

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DORCHESTER AND DISTRICT u3a HELD ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 1030hrs AT THE PARISH CENTRE HALL AND ON ZOOM

Present: There were 95 members in the Hall and a further 20 members on Zoom which represented more than 10% of the total membership of 882 and therefore the meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies: received from 9 members.

Alan Hopwood (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 4th July 2022 were taken as read, having been on the website since August 2022.

Alison Fenwick proposed and Ian Blaby seconded that these minutes be accepted and that was confirmed by a unanimous show of hands from the Membership.

3. The Annual Report:

Alan Hopwood, Chairman, presented an overview of the Annual Report which had been made available to members ahead of the meeting. Memberships, Group activity and Events were all thriving. Alan emphasized the large number of volunteers who give up their time to make the u3a successful and asked the attendees to express their appreciation especially for the retiring Committee members Janet Kennewell, Mike Neely and Vivienne Allan.

A copy of the Annual Report is in the Appendix as Attachment 1.

Libby Wood proposed and Marylyn Mould seconded and the Membership agreed that this report should be accepted unanimously.

4. The Treasurer's Report:

Nick Priddle, Hon. Treasurer presented an overview of the Treasurer's Report and presented the annual accounts, both which had been made available to members ahead of the meeting. He explained that a forecast deficit for the year had prompted the increase in annual subscriptions and attendance fees. If the advance payment of 2023-24 subscriptions and an unexpected payment from Riviera Travel were taken out of the figures, the forecast deficit would have come about.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts are given in the Appendix as Attachments 2 and 3.

There were no questions.

Penny Blaby proposed and Andy Davies seconded and the Membership agreed that this report should be accepted unanimously.

5. Election of Officers and Committee:

Margaret Pearce, Hon. President, conducted the vote for the election of the Officers and the Committee. Seven of the nominees were committee members elected at last year's AGM. Christine Langthorne and Brenda Down had been co-opted on to the Committee during the year. Carol Richards was standing for the first time. As we still have room for more committee members and there were no other nominations, the vote was taken en-bloc to vote all nominees onto the Committee.

Office	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Alan Hopwood	Paul Masham	Geraldine Yates
Vice Chair	Vacant		
Secretary	Vacant		
Treasurer	Nick Priddle	Malcolm Pusey	Pat Knight
Committee	Andy Davies	Chris Langthorne	Alan Hopwood
Committee	Brenda Down	Yvonne Smith	Peter Scaife
Committee	Jane Hopwood	Theresa Morton	Ken Pickering
Committee	Jane Huff	Chris Knight	Di Osborne
Committee	Christine Langthorne	Diane Daubney	Kerry Lowsley
Committee	Les Mould	Marylyn Mould	Michael Humphrey
Committee	Carole Richards	Vivienne Allen	Chris Langthorne
Committee	Peter Scaife	Beverly Donnan	Robin Knight

6. There being no further items raised by the Membership the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50 am.

Annual Report

While last year's report finished with some thoughts on life after the pandemic - "Hopefully the worst is well past and we can continue our happy progress to full normality", this year I can report on a more normal u3a operation.

We can still see some after effects of the pandemic. A few vulnerable members protect themselves with masks; some are avoiding larger meetings; and we had to take a decision mid-year to strengthen our finances after our room hire rebounded. Nevertheless, my overall message is that Dorchester and District u3a is thriving, with more Groups being enjoyed by more members than ever before.

Groups are the core of every u3a and we have an impressive set both in terms of quantity and variety. This year we added Playing Folk Music, Local History, Mah Jong to BMJA rules, Pickleball, Portraiture, Rummikub and a reawakened Wine Appreciation. In addition, Trips and Outings has been revamped and is thriving with the leadership baton passed from Anna Shapter, after many years as leader, to Libby Wood. Theatre trips is ramping up with Peter Scaife doing an excellent job of selecting shows and gauging member demand.

Of course, we lost a few Groups as well, either due to our members' changing interests or, more usually, the leader moving or retiring. We no longer have Digital Photography, Italian Beginners and Improvers. I will make special mention of Music Appreciation, a very popular Group led by Richard Searle for 16 years. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a new leader.

We now have 63 Groups, all run by members volunteering their time and expertise. I would like to thank the leaders and their helpers, not just for the Groups mentioned, but for all our 63 Groups that make our u3a what it is.

