

**BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22rd Nov at 2.30PM**

1. The chairman welcomed everyone and hoped they were enjoying all of the exhibits. He then declared the AGM open.
2. Apologies – Lilia Bogle
3. Minutes of 2016 AGM, hard copies were available around the hall. There is a copy on the Web site. The Chairman asked if everyone had seen them. He then asked if they could be signed as correct.

Proposed: Helen Preston
Seconded Dorothy Morgan
Show of Hands in favour

Matters Arising: None

4. Chairman's Report – Clive Cowdy

'It has been another year of Strong Growth for our U3A. At the end of our year we had over 850 members. I am convinced that the growth comes from personal recommendations so you are the ones who are selling our U3A.

Our most important activity is our groups and I am delighted to say that we have had strong growth in this area with currently approximately 75 groups. I know some brave people co-ordinate more than one group but there must be more than 60 people acting as GCs. There seems to be a strong surge in wanting to make music, We now have 2 recorder groups, the ukulele group is doing well and we now have a music ensemble. You will have an opportunity to hear both the music ensemble and the recorders at our Xmas Social. None of this would happen without the hard work and enthusiasm of the Group Co-ordinators. Without them we would not have a U3A! Please give them a big round of Applause

Of course not everything goes smoothly and I have to report that the wider association of U3As known as Bedsplus based in Bedfordshire and north Bucks has decided to close as we felt that we were too small to generate useful activities. This means that we have no link between The Third Age Trust and ourselves. I would urge the new committee to seek to join one of the other U3A groupings to share experiences and skills. On the financial side we have been so successful at managing our surplus funds that we now need to increase our annual subscription to a more realistic £15.

One of the targets I set myself as chairman was to raise the level and quality of research we do. We are making progress with Buckingham University and talking to the Psychology and Computer departments about possible joint research into aspects of the aging population (ie US!) but progress is very slow. We have however completed one major project. A couple of years ago I was talking to Roger

Edwards about research and he volunteered to talk to Stowe House Preservation Trust about possible joint research. As a result we gathered together a team of volunteers and they produced this very professional publication the "Buckingham and Stowe Times". It will be on sale at our Xmas Social and Roger will be giving a short talk on how it was produced.

I want to end my report by thanking the people who make our U3A run smoothly. Ginny Booth who organises the New Members Coffee mornings. Anita Savage who has edited the Newsletter for the last year, Maggie Pringle and her team who have produced such splendid spreads at our socials and Dusty Roades who has been running our charity efforts for the last few years. Sadly Anita, Dusty and Maggie and her team are finishing at the end of December; So could you please give them a big round of applause for all the work they have done.

Finally I want to thank the members of the committee for their support and hard work and for the fun we have had at our regular committee meetings. Please give them a big round of applause.'

5. Treasurer's Report – Paddy Collins
The accounts have been signed off and will be available on the website.
See below for motions and background.
6. Adoption of Reports:
Proposer: Di Proctor
Seconder: June Oliff
Show of Hands Accepted
7. Election of Officers:
We must elect 4 officers at the AGM: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. We have received the following proposals.

Chairman - Martin Paul
Proposed, Seconded by Rosie Cowdy
Accepted by a show of hands

Vice Chairman – Mike Weston
Proposed by, Robin Rowlands Seconded by Graham Young
Accepted by a show of hands

Treasurer: Paddy Collins
Proposed by Graham Young Seconded by Rosie Cowdy
Accepted by a show of hands

Secretary: None proposed
8. Election of Committee: Our Constitution allows us to elect 10 committee members including the four officers.
The following committee members have been proposed

Lilia Bogle
Proposed, Jo Taylor Seconded Dorothy Morgan

Derek Morgan
Proposed by, Dorothy Morgan Seconded by Jo Taylor

Janti Mistry
Proposed by Bill Mercer Seconded by Linda Beazley

Dusty Roades
Proposed by Pamela Tonge , Seconded by Linda Side

Linda Beazley
Proposed by J Kentish, Seconded by Bill Mercer

Lorna Joy
Proposed by Carolyn Norman, Seconded by Clive Cowdy

Accepted by a show of hands

Data Protection: Derek Morgan

Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act was introduced some years ago to ensure that individuals' personal data was protected.

From May 2018 this act will be replaced by the General Data Protection Act - as a result we have been reviewing our procedures. The revision in the law has the effect of tightening up the regulations.

