

**MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORKING AND DISTRICT U3A**

Held at the Christian Centre 14 May, 2014

Chair, Doreen Raine; Vice-Chair/Correspondence Secretary, Julie Mellows; Treasurer, Colin Pilbeam

Apologies: Lionel Cartlidge, Minutes Secretary

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The many members of D&D U3A present at the AGM were welcomed, attendance being a good reflection of the interest shown by members in the running of their U3A.

**2. Minutes of 14 May, 2014**

There were no corrections, and the Minutes were agreed unanimously by the members present.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were none.

**4. Annual Report from Chairman**

The Chairman reported that the year 2013-2014 had again been very successful for our U3A. More new groups had been formed, driven by the work of Tom Arundel and Pam Toler. Establishing new groups is an exacting task, and we have to recognise that this work is now being undertaken by two Co-ordinators who replaced Joy Parry who previously worked single-handedly.

A second Group Leaders' lunch was again very successful at the beginning of 2014. These lunches are a small way of acknowledging the valuable work that Leaders of interest groups do for our U3A. We also use this opportunity to share ideas and to underline the importance of Group Leaders as links between the Committee and members.

We have also continued to hold coffee mornings to welcome new members. The response to these meetings has been extremely positive, as they enable new members to meet each other and to meet Committee members. They also provide an opportunity to pass on the principles of the U3A and to emphasise that we can only function properly if all members contribute in some way to their own learning and to the learning experiences of others.

A small PR/Publicity group has been formed to examine ways of communicating what we do between ourselves and with the community around us.

We also recognise that much is to be gained by widening our experience in many ways. The enthusiasm shown for the Days Out and Holidays demonstrates the popularity and success of these activities. The hard work of Jean Williams and her team who organise Days Out, and of Angela Cooke and Jim Docking who organise holidays is very much appreciated.

There are many others who work willingly and to a large extent invisibly in the service of D&D U3A. Hoping not to overlook anyone, the Chairman thanked Val Masters and her team of tea makers, Elizabeth Holmes and her team of deliverers of Newsletters, Jim Docking and Michael Docker for their skilful editing of the Newsletter, and Carole Brough Fuller and Joy Parry for proof-reading the Newsletter. In particular, the Chairman thanked all the Committee for their tireless and cheerful support in keeping D&D U3A viable and thriving.

The Chairman pointed out that some slight changes had been proposed to the Constitution of D&D U3A, the most notable being a limit to the number of years any member might serve on the Committee. If accepted by the members present at the AGM, this would mean that some members of the Committee would have completed their terms of office by the time of the next AGM. The Chairman emphasised that this would mean that we would be asking other members to be prepared to come forward to serve on the Committee. An invitation was extended to anyone interested to sit in on Committee meetings to discover how they work.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone for their support over the preceding year.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2013 – 2014**

Colin Pilbeam presented the Accounts for the year, again examined for us by Tony Neville. The balance remains very healthy, once again boosted somewhat by Gift Aid rebate.

Tony Barnes questioned whether there should be such a high positive balance. The response was that the figures represent the balance at a given moment. Certain amounts of money are received on behalf of specific activity groups, etc., and these amounts are usually very rapidly disbursed on behalf of those groups for hire of venues, etc.

The healthy balance means that there is no need to increase membership subscriptions at this time.

#### **6. Modifications to the Constitution of Dorking and District U3A**

The small modifications, namely some slight changes in vocabulary and the inclusion of a limit of nine years for service on the Committee, were accepted unanimously by those members present.

It was pointed out that our Constitution does not follow any of the models proposed by the Third Age Trust, and that further attention might be required to the Constitution.

#### **7. Elections: Vice Chairman and up to six Committee members**

Raymond Jones was proposed for the **Office of Vice-Chairman**(two year term) by Joyce Musgrove, and seconded by Carole Brough Fuller. His appointment was confirmed by the membership present.

##### **Membership of the Committee (one year term):**

Robert Crooks proposed by Phyllis Palfreeman, seconded by Robert Edmondson.

James Docking proposed by Elizabeth Holmes, seconded by Mike Thurner

Jennifer Ford proposed by Jill Burberry, seconded by Peter Shelley

Lionel Cartlidge proposed by Patricia Evans, seconded by Robert Edmondson

Pam Toler proposed by Angela Cooke, seconded by Robert Edmondson

As there were no other candidates, it was proposed that the vote should be conducted en bloc. The above were elected unanimously by the membership present.

**The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer** had already been elected in 2013 for two-year terms.

#### **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of our Accounts**

No Examiner's name was put forward, and it was therefore not possible to appoint. An Examiner must be found for next year.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

No other business was raised, and the meeting was closed at 2.30 pm.

The meeting was followed by a talk by Derrick Fulford on "Modern Day Smuggling".