Those of us who have attended our First Monday Meetings (FMM) have enjoyed an amazing range of speakers arranged by Andy Davies. They included authors talking about their writing, a world class expert explaining everything about Spring bulbs, the history of Shire Hall, fascinating insights into multicultural society, a year in the life of our Mayor, the history of glass making and all about Age UK in Dorset. My personal highlight was our member Sir David Haslam interviewed by Andrew Webb on the topic of "What to do about our Healthcare Provision".

We continued the practice, started as we opened up after Covid Lockdown, of making the FMM available to members via Zoom, and with very few technical glitches. We will discontinue this practice after the AGM and I would like to thank Jane Huff for managing the Zoom sessions from home and Ian Blaby and David Carden for providing support in the Hall.

One of the consequences of our success of Groups getting back to normal meetings was that our costs grew more quickly than expected, bringing the risk of running out of money, not in the current year, but in 2023-2024. At the Special General Meeting in February members supported increasing our annual subscriptions. We also made changes to attendance fees. We had been worried that we would have a considerable number of members forgetting to change their Standing orders for renewals and this did indeed require a lot of chasing. However, our concern that the changes would reduce membership did not come about and we currently have over 880 members. The Group Fayre in January and u3a Day in September were both very successful in attracting new members and we will run both again, although most new members find out about the u3a from current members.

Having now had a full year in the chair, I more fully appreciate and really must express thanks for all the time and effort from my colleagues on the Committee. Mentioning just some of their work, Andy Davies arranges our speakers; Nick Priddle manages all our finances now thankfully with support from Kate Harre for attendance fees and Beryl Shuttleworth for Gift Aid; Peter Scaife initiates and supports all our Groups; Jane Hopwood organises the very popular Christmas lunch, u3a day and keeps attendance records; Jane Huff produces the Members' Updates, website news page and the Newsletter; At a very busy time Chris Langthorne took over processing members joining, renewing and leaving in addition to filling in on the Secretary Role; and Les Mould, after many years as Secretary, is our regional contact and general u3a procedural guru. We also have a very active Honorary President injecting ideas and challenges into our meetings.

I would especially like to thank those who will no longer be on the Committee after the AGM. Janet Kennewell performed a huge role as Membership Secretary for 9 years before stepping down in April. Mike Neely has coordinated our venue bookings for 7 years while Vivienne Allan has, amongst other responsibilities, acted as Welfare officer for an incredible 19 years. All three have made an enormous contribution to our u3a.

I make no apology for also mentioning a few of our stalwarts. Niall Simpson can be seen every FMM managing our car parking. Jean Croot and Wendy Hilton look after the FMM refreshments while Penny Blaby, Beryl Shuttleworth, Libby Wood, and Jean Holmes check members in. Ken Pickering sets out the chairs and Theresa Morton looks after the notice boards. Kelvin Huff has taken an increasing share of website maintenance while Ian Blaby continues to look after our equipment. We have a revolving list of volunteers setting out chairs and doing the Meeting and Greeting. Our volunteers keep our u3a running.

What about prospects for the coming year? I can confidently predict that members will continue to enjoy attending Groups; that they will propose a few new Groups and some will flourish. We have decided to implement the u3a's Membership Management system and, while the transition will take some effort, the result will be to improve our operation and reduce the ongoing work required. Subject to member support, we will welcome our new Committee members taking up their roles. We will also swap around some of the current Committee roles. Finally, we will continue to need new volunteers. If you are not already doing so, please consider making your contribution.

Alan Hopwood, Chairman

Treasurer's Report for Financial year 2022/2023

The first “normal” year post-Covid resulted in some far-reaching financial decisions and changes. Mid-way through the financial year we realised that as a result of rising costs, particularly those relating to venue hire, an in-depth examination of our finances was required. At that time we forecast a shortfall of some £4500 for the year, but more worryingly we could see problems for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Consequently, an increase in annual subscriptions from £15 to £20 was voted in at the Special General Meeting in February – the first increase in 14 years; further, changes were made to the level of Attendance Fees, to better reflect the costs of more expensive venues, and members were also asked to pay for the cost of receiving the Third Age Matters magazine.

Looking at the actual figures for 22/23, the rise in expenditure can be clearly seen, particularly in venue hire (although 21/22 can hardly be called a comparable year; a hire figure of £12000 for 19/20 is the last realistic comparison), but also a rise in “Head Office” costs, and those related to our Newsletters.