- Buckingham U3A holds your personal information – Name, Address, Phone number, email address etc.

This data is held by the membership secretary and is used to manage your membership subscriptions and for any other purpose associated with your membership, for example for distribution of local and national newsletters, and if the trustees need to contact you for any reason associated with your membership.

If you leave the U3A, your data will be retained for 3 years, unless you request otherwise.

- The Webmaster also has access to GCs individual email addresses so that messages addressed to their official email (@buckinghamu3a.org.uk) can be forwarded.

Do be aware that using a “personal” or home email address exposes that address to spam or unwanted messages. For that reason, we advise using the “official” email to contact your members and to keep it separated from your personal account. It is web based which minimises the risk of downloading any spam or viruses to your home PC.

GCs should be aware that if they reply to group members from their personal email address (thus revealing it to others) then that is their responsibility.

We obtain your consent when you sign the registration form.

- We would remind all members that they should not share email addresses with other members except with their explicit permission. Group Coordinators should always distribute emails using the blind copy option (BCC) UNLESS they have permission from those on the email list to share the information. (If you do not know how to do that in your email package then help and advice can be given).
- We store your data on personal computers protected by passwords; if you wish to examine the data we hold then you can request this from the membership secretary.
- A full explanation of the impact of the new regulations is available on the web site and on the U3A national website.
- There were no questions

Handover to new Chairman

Martin began with thanks to Clive.

9. Motion 1

The committee, having considered the detailed figures, propose an increase in annual subscriptions to £15 starting next year 2018/19.

Motion1 – Subs

Background

In early 2015 the committee recognised that we were holding more funds than we required.

The surplus had grown over several years to £14,697.

A decision was made to reduce the subs temporarily to reduce the surplus and annual subscriptions were reduced to £10 for year 2015/16 and 2 subsequent years.

As you can see we have now eaten through that surplus and it now stands at £6,986. It is now time to get subs back to a sustainable level.

Of the £10 you pay £3.50 goes as affiliation to the Third Age Trust and a further £2.00 for the TAT magazine. We have no control over these costs.

The remaining £4.50 doesn't go far and costs are increasing.

Di Proctor asked how long it would remain at £15. Paddy assured her it would be for more than a year.

Pam Tonge: Asked: Were the accounts available? They will be on the website.

Proposed: Lorna Joy

Seconded: Julian Handley

Accepted by a show of hands

10. Motion 2

The committee propose that Buckingham & District U3A proceed with setting up a new CIO charity with the same trustees, charity objectives and comparable constitution and transfer everything over to the new charity and close the existing charity when the new charity is up and running.

Motion2 - CIO

Background

As currently constituted we are an unincorporated registered charity – charity no.1071631 – and the trustees, the committee, are personally liable for any debts that the charity may incur.

Whilst it is not envisaged that we would ever find ourselves in such a position as to have unpaid debts it would be prudent to change the legal status of Buckingham & District U3A to that of a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in which the trustees do not have personal liability for debts.

To do this we need to set up a new CIO charity with the same charitable objectives and then transfer everything over to the new charity – we cannot keep the same charity number. This may also involve new bank accounts and a new registration with HMRC for Gift Aid.

Pam Tonge: When we change charities will it affect bank accounts. Will we need to pay subs to a different bank

Proposed: Dusty Roades

Seconded: Helen Preston

Accepted by a show of hands

9. Election of President. This is an honorary role. The committee have proposed that Clive Cowdy be elected.

Proposer: Di Proctor

Secunder: Pam Tonge

Accepted by a show of hands

10. Choice of Charity. Thanks to Dusty our current charity "Project Street Life". No stall this month but collecting box at back – hope to make £800 by year end.

Proposals for next year's Charity

Two Charities have been proposed,

Willen Hospice: 42 votes

Friends of Buckingham Hospital: By Majority.

11. Members' Forum

Margaret Gateley Tina Mitchell Fair Trade steering groups. 10 year anniversary. Would like to propose only use fair trade products for U3a teas at open meet and groups.

Clive asked if that would cause problems for catering team. Waitrose do sell the products.

Proposed: Margaret Gateley

Seconded: Steve Hayward

Accepted by a show of hands

Helen Preston: Beginners Latin group has shrunk. Need more members.

12. Martin declared the meeting closed at 3.15