid and the valuable addition it made to our U3A finances, but only applicable if one was a taxpayer.
- There was no intention to increase subscription from the current £10 for the next twelve months.
- The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Ken Cridland for his examination of the accounts.
- Agreement of the accounts was proposed by Val Westwood and seconded by Richard Clarke. Carried unanimously.
- Examiner of the Accounts: It was proposed that Ken Cridland continue to examine the accounts. Proposed by Beryl Rumgay and seconded by Angela Wilks. This was carried unanimously.

3. Group Leaders

- Sue Howe spoke on behalf of the Group Co-ordinators and expressed her sincere gratitude for the continued efforts and success of the Group Leaders.
- Mention was made of the 95 current groups and would give every assistance to anyone who wanted to start a new group. Local History group now running.
- She reminded members of the welcome that awaits them at the BR6 Restaurant, Orpington at 10.30am tomorrow for coffee and pastries.

4. Presentations were made to the retiring officers accompanied by warm thanks.

5. Amendment to Constitution

- Officers and Committee members may stand for a term of three years. After this period of time they may stand for one further term of three years. There must then be a period of at least 12 months before any officer or committee member may stand for re-election to the Committee.
- Proposed R. Howe, seconded D. Mann, passed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The Nomination of William Sear as Chairman was proposed by Pauline Dawson and seconded by Frank Rowe.

The nomination of Frank Rowe as Business secretary was proposed by William Sear and seconded by Pauline Dawson.

The nomination of Mike Winder as Treasurer was proposed by Janet Holmes and seconded by Linda Haward.

These were elected unanimously and the rest of the committee were elected en bloc.

Namely; Membership Secretary Linda Haward, Meetings Secretary and Vice-chair Pauline Dawson, Group Coordinators Janet Holmes and Sue Howe, Newsletter Distribution Peter Richards, Newsletter Editors Sybil Robinson and Janet Tucker, Database Manager Steve Cooling. This was proposed by Colin Martin, seconded by Vic Penney, carried unanimously.

The new Chairman William Sear thanked them for their vote of confidence and extolled the virtues of the organisation and the part it plays in the community.

The AGM concluded at 2.45pm and was followed by the speaker.

**Orpington U3A Annual General Meeting
Monday 20 January 2020 at Crofton Hall at 2.30 pm.**

Please bring this agenda with you to the meeting

Apologies for absence of Committee Members

Minutes of previous AGM, January 2019

Chairman's report

Treasurer's Annual Finance Report

Election of K.Cridland as Auditor

Group Coordinators Report.

Election of Officers to Committee.

Chairman: William Sear, Vice Chairman: Pauline Dawson

Treasurer: Mike Winder, Business Sec, Frank Rowe

Introduction of Committee members with willingness to stand for re-election. Linda Haward, Sue Howe, Janet Holmes, Sybil Robinson, Peter Richards, Steve Cooling.

(Prospective committee members can be elected en block at the discretion of members in attendance)

Any other business

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My first year as Chairman is coming to a close, against a background of political uncertainty. The forthcoming election may, hopefully, give some clarity.

I am very pleased to report that our U3A has enjoyed a period of stability with a programme of developments to make membership easier using the latest technology. Beacon, the information system enjoyed by some 350+ U3As has made our database far more comprehensive and is proving a useful tool in our running. I am pleased to say some forty members more have elected to go paperless and receive the newsletter online, not only environmentally friendly, less costly but easier to distribute. Our website is in the course of development to make it more user friendly and by the time of the AGM it should be freely available. I recommend you make use of this useful facility for information,

Our Monday meetings have been revamped with a closer look at speakers to reflect the times we live in and relevance to us all, combined with an opportunity to mix and socialise before the talk.

For me it has been particularly interesting year in meeting many members who do not attend on our Monday general meetings, to hear their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. My colleagues have likewise been out to group meetings; this has proved a very rewarding and informative exercise.

We are constantly seeking to add groups in which members have expressed an interest, notably; Beginners Bridge, Dressmaking, Beginners Gardening, Astronomy among others. Once again I must reiterate that we are all members of the great organisation that flourishes by us all accepting ownership. If you could help either as a Committee member, representative at our Networking partners, meeting new members on their arrival at General Meetings or helping with the teas please contact me or any committee member.

In closing I would like to thank you all, and in particular fellow committee members for their designated roles in making it all come together, group leaders for taking the lead in running our nearly 100 groups and members for their suggestions and ideas.

William Sear

ANNUAL GROUP COORDINATORS REPORT DECEMBER 2019

Earlier this year, the Committee decided on two initiatives. The first was to try to meet with all the Group Leaders on an informal basis, to hear about their groups, listen to any feedback and to share any problems they have encountered. Our Chairman, William, has invited them to tea in his home and we have found it to be a worthwhile exercise, with lots of new ideas being suggested. (If you are a Group Leader reading this who has not yet been invited, more invitations will follow in the New Year!)

The second is for members of the Committee to visit groups, again with the idea of bringing members up-to-date with what is happening at Committee, asking for feedback and general sharing of ideas. We would like to thank all those we have visited for the warm welcome we have invariably received, the interest expressed and suggestions made. It has been fabulous to meet so many of you and we hope to visit many more of you next year. We can assert that groups are going well and seem so appealing that we want to join all of them!

Of course, none of this would be possible without our wonderful Group Leaders, who give their time, energy and commitment to ensuring that our organisation continues to thrive. 'By the members for the members' is the mantra of U3A, which means that we help each other to learn, rather than pay outsiders to teach. However, as we meet Group Leaders many of them report that they are doing all the work for their groups. We would like to remind members of all groups that everyone needs to contribute: perhaps organise a meeting or a speaker for your group; offer your home once in a while for a meeting; offer to make or provide the refreshments; lead an outing; offer lifts; the list of ways to support your Group Leader is endless.

Unfortunately, some groups have closed this year as new leaders could not be found from within the group. Our suggestion has always been that you share being the contact for the group; your members need a central point of contact and we need a name to act as contact on our list. However, when, where and what the group does should be something that all members take responsibility for and not left to one person.

As we write this, we are about to hold our next Recruitment Drive in the foyer of Tesco, Orpington. We continue to spread the word about U3A with its unique self-help ethos and encourage new members to join to bring their own talents and knowledge into this vibrant organisation. The Committee are proud to think that membership of Orpington U3A is steadily increasing, with nearly 90 Interest Groups running, with something on every day of the week, at its heart. Long may we continue to Learn, Laugh and Live!

**Sue Howe and Janet Holmes
Joint Group Coordinators**