

**PADDOCK WOOD U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Minutes of the 8th AGM held at St Andrews Church, Thursday 10th October 2019**

**Present:**

**Committee comprising:**

Michèle Sinclair	Chairman	Colin Beavington	Vice Chairman
Wendy Wollen	Secretary	Jeff Bewsey	Membership Secretary
Fred Lemont	Publicity/Marketing	John Spoor	Treasurer
Jenny Carney	Welfare Team Coord	Cheryl Linnegar	Study Days Coord
Ray Crowle	Speakers Coord	Bob Wilding	Interest Groups Coord
Dawn Kirk	Welcome Team Coord	Ron Trevillion	Webmaster

**Apologies:** Jeff Bewsey, Wendy Wollen

**Minutes of AGM held 11th October 2018**

Accepted and seconded as correct by Jan Wheddon and Keith Sinclair

**Chairman's Report**

What a year we have had! Some really excellent Speakers thanks to Ray, and equally interesting Seminars thanks to Andy. Our Study Days have been tremendous, not to mention our trip to the Isle of Wight – what did Fred say, “What goes on in the Isle of Wight stays on the Isle of Wight!” A huge thanks to Cheryl and her team of organisers, for without them we would not have had such interesting and enjoyable occasions. We have a record number of Interest Groups (74 and counting) – Bob says, hang fire a bit as he can't keep up with all the new groups! It's excellent that so many new groups have started up this year and just shows what a go-ahead U3A we are. Jenny's monthly Welfare table has offered us all invaluable advice in keeping ourselves healthy and big thanks to her and Barry and Ray. Incidentally in case you didn't know, Jenny gives Master Classes to other U3As on how to set up a Welfare Group!

I take this opportunity to thank all our members who give up their valuable time to arrange and organise things for us: the group co-ordinators, who remind us when to do what, vital when the old memory fails; Fay and all the helpers who do the teas and coffees each month; Eileen and the Quattro team for organising so many fun events for us; Nigel and Peter for all the theatre trips; Dawn and the Welcome team for making people feel at ease when first venture to our meetings; all the unsung heroes who simply roll up their sleeves and do all the little jobs that need doing such as the VIVVA team; and of course the rest of the Committee members, Wendy who keeps track of what we say at our meetings which is easier said than done as we laugh such a lot; Ron for keeping the website up to date and functioning, Fred for the interesting monthly newsletter, John for keeping us on the financial straight and narrow, Jeff for keeping track of all of us and Colin for making sure that we cross the i's and dot the t's when we're supposed to. The Committee is a great bunch of people and I thank them for all the time and trouble that they go to ensure that our U3A is vibrant and lively

Finally, I thank you all for the support and enthusiasm that you bring to our U3A making it one of the best, and most sought out, in the South East area.

Thank you.

Michèle

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

Jeff Bewsey, the Membership Secretary, was unable to attend and offered his apologies. Colin Beavington, U3A Vice Chair, read out Jeff's report on his behalf. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, 82 new members been signed up to PW U3A, which I think reflects this U3A's popularity. Our current membership is 556 (three new members joined on the day, bring the total to 559), a very healthy number and growing all the time.

We are constantly looking to increase our membership further and I would like to think that you yourselves can help by spreading the word amongst your friends and neighbours. Please feel free to take a copy of our handbook to give out to anybody you think may show an interest in any of our many interest groups, the number of which continues to expand.

Thank you. Jeff.

## **Presentation of Accounts for approval**

John Spoor referred to the Financial Report which had been circulated previously via the website; copies were also made available at the meeting. He explained that the Report contains essentially two sets of figures: our core finances – ie, those needed to run the U3A; and non-core finances – study days, theatre trips and Quattro. Since registering as a charity, the U3A is required to show both set of figures.

John explained that the Report is just a snapshot of the accounts at any particular time – in this case as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Money flowing in an out of the non-core accounts balances out over time and, for each of the non-core activities, working capital needs to be retained in order to allow future events to be organised and paid for. This money cannot be touched and, so, that leaves just the core amount (£3124.74 represented by the General Fund (cash), the General Fund (bank) and the Deposit account) for running the U3A. Since the membership fees were reduced in 2016, this figure has been steadily reducing to its current level, which will have an impact on future U3A membership fees – see below.

Michèle called for a proposer and seconder of the accounts: Proposed – Jenny Carney; Seconded – Peter Williams.

## **Future U3A membership fees**

Michèle explained: As you know three years ago, we lowered our membership fees as we had accumulated too much money in the bank. Since then our membership has grown considerably and, for our monthly meetings, we have had to move into the Church as well as the Winter Hall to accommodate us all. This meant that our room-hire expenses have doubled, which was OK whilst we were using up all the surplus. We are now at the point when we are overspending against our income, as you will have seen from the John's Financial Statement, and we need to address it.

In addition, St Andrew's Church management have now imposed a 33% increase in the hire of the church and a smaller, but still significant rise, in the hire of the other halls. The bottom line is that we need to cover our costs and have a cushion in the bank for emergencies. The Committee realised this situation would arise last year, but agreed to keep the membership fees as they were for one more year. Unfortunately we cannot put off the decision any longer and so we recommend that the fees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, go back to where they were when we first started in 2012: that is, £30 for joint members and £16 for individual members (there is a small reduction for joint members, because they only receive one copy of The Third Age Trust magazine).

No-one likes putting up fees but, if approved, they will still be one of the lowest of the U3As in the area. I hope that you will support this increase and think that everything that our U3A provide is value for money.

Proposed – Yvonne Broad; Seconded – Ann Bramble. The motion was passed unanimously

## **Previously notified questions from the floor**

There was one question raised prior to the meeting concerning future U3A membership fees. This was covered by the Treasure's report and the Chairman's explanation above.

## **Election of the new Committee**

As per our Constitution, all Committee members have stepped down. As there were no new nominations for Committee members, Michèle announced that the whole Committee is willing to stand again and asked for a Proposer and Secunder to re-elect the entire Committee – Richard Elliott proposed and Peter Williams seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously

### **The elected Committee for 2019/20 is:**

Chair – Michèle Sinclair  
Vice Chair – Colin Beavington  
Treasurer – John Spoor  
Secretary – Wendy Wollen  
Membership Secretary – Jeff Bewsey  
Study Days Co-ordinator – Cheryl Linnegar  
Speakers Secretary – Ray Crowle  
Interest Groups Co-ordinator – Bob Wilding  
Publicity, Marketing and U3A Liaison – Fred Lemont  
Welfare Team Leader – Jenny Carney  
Welcome Team Leader – Dawn Kirk  
Webmaster – Ron Trevillion

With no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 15:30.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_