

**Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A held on  
Wednesday 23rd October 2013 in the Buckingham Community Centre**

**Present:** 148 members, including the committee.

1 **Welcome:** The President, Bryan Weston-Thomas, welcomed members and guests, with the reminder for members to sign-in and that only members may vote.

2 **Apologies :** Diana Procter, Clive Cowdy, Carolina Kenealy, David Angrave and member Mira Allen

3 **Minutes of the last meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The meeting accepted the minutes as correct, proposed by Betty Stubbs and seconded by Anthony Smith.

4 **Matters Arising:** Nil

5 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Pamela Tonge, reported that membership had increased from 671 to 724 during the year ended 30th September 2013. Some subscriptions had not yet been renewed and late payment delayed the production of membership cards. Subscriptions had been held at £13. During the year several new groups had been started, including The History of Literature and the Theatre, Recorders, French for Beginners and Bridge for Beginners, with Gardening & Allotments awaiting a minimum of 6 members and a Group Co-ordinator. It was hoped that some members would form a new group to visit housebound members to start in the New Year.

The availability of venues had been a problem with the temporary closure of Well St Centre but other free venues had been found. Maids Moreton Hall Nursing Home was no longer available from the New Year due to an increased number of residents. Jazz Appreciation, Film Study and Creative Writing would be meeting in members' houses in future. It was felt the increased contribution for venues from 20p to 50p was justified, due to the increase in rents. Most other U3As charged back all venue costs to members.

Our U3A had life membership of the University of Buckingham, which offered 20% discount in the bookshop and the opportunity for coffee/lunch in their refectory. The President was organising the 2014 Festive Lunch at the University, accommodating up to 90 members of which 53 bookings had been made to date.

The charity stall, supporting Children with Cancer UK, had raised £881 of the £1,000 target year to date and the Craft Group had agreed to make a donation from the sale of a quilt. 'Bling and Jewellery' would be the items for the charity stall for the November Open Meeting when the Christmas Quiz sheets would be available.

The Chairman was grateful for the support and hard work of the Committee Members over the year and would be sorry to lose some long-standing members – George Walker, Colin Armstrong, Sheila Dalzell, Christine Dodds and Pat Costello, who had been Treasurer for 13 years. However, new people with new ideas was important for the benefit of the U3A and nominations for all vacancies had been received. Shadow members were also required. Growth was very much down to the Group Co-ordinators for their enthusiasm, hard work and knowledge, keeping membership buoyant. Val Bradley worked hard promoting and starting new groups and Beryl Carr's organisation of theatre trips, outings and holidays was exceptional. Catering for events and social gatherings was the hard work of Carolina Kenealy's catering team. Pam thanked everyone for all the hard work and effort supporting the Chairman.

6 **Treasurer's Report**

Pat Costello reported that income from subscriptions was up again by £941 confirming increased membership and also reflected in the return from Gift Aid, up by £350 which emphasised the importance of registering for Gift Aid. The cost of venues had risen by £836 confirming the relevance of increasing the payment to 50p from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Venue costs were £3435 and the Community Centre and Council Chamber for Committee Meetings was £1246. Miscellaneous expenses included New Members' Coffee Mornings, CLA Licences, membership cards, diaries etc. The Charity now ran as a separate entity. The financial year finished with a small surplus of £691 and funds of £13,990 to cover 11 months' expenses. Pat thanked Angus Davidson for being the Accounts Examiner during her time as Treasurer. A copy of the accounts would be issued with the next newsletter.

- 7 **Adoption of Reports**  
The meeting adopted the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports, proposed by Susie Kelly and seconded by Liz Loufti.
- 8 **Election of Committee**  
The five nominations for the committee were unanimously agreed, and the members were identified at the meeting -  
Gina Crouch - New Members Support and Publicity  
Proposed by Sheila Dalzell, seconded by Di Procter  
Joan Hatherley - Treasurer  
Proposed by Pat Costello, seconded by Pam Tonge  
Carolina Kenealy – Newsletter Editor  
Proposed by Eileen Carr, seconded by Christine Garner  
Dusty Roades – Speakers Secretary  
Proposed by Ann Kelly, seconded by Susie Kelly  
Roland Simpkins - Webmaster  
Proposed by Dusty Roads, seconded by Linda Side
- 9 **Election of Officers**  
The election of committee officers was unanimously agreed -  
Pamela Tonge - Chairman  
Proposed by Margaret Anderson, seconded by Carol Iles  
Clive Cowdy – Vice Chairman  
Proposed by John Walton, seconded by David Everson  
Joan Hatherley – Treasurer  
Proposed by Pat Costello, seconded by Pamela Tonge  
Val Bradley – Business Secretary and Group Liaison Officer  
Proposed by Pat Costello, seconded by Christine Dodds
- 10 **Special Resolution to adopt the Revised Constitution**  
The Chairman reported that the U3A Third Age Trust had urged U3As to ensure constitutions incorporated specific terms of office for Committee Members, with which Buckingham did not currently comply, and a sub-committee had been formed to look into the constitution. The new conditions now stipulated a term of 1-3 years for committee members, plus a possible 1-3 years in a second post. After a maximum of 6 years, Members would be required to stand down, with the exception of the Treasurer who could stand for up to 6 years continuously before standing down. This now required ratification by the members before being sent to the Charity Commissioners.  
The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the Revised Constitution was adopted.
- 11 **Members' Forum**  
2014 Diaries: The Chairman reminded the meeting that these were available from Val Bradley.  
Transport Action Group: Christine Dodds reported from the Transport Action Group that the Buckingham Community Bus was discontinued due to lack of use. £5 would buy £95 worth of taxi tokens. Members on Income Support could claim for hospital transport costs. Enquiries to Pam or Christine before the next TAG meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December.  
Travel and Outings: Beryl Carr updated information for members.  
Membership cards: Shirley Knight commented that the old-type membership card was preferable to the new one as it gave the monthly meeting information. However, the majority of those assembled were happy with the new version which fitted into purses and wallets. The 2014 card would have a colour flash as identification, and was cheaper to print.  
Rise in Venue Costs: Shirley Knight also commented on the rise in venue costs. The meeting supported the Treasurer's response that this was preferable to increasing subscriptions and only affected certain groups.  
Next Year's Charity: Ann and Bernard Keating proposed that next year's chosen charity be MIND, which supported people with mental illness especially young adults, in memory of the tragic loss of their granddaughter. The meeting agreed.  
Keeper of Equipment: Mike Baker agreed to take over this responsibility from Geoff Kirk.
- 12 Chairman, Pam Tonge, formerly closed the meeting and invited members to view the Group displays and take some refreshment.