



AGM

Dorchester and District u3a Monday, 1st July 2024 at 10.30am Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Dorchester DT1 1QG*

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of the Minutes of the the AGM held on 3rd July 2023 (available on website since July 2023)
4. Annual Report - Chair
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024
6. Approval of the Accounts
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024/25
8. Election of Officers and Committee Members
9. Questions from the floor as received by email or post** to the Secretary by June 17th 2024 (secretary@dorchesteru3a.org.uk)

The AGM will be followed by a talk on “Antiques and Auctions” by Michael Roberts, Senior Valuer & Auctioneer, Dukes Auctioneers.

* AGM will also be available on Zoom

**% 24 Southfield House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1AD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DORCHESTER AND DISTRICT u3a HELD ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 10.30hrs 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 emphasised 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.

Minutes of 2023 AGM

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. Carole 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	Secunder
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

What an excellent u3a we have. And that is because so many of our members give their time, energy and expertise in order that we can enjoy participating in the u3a. There are too many to name in this report, the Group Leaders, all the people involved in making the Monthly Meeting work, those creating and distributing our Newsletter, supporting the systems, the equipment and keeping the u3a running. I would like to thank them all for helping us get the most from our retirement years.

We have had another excellent year for Membership. Our numbers peak at the end of our membership year 31 March and then dip as members who don't renew are removed from the count. Our peak rose from 937 in March 2023 to 1,061 in March 2024 while our "dips" from 861 to 983. During the year we have invited all joiners to a new members' meeting to help them find their way around Dorchester u3a as well as giving background on how the u3a movement works. Feedback at these meetings indicates that the vast majority of new members learn about the u3a by word of mouth from current members.

Groups are of course the core of the u3a, the reason why we are members. I am pleased to report that we continue to have a wide and diverse range of Groups to enjoy. We added new and interesting Groups including Wildlife and Conservation, and Card Games for fun. The new Coffee Mornings provide a super way to get together for a chat.

We also extended our existing topics with Italian Beginners, French for the Rusty and Still Life painting and drawing being added. Pickleball is quickly becoming the favourite sporting activity with a second Saturday Group.

We were very happy to see Music Appreciation restarted thanks to John Cruickshank and Ken Pickering, and Peter Scaife has reinvigorated Theatre Visits, with Terry and Melanie Hooley now assisting. Loyal members are looking forward to Russian Studies restarting when John Laver recovers his health.

As is very natural, we also lost some Groups. Both German and French Intermediates closed with the sad loss of Keith Roberts. Bird Watching closed, but expect it to restart soon.

Our Membership Survey raised quite a number of suggestions for new Groups. We will test these for support (participation and leading). The survey also allowed members to indicate their wish to volunteer and I am in particular pleased to have six members stepping forward to join the Committee.

Our Monthly Meeting continues to feature a wide range of informative and highly entertaining speakers, with topics such as a Vision for Dorchester and the Future of Dorset Health Services, to our local environment - Salisbury Cathedral and Dorset River Tales to highly amusing tales of Royal visits and Portland Curiosities. The numbers attending the Monthly Meeting have gradually grown and some will have benefited from our reintroduction of the hearing loop.

We made significant improvement to the way we support our activities by implementing the u3a's Beacon system. The system allows us to maintain more easily our membership and financial records as well as supporting the administration of Groups. A team of members managed the migration of our records onto the new system and the training of Group Leaders and Committee Members in its use.

We have extended and tidied up our policy documents adding codes of conduct and complaints policies to the updated Privacy, Data Protection and Safeguarding. All are available on our website. Our Secretary, Carole Richards, undertook a project to scan all

Annual Report 2024

our committee records going back to 1995. The hard copies through to 2016 have been lodged with the Dorset History Centre.

As you will see from the Treasurer's Report, our financials are in a very healthy state. The benefit of the increase in subscription fee and membership growth allowed us to reduce our attendance fees. We have no expectation of having to increase subscriptions again in the near future.

We have had a number of volunteers "retiring" during the year. After many years of preparing the slides for the Monthly Meeting, Bob Brewer handed over the role to Kelvin Huff. Carole Richards has decided to focus her time on being Group Leader for French for the Rusty having spent a very productive year as Secretary. Unfortunately Brenda Down needed to step down as Venues Officer with Beryl Shuttleworth stepping into the breach. And finally, Andy Davies stepped down after many years on the Committee and in several roles, not least of which was in entertaining us at the Monthly Meeting.

In addition to retirements, we have had changes of roles. Janet Gelernter has taken over as Newsletter Editor from Jane Huff; Jane has taken over as Group Coordinator from Peter Scaife, with Peter continuing as Welfare Officer.

The responses to the membership survey will guide the decisions the Committee takes in the coming months. It did not call for any major changes. We will offer our Newsletter in electronic form and stop sending paper to those who do not want to receive it. It will take a little while to test which of the new Groups suggested are viable, but you will see them being offered. We expect to continue to grow and will need even more of you not just participating in, but also supporting the activities we enjoy.

Alan Hopwood, Chairman

Treasurer's Report for Financial year 2023/2024

You will recall that we conducted an in-depth analysis of our finances mid-way through last financial year 22/23 in the face of a Covid-induced fall in membership numbers and ever-rising hall/room hire costs, resulting in a rise in subscriptions for the first time in 14 years, an increase in Attendance fees to better reflect the underlying rentals, and other measures.

