

MINUTES OF THE 20th ANDOVER U3A AGM

Held at 2pm at the Fairground Hall on 17th May 2016

1. **Apologies for absence.** Chris & Bob Briggs, Brian & Helen Stuart and June Cowie.
2. **Minutes of AGM 19th May 2015.** 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.**

Good afternoon everyone. I am Pauline Eaton, the present Chair of Andover U3A, and it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this AGM at which we also celebrate the 20th anniversary of our U3A. To help us do that we are delighted to have a special guest, the newly elected Mayor of Test Valley, Karen Hamilton, and the presence of our founder members John and Pat Barrell and Haydn Watkins. We also have, of course a celebration cake.

But before we enjoy ourselves we must get on with the business of the meeting, and that indeed is itself a pleasure. I can report to you that our U3A is in excellent health. We have approaching 480 members, there are now more than 40 interest groups and I think you will have noticed that our Treasurer, David Rae, has a smile on his face.

During the last year we have had speakers at ten of our monthly meetings and I would like to thank our Secretary, Peter Villalard for arranging these and indeed for putting together our programme for next year which looks very promising. We have occasional disappointments with speakers of course but mostly they are entertaining and informative, and occasionally surprising - I am thinking in particular of Stuart Mortimer's demonstration of wood turning which left the platform deep in wood shavings. Attendances at the monthly meetings have been increasing with our membership and we are keeping an eye on the capacity of the hall to accommodate us.

Our interest groups are self-governing and active. This year we have seen the start of a new Film Appreciation Group and a reformation of the Handywoman group, while walks, visits to theatres and gardens and exploration of our local villages continue to be very well supported. A new croquet group is being set up and we hope that will be underway for the summer months. You can see the amazing work of our Photography and Art Groups on the walls here and material from other groups is there for you to look at too. Groups are the lifeblood of any U3A and we are so grateful to the people who lead them. If you have ideas for a new group do contact Andy Hellyer and he will help you to get it underway. I hope particularly that our new members – of whom we have had many this year - will get involved in taking us in new directions.

Our twice-yearly newsletter will tell you more about the activities of the Groups. Jill Hannington has taken on the editorship of it this year and I am sure you will have enjoyed the twentieth anniversary edition which she has produced. Please think about contributing to the next one – the more varied it is, the better. Jill will be delighted to receive your ideas.

I would now like to ask you to join me in thanking a number of the people who make this U3A work. First, the members of the Committee. I have mentioned Peter Villalard already. He is our Secretary and has also been our Vice-Chairman for the last 4 years. Our constitution requires him to stand down from that role this year and later in the meeting we shall have the opportunity to elect a replacement. Geoff Eddy, our membership secretary, carries a big administrative burden and also does a lot of our printing as well as hosting the Committee meetings. Then there are Sally Weeks, a source of thoughtful and practical advice, and John Oliver, who currently runs our website. I have already mentioned Andy Hellyer, our Groups Co-ordinator, David Rae our Treasurer and Jill Hannington, our newsletter editor. Jill would, I know, want me to thank on behalf of all of us Herbert Gardner whose help with the publication side of newsletter production is invaluable.

Next I know you will all want to thank Anne Hellyer who brilliantly masterminds the Christmas Party – a great success again this year – and who has made and decorated today's celebration cake. Also Rita Hanna, who, unobtrusively and efficiently, together with a team of helpers, keeps us refreshed with tea and biscuits at our monthly meetings. Not to mention the amazingly well drilled group of people who lay out and clear away the chairs and tables for our meetings here. We could not operate without them.

It is very clear to me that the essence of U3A is participation. Not everyone wants to lead a group or be on the Committee but I think that those who do get a lot of satisfaction, and fun, out of it and I would like to encourage more of you to give it a try. The key to a healthy and enjoyable third age is a good circle of friends and acquaintances, learning new things, and taking appropriate exercise. U3A facilitates all of those things within its motto of *Learn, Laugh and Live*. Please do your best to pass the U3A message on to anyone you know looking to enliven their own experience of the third age.

And, in conclusion, an especial thank you to all of you who have attended today, and to all our members who have helped to make this U3A so successful by being a part of it.

I now hand over to David Rae to give us his report as Treasurer.

5. **Treasurer's Report.**

I thought I would do things slightly differently this year and leave the goboldy-gook for later.

You have a hand out which explains in simple terms where our money comes from and what we spend it on. It's headed 'Basic' Income/Expenditure because I have include only the major items to keep it simple. Obviously if we spend less than our income in any year we make a surplus, and if we spend more than our income, we create a deficit. In either case the surplus or deficit adjusts our current account opening bank balance that we started the year with, to reflect positively or negatively

the balance carried forward at the end of the year. This balance is identified in the Accumulated Fund in the formal balance sheet.

I hope you can see at little more than a glance our basic income and expenditure for last year and you may appreciate why as treasurers we always extol you to sign up for Grant Aid if you can. Our expenditure is interesting in that we hand over more than half our income to HQ U3A in capitation fees and for the U3A Magazine. You will note that we incurred an actual deficit of £211 last year and this was funded as previously explained by a reduction in our current account at the start of this year.

So we incurred a main account deficit last year - in itself not a cause for concern as we created a £325 surplus and a £540 deficit in the previous 2 years and overall our financial position remain in a healthy state, with some £6,700 held in our accumulated funds against an annual expenditure of say some £4,500. The main causes of the change from surplus to deficit over the course of last year was an increase in the cost of speakers +£350 (this has fluctuated widely over the past few years - from £300 to over £700) and the £170 purchase of notice boards and the DVD player.

On a slightly more positive note, while the Events A/c also returned a deficit this was down to the vagaries of accounting as overall the Theatre Group does not run at a loss and the Christmas Lunch again turned in a profit.

Finally, I'd like to give my usual thanks to the committee and those members who are involved in the collection/spending of monies on our behalf and who make my life easier by the proficient manner in which they carry out those tasks, and also a big thank you to Diane Moore who audits the accounts so quickly and willingly each year.

6. **Election of Officers.**

Election of new Vice-Chairman: John Oliver. Proposed by: Peter Villalard. Seconded by: David Rae. Elected unanimously.

Re-election of Officers:

Chair: Pauline Eaton

Treasurer: David Rae

Secretary: Peter Villalard

Proposed by: John Oliver. Seconded by: Geoff Eddy.

Elected unanimously.

7. **Election of Newsletter Editor:** Newsletter Editor: Jill Hannington. Proposed by Pauline Eaton. Seconded by Peter Villalard. Elected unanimously.

Re-election of Committee:

Membership Secretary: Geoff Eddy

Webmaster: John Oliver

Groups Co-Ordinator: Andy Hellyer

Member: Anne Hellyer

Member: Sally Weeks

Proposed by: Geoff Eddy. Seconded by: Peter Villalard.

Elected unanimously.

8. Election of Auditor:

Dianne Moore

Proposed by: Peter Villalard. Seconded by: John Oliver.

Elected unanimously.

9. Any Other business:

- a. A number of parish notices were announced.
- b. John Bowman raised a concern over the insurance cover for individuals who organize events. The Chair and Secretary assured him that as long as all the people on an event organized and attended by U3A members they were fully covered. A non- member may attend a single event but must join the U3A thereafter. After note: a copy of the relevant insurances is to be sent to all Group Leaders.

The AGM ended at 1421hrs