

MINUTES OF THE 21st ANDOVER U3A AGM

Held at 2pm at the Fairground Hall on 16th May 2017

1. **Apologies for absence.** Sally Cousins, Helen Norman, Morgan Hughes-Owens, Margaret & John Bowman, Denise Prince, David Rae, Karen Butler, Marion Kerley and Mary Riddle.
2. **Minutes of AGM 17th May 2016.** 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 and welcome to the twenty-first AGM of Andover U3A. I am Pauline Eaton, the present chair, and with me here is our Secretary Peter Villalard and our Vice Chairman John Oliver.

Our Treasurer David Rae cannot be with us today unfortunately.

During the last year your U3A has continued to grow and at the end of April the membership stood at 520. We don't know how big we can get before this Hall becomes too small for our monthly meetings but we are keeping an eye on that. The Third Age Trust believes strongly that everyone who has reached the Third Age should have the opportunity to join a U3A near to them and that has to be right. U3A provides enjoyment, companionship, exercise, and mental stimulation. That must help to relieve the pressure on the NHS for which we are often told an ageing population is responsible. So please continue to tell people about U3A and encourage them to join. If we begin to burst at the seams we shall have to give birth to a third U3A for the area.

We continue to have a good variety of groups, around 50 altogether. Several new groups have got under way this year, including Croquet, Ancient Civilisations, and Spanish for Beginners, and a monthly Quiz group which attracts around forty people. It can take a little while to get a new group off the ground though. We find that people can be a bit reluctant to come forward as group leaders. Please don't be. You don't need to be an expert in the subject concerned and it's an enjoyable way of meeting new people. And many groups share responsibilities in some way, taking it in turns to host meetings, give talks, or arrange walks.

We have made a couple of changes this year to the monthly meetings. There is now a table at the back every week where you can go to get information about groups and we hope that will have been particularly helpful to new members. And we are paying to have the chairs put away after the meeting which should give more time for socialising after the talks. We had received some feedback to the effect that new members sometimes found it difficult to feel part of Andover U3A at first and that members did not always find there was enough time to chat after the meetings. We hope these changes have helped.

We have sought your views on two subjects this year - the type of talk you like to hear and the format of the Christmas lunch. We'll get back to you on the latter subject shortly when we have looked at the returns of our survey. As regards talks we have the impression that most people like to be entertained a lot and to learn a little. I think we have had a good selection this year on that basis - from history, through nature to song - although clearly some speakers go down better than others. Next year's programme is on your membership cards. If you hear of good speakers don't hesitate to let Peter know and he will put them on his list of possible speakers for future years. All the speakers we invite are suggested or recommended to us in some way.

I think we should now express our collective thanks to a number of people. To all our group leaders who keep our interest groups healthy, and especially to those of you who have taken over groups this year as previous leaders have stepped aside, to Rita and her team who provide refreshments so efficiently and charmingly each month, and to the team who used to get out and put away chairs and tables and are now getting a well-deserved rest. Thanks also to Jill Hannington, who is leaving the Committee this year, for being such a very professional newsletter editor, and also to Herbert Gardner who is responsible for its design and printing.

And I should like on your behalf to thank the various members of the Committee who each contribute in different ways, Peter as organiser in chief, John on the website, Geoff with the substantial administrative burden that being membership secretary involves, Andy as group coordinator, Anne who put together a splendid Christmas lunch again this year, and Sally, who despite moving house this year, has still managed to contribute perceptive comments to our discussions.

Before we come to the business of putting the Committee in place for next year I should say that we have had no one new come forward to stand. We do need a new editor for the newsletter and we may not be able to produce one in the autumn if we don't find a volunteer. It's a fun job; I enjoyed it when I did it, and either Jill or I will be happy to talk a new editor through what is involved. We are able to co-opt new Committee members during the year so if the spirit moves you to get involved please get in touch with one of us and come along to our meetings to see how that appeals. They are very friendly occasions.

Finally thank you all for attending today. An AGM is not the most fun occasion but it is an essential part of our year and we appreciate your participation.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** (This report was read by The Vice-Chairman, John Oliver).

Apologies for not being present.

Our accounts remain healthy and as you are aware we have been able to retain the membership subscription at the current rate of £8 for a further year - one of the lowest membership rates around.

For those interested in the figures, our main U3A A/c ran a planned deficit on the year of some £440, this despite an increase in subscription income of over £500. Expenditure was up in: Administration - this is largely the cost of postage of our Spring/Autumn Newsletter and varies year on year dependant on block stamp purchasing; Monthly Meetings - cost of speakers (over £900); Direct Mail/Newsletters - increase in numbers and rising costs. We also made a one-off contribution towards the cost of the Fairground Hall's new PA system.

Our U3A Event A/c also ran a deficit on the year of some £260 but this was due to 2 abnormal payments: Refund of a lost deposit when Breakers folded (£126) and Purchase of Croquet gear (£145) - the Christmas lunch and theatre trips both turned in a small surplus. The good news here is that the Theatre A/c is again turning over as Paul Manning has taken up the role of Group Organiser.

Following publication of the accounts last year your committee decided that the current level of reserve held in our accounts was too high and that in line with general U3A practice and advice these should be gradually reduced, initially to a reserve equivalent to 12 months expenditure. The combined deficits in our accounts for the year was some £700 but our reserves are not yet down to the target of 12 months expenditure.

Our only other source of income after membership subscription comes from the Gift Aid I am able to reclaim from HMRC against our subscriptions - at £740 this is a significant sum. So once again I'll take the opportunity of extolling you to sign up for Grant Aid if you can (you must pay income tax) - the Membership Secretary - Geoff Eddy has the form.

Finally I would like to thank all those involved in the collection/spending of monies, who make my job easier, by the proficient manner they carry out these tasks. And also a big thank-you to Diane Moore who audits our accounts so quickly and willingly each year.

6. Re-election of Officers:

Chair: Pauline Eaton

Vice Chairman: John Oliver

Treasurer: David Rae

Secretary: Peter Villalard

Proposed by: Andy Hellyer. Seconded by: Geoff Eddy

7. Re-election of Committee:

Membership Secretary: Geoff Eddy

Webmaster: John Oliver

Groups Co-Ordinator: Andy Hellyer

Newsletter Editor: Post vacant

Member: Anne Hellyer

Member: Sally Weeks

Proposed by: Pauline Eaton. Seconded by: Peter Villalard

8. Election of Auditor:

Dianne Moore

Proposed by: Peter Villalard. Seconded by: John Oliver

9. Any Other business:

a. Information on the overspill car park was given.

b. The value of the NOK/Medical cards was re-emphasized.

c. The referendum on the Christmas lunch was to close at 4pm today.

The AGM ended at 1421hrs.