"The best laid plans.....". For 23/24, our figures show a total surplus of nearly £17,300. So how did this arise? Primarily, as members paid nearly £10,500 in advance subscriptions - funds which relate to 24/25, so we have separated this in the accounts. Further, we did not anticipate the dramatic recovery in member numbers, passing 1,000 for the first time, with a corresponding increase in subs received; Group Attendance Fees doubled; commission from Riviera Travel brought in £1,000, and a purge on Gift Aid saw a threefold increase in funds received back from HMRC - thank you Christine and Beryl for your sterling work in this regard. All this resulted in a net surplus of just under £6,900.

On the Expenditure side, rentals did rise by over £1,000, but perhaps not as much as expected, u3a Capitation and TAM fell by £1,000 due to the decline in subscribers to the Third Age Matters magazine, Newsletter costs fell by £900 as we sourced a cheaper printer, yet the introduction of the Beacon management system is shown by the new £400 charge (with £1,000 plus for 24/25). Net - net, expenditure actually fell by £1,000.

So, going forward, we are in good financial shape and do not anticipate any further increase in annual subscriptions for the foreseeable future, and we have just lowered our Group Attendance Fee levels, for the time being, to return some of our 23/24 surplus to members.

Finally, a special thank you to Chris, our hard-working Membership Secretary for her diligent management of our growing membership, and for keeping our subscriptions under such close control.

Nick Priddle, Hon. Treasurer.

Dorchester & District u3a

Registered Charity no. 1077305

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ending 31st March 2024

INCOME	2023/2024	2022/2023
Members Subs 23/24	£ 14,960.00	£ 13,605.00
Members Subs in adv.	£ 10,437.00	£ 3,326.50
Donations	£ 197.30	£ 501.90
Group meeting fees	£ 10,659.16	£ 4,586.83
Monthly meetings	£ 1,455.42	£ 706.02
HMRC – Gift Aid	£ 2,403.19	£ 814.49
Riviera Travel	£ 1,066.55	£ 2,068.11
Advertising	£ 600.00	£ 400.00
Sundry Income	£ 99.77	£ 966.35
Third Age Matters	£ 233.80	£ 51.10
Interest on a/cs	£ 285.25	£ 10.01
Subtotal	£ 42,397.44	£ 27,036.31
Total	£ 42,397.44	£ 27,036.31

EXPENDITURE	2023/2024	2022/2023
Hall /Room Hire+Zoom	£ 17,399.15	£ 16,485.36
u3a Capitation & News	£ 3,718.75	£ 4,873.84
Capital Expenditure	£ 132.27	£ 869.49
Group Expenses	£ 217.24	£ 105.78
Facilities & services	£ 764.44	£ 474.96
Newsletters	£ 1,758.20	£ 2,609.51
Committee Expenses	£ 289.91	£ 287.37
Speaker fees	£ 295.00	£ 420.00
Refreshments (FMM/NM/GL)	£ 130.44	£ 50.00
Beacon expenses	£ 396.66	£ 0.00
u3a Day	£ 0.00	£ 12.53
Sundries	£ 0.00	£ 33.00
Subtotal	£ 25,102.06	£ 26,221.84
24/25 subs in advance	£ 10,437.00	
Surplus for year	£ 6,858.38	£ 814.47
Total	£ 42,397.44	£ 27,036.31

Balance Sheet for the Year ending 31st March 2024

Accumulated Funds	2023/2024	2022/2023
Balance as at 1st April	£ 13,564.18	£ 12,749.71
24/25 subs in Advance	£ 10,437.00	
Surplus for the year	£ 6,858.38	£ 814.47
Total	£ 30,859.56	£ 13,564.18

Location of Funds	2023/2024	2022/2023
Lloyds Band Current a/c	£ 6,208.40	£ 8,195.79
Lloyds Bank Interest a/cs	£ 24,576.58	£ 5,291.33
Petty Cash	£ 74.58	£ 77.06
Total	£ 30,859.56	£ 13,564.18

2023/24 Year-end accounts prepared and submitted by :

N.Pridle
(Hon.Treasurer)
Dated 25/04/2024

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 2024 and am satisfied that they show a true and accurate record of the affairs of the Dorchester & District u3a.

Alison Neil, Independent Examiner
Dated 25/04/2024

Election of Committee

Election of Officers and Committee

Below are the members who have been proposed to serve on our Committee.

Office	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Alan Hopwood	Lesley Winder	Linda Chappell
Treasurer	Nick Priddle	Stuart Nuttall	Sue Nuttall
Secretary	Stephen Howes	Alan Hopwood	Jane Hopwood
Committee	Linda Chappell	Christine Langthorne	Alan Hopwood
	Penny Doubleday	Alan Hopwood	Jane Hopwood
	Christina Eury-Andrews	Alan Hopwood	Jane Hopwood
	Jane Hopwood	Lesley Winder	Linda Chappell
	Jane Huff	Jill Markwick	Anne Griffiths
	Christine Langthorne	Les Mould	Mark Herring
	Les Mould	Marylyn Mould	Maureen Parker
	Myles Provis	Jane Huff	Anne Griffiths
	Peter Scaife	Les Mould	Nick Priddle
	Lesley Winder	Carole Richards	Nick Priddle

Voting

Election of Officers and Committee: There being fewer than 15 members proposed, the nominations will be voted for en bloc.

Members who attend in the hall will vote by show of hands.

Members who attend via Zoom must have their camera switched on and will raise their hand to vote.