A surplus for the year of £814.47 was not expected! but nor were 23/24 subscriptions received in advance of £3300 odd and a further £2000 commission from members resuming holidays with Riviera Travel. Deducting these 2 items from the surplus does put us back at the forecast £4500 shortfall for the year, mentioned in my opening remarks.

Elsewhere on the Income side, Attendance Fees show a large rise, but that of course reflects the resumption of charging for attendance after the post-Covid holiday the previous year. Sundry Income of £966 includes an £800 grant from Dorset Council's Car Boot Fund which was used to purchase a new lap-top and projector. Gift Aid was steady around the £800 mark. The results of our ongoing Gift Aid campaign will be seen in next year's figures.

Briefly, a resumption of Excursions, and Theatre Outings brought a small surplus of £125 on the Excursions and Social account.

Overall, we are confident that the changes introduced this year have put us on a stable financial footing for the foreseeable future – cataclysmic events excepted!

Finally, my thanks to our departing Membership Secretary Janet Kennewell, and to Christine Langthorne who has taken on this role of late, for their time and patience in fulfilling this onerous responsibility.

N.Priddle, Hon. Treasurer.

Dorchester & District u3a

Registered Charity no. 1077305

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ending 31st March 2023

INCOME	2022/2023	2021/2022	EXPENDITURE	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£	£		£	£
Members Subs 22/23	13605.00	11323.80	Hall /Room Hire+Zoom	16735.49	9222.33
Members Subs in adv.	3326.50	686.50	u3a Capitation & News	4873.84	3103.60
Donations	501.90	25.00	Capital Expenditure	868.49	672.02
Group meeting fees	4586.83	00.00	Group Expenses	105.78	564.38
Monthly meetings	706.02	00.00	Facilities & services	474.96	515.57
HMRC – Gift Aid	814.49	841.80	Newsletters	2609.51	2075.84
Riviera Travel	2068.11	65.91	Committee Expenses	287.37	310.76
Advertising	400.00	500.00	Speaker fees	420.00	402.50
Misc. Rent & Refunds	250.13	00.00	Refreshments (FMM/NM/GL)	50.00	53.89
Sundry Income	966.35	00.00	u3a Network Meetings	00.00	70.00
Third Age Matters	51.10	00.00	u3a Day	12.53	380.93
Interest on B.B. a/c	<u>10.01</u>	<u>0.50</u>	Sundries	<u>33.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>
Subtotal	27436.44	13443.51	Subtotal	26621.97	17399.82
TOTAL	27436.44	13443.51	Surplus or Deficit for year	<u>+814.47</u>	<u>-3956.31</u>
			TOTAL	27436.44	13443.51

Balance Sheet for the Year ending 31st March 2023:

Accumulated Funds	2022/2023	2021/2022	Location of Funds	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£	£		£	£
Balance as at 1 st April	12749.71	16706.02	Lloyds Bank current a/c	8195.79	7424.12
Surplus for the year	814.47		Lloyds Bank 30 day a/c	5291.33	5281.32
Deficit for the year	<u></u>	<u>3956.31</u>	Petty Cash	<u>77.06</u>	<u>44.27</u>
TOTAL	13564.18	12749.71	TOTAL	13564.18	12749.71

2022/23 Year-end accounts prepared and submitted by:

Signed by N.Priddle
(Hon Treasurer)
Dated 27 April, 2023

I have examined the income and receipt vouchers, also the bank statements which support the income and expenditure account for the Year ending 31st March 2023 and am satisfied that they show a true and accurate record of the affairs of the Dorchester & District u3a.

Signed by Alison Neil
(Independent Examiner)
Dated 27 April, 2023

Excursions and Social Account
Events April 2022 to March 2023 :

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
21 Events	6737.00	6537.30
Expenses		20.00
Donations approved by Committee:		nil
Attendance Fees		<u>54.00</u>
	<u>6737.00</u>	<u>6611.30</u>

Annual Summary:

Income less Expenditure :	125.70
Brought Forward from 2021/22 :	<u>1059.53</u>
Total Funds in this account :	<u>£1185.23</u>

2022/23 accounts prepared
and submitted by:
N.Priddle (Hon.Treasurer)

These accounts verified by:

L.Munn (U3A Member)

We confirm that the above entries are consistent with the details recorded in the Excursions account ledger, and that the figures agree with the relevant invoices, receipts and bank account statements. dated 27 April, 2023