

**MINUTES OF THE 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
DORKING & DISTRICT U3A**

Held at the Christian Centre, Dorking, on 20th May, 2015

Chairman: Doreen Raine; Vice-Chair/Correspondence Secretary: Julie Mellows; Treasurer: Colin Pilbeam; Minutes Secretary: Lionel Cartlidge

1. Chairman's Welcome

Doreen offered a warm welcome to the many members present at what would be her last AGM as Chairman.

2. Minutes of 14 May 2014

The Minutes were agreed unanimously by the members present.

3. Annual Report from the Chairman

It has sometimes seemed in the past four years that my final AGM would never come, but now it seems only yesterday that I approached the platform to appeal for men to join the Keep Dancing group and walked away as Chairman!

Reflecting on this just a couple of days ago brought another thought to my mind: this was that the U3A is not only an environment in which we can learn about subjects or activities that interest us. It is also an environment in which we can learn about ourselves. We can discover things we did not know we could do, abilities we did not know we had.

However, this does require us to be prepared to accept that such things are possible – and reaching this acceptance is the only barrier we have. Any one of us can achieve anything we set out to achieve, even in our Third Age. In my case, it was not even a case of believing that I could do the job of Chairman. I didn't. But it had been made clear that our U3A would not survive if someone didn't step up to the Chair. I just accepted that it had to be done.

Very importantly, I did not manage alone – I have been supported by some wonderful, willing people. This U3A is full of goodwill, and full of people who are prepared to give an enormous amount to their U3A.

The list of people I must thank for this is long – and I am always afraid that I shall forget someone.

First and foremost, I must thank the group leaders. A U3A cannot survive without its Group Leaders. They are the real backbone of everything we do.

Then there are those who take responsibility for certain specific activities, such as the Committee that organises the Days Out, those who act as liaison for the holidays, and the Editor and his team who ensure that we have a very interesting Newsletter.

And then there are the less visible but really essential people who distribute the Newsletters, those who make the tea at Monthly Meetings, those who put out the chairs – and put them away, those who check you all in. All these members deserve the gratitude of the whole membership.

Turning now to the committee, I want to thank all of them for the marvellously cheerful and effective way they have worked:

There are two committee members who are also standing down: Julie, who has been a very efficient Secretary for the past few years and who has listened patiently and calmly to my panics about not being able to cope, and Colin, our Treasurer for the past nine years. He has tolerated me teasing him frequently and has remained smiling. He has kept our finances under firm control – and leaves us in a very healthy situation – and he has carried chairs back and forth with hardly a word of complaint.

So, here we are now: our membership is just over 600, we have more interest groups than ever before, highly successful Days Out and Holidays, and a Newsletter that I consider to be better than any others I have seen.

We express our thanks to our Group Leaders at an annual Lunch, where the noise level is a testament to the pleasure they have in meeting together. The regular coffee mornings to welcome new members are also noisy and very successful – and they have finally produced the group of new volunteers for the committee, a situation I welcome most heartily and with great relief. We should now be able to continue to thrive and to improve our already highly successful U3A. My best wishes and gratitude go to Phyllis and her new committee.

I wish also to thank you - all our members. We would not exist without you. We need to remind ourselves constantly that we are a self-help organisation. We learn because we wish to, and we do not have any learning 'standards' – the only standards we have are those of respect for each other and for this highly successful organisation

I never did find enough men willing to join the Keep Dancing group, but I keep dancing.

My best wishes to you all.

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2014-2015

Colin Pilbeam presented the Accounts for the year (attached) which had been examined by Ian Hudson. The figures record a healthy balance in the main account which will always fluctuate according to the level of subscriptions received and payments made by the end of the financial year. Outgoings included the annual capitation which has to be paid to the Third Age Trust and postage financed the distribution of the Third Age Trust's magazine. Income was again supplemented by Gift Aid which D&D U3A received as a charity.

Social Events and Activity Groups showed surpluses but these will fluctuate over time and in due course income and expenditure will be balanced.

Acceptance of the combined statement of assets and liabilities was proposed by Cliff Waite and seconded by Jean Williams. The statement was unanimously approved.

5. Constitution

The Committee will be reviewing the constitution of Dorking & District U3A to ensure that it reflects current standards and the recommendations of the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission.

6. Elections to the Committee

Election of Officers (two year term):

Chairman: Phyllis Hughes proposed by Pam Toler, seconded by Eileen Kleinsmiede.

Vice-Chairman: Keith Dakin-White proposed by Mike Stewart, seconded by Barbara Pare

Correspondence Secretary: Lionel Cartlidge proposed by Joy Parry, seconded by Pat Lucas

Treasurer: Michael Docker proposed by Jim Docking, seconded by Colin Pilbeam

Membership of the Committee (one year term):

Pam Toler: proposed by Julie Mellows, seconded by Judith Kingsley

Bob Crooks: proposed by Colin Pilbeam, seconded by Jim Docking

Jenny Ford: proposed by Jim Docking, seconded by Robert Edmondson

Jim Docking: proposed by Bob Crooks, seconded by Michael Potts

Judy Perry: proposed by Charmian Corner, seconded by Ruth Bergman

Michael Potts: proposed by Jim Docking, seconded by Julie Mellows

Geoff Saunders: proposed by Lionel Cartlidge, seconded by Jenny Ford

Pat Smith: proposed by Pam Toler, seconded by Geoff Saunders

As there were no other candidates, the vote was conducted en bloc. The nominations set out above were approved unanimously by the members present.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

It was agreed to appoint Ian Hudson as Independent Examiner

8. Any Other Business

No other items of business were raised and the meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

The meeting was followed by a performance by the Singing for Pleasure Group and a talk on Art by Bill Hill.