



Buckingham & District BUCKINGHAM U3A Annual General Meeting Minutes 2023

For the Annual General Meeting held at 2:30 pm Wednesday, 22nd November at the Community Centre, Buckingham.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. She declared the meeting quorate. Attendees were 54 in total, including the Committee members.
- 2. Apologies:** The Chairperson reported that apologies had been received from 34 members, and a full list of these can be seen in the **Appendix**.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, copies of which had been posted on the Society's website, were approved. Approval was given by a show of hands.
- 4. Chairperson's Report**

Lilia Bogle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She reflected on the last 18 years as a member of Buckingham & District U3A, including the last nine years as a Group Liaison Officer, Vice Chair and now Chair. She has therefore had the privilege to see the many changes and development that have taken place within our organisation, which has been and still is the biggest charitable organisation in Buckingham.

This year has been a very challenging, dynamic and progressive year. Having recovered from the pandemic, we have embraced new ways of working, successfully created many new groups and extended our membership. There has been a change in age demographic where new members are retiring early or working part time and wish to join our U3A. The younger generation brings with them much-needed enthusiasm and great ideas, ensuring our U3A will continue to evolve and remain vibrant.

On the other hand, we have lost many valuable members who have left their legacy and imprint on the organisation, and we will miss them.

Due to the growth of the organisation, we needed to develop an IT 'Simple system' to handle all our data and improve our communication with members. This has proven to be very successful and given us useful information and new ways of communicating. This has allowed us to identify 19 members who have been with Buckingham U3A for 25 or more

years. It has been agreed by the Committee that they will be recognised and given honorary membership so they will no longer need to pay annual membership. These members will be written to in due course.

Our website and Facebook site continue to be an asset in keeping us updated with all our members and groups. We have developed a telephone contact on the website so messages can be left by people making enquiries. This is manned by the Committee members.

We will be electing new Committee members and Trustees today. The new Committee members have been shadowing the existing members to provide a seamless transition. We have created additional roles to meet the needs of the organisation, such as a publicity coordinator and an events coordinator. Working in new ways has included hybrid meetings and the new technical resources coordinator will help to facilitate this.

The successful re-introduction of the Newsletter over the last year has been vital in informing members of activities within the Buckingham U3A. Not all members can access on-line, so the Newsletter is available in other ways.

Lilia thanked the Committee members, who have all gone the extra mile and more and we can now see the benefits of a successful, well planned, well organised and thriving U3A. She also thanked the most important people of the organisation, the members themselves and the groups who have kept the Buckingham U3A alive.

She ended by saying that the future looks bright and exciting, and she can't wait to see how it will continue to develop in 2024.

5. Treasurer's Report

Paddy Collins reported that there are surplus funds of £18k, with a deficit of £2k over the year that he is not concerned about. The examined accounts had been signed off and are available on the website. Paddy was asked why what we spent on venue contributions exceeded the money collected from groups for venues. He replied that each group should be self-financing, but the Committee took the view this year that we would subsidise some groups that were struggling to get back to full numbers after Covid. Pam Tonge proposed acceptance of the accounts, and this was seconded by Lesley Suggate.

6. Other Reports

Group Liaison Officers:

Mark Owen reported that there were new groups starting up, some of which had been started by new members who had moved into the area, which was good to see. Examples of recent new groups included Astronomy and Science & Technology. The Simple management system is producing results: everyone is on the system now. He requested that everyone uses the Simple system rather than personal emails. A new Current Affairs group is starting with its first meeting on 5th December and an Environment group has been proposed.

The Painting, Digital Camera, Tuesday Gardening, Dining & Eating and Current Affairs groups are represented on tables at the back of the hall for discussion about their group with them, after this meeting.

Membership Secretary:

Janti Mistry reported that we currently have 761 active members as against 717 at the last

AGM. This was an increase of 6%. There have been 37 new members since 1st September. The renewal process was reduced from 12 weeks to 2 months and the process has worked quite well. He asked that payments can be made during September in future so that the process can be completed in the first week of October; bank transfer is preferable. Some U3As charge extra fees for handling cheques, but Buckingham does not. It is important that members use the membership number with bank payments or cheques when renewing; this feeds into the IT system that allows groups to check whether people are members. It is helpful to pay individually rather than jointly for people living together for the same reason. Janti has written a user manual for the Simple system that should make it easier for his successor.

Speaker Secretary:

Roland Simpkins reminded the meeting of the events that had been held over the last year. This started with music at the Christmas Social last December, then a talk in January 'Fools Gold' about crimes and quack medicine in January, in February a talk by Martin Lloyd on passports and how there is a connection to spies and assassins, in March a talk on the ten dukes of Buckingham, in April insights into the work of medical detection dogs, in May Alex Ledger on the scary moments they had when filming Blue Peter, in June Andrew Spencer telling us about satellites and why they cost so much, the Summer Social in July, in September an art talk about the pre-Raphaelite sisterhood and, finally, in October a person interpretation of Henry VIII, England's favourite king. If you have any suggestions for future talks, please contact Roland.

Webmaster's report:

Our webmaster Derek Morgan had served in the post for almost 6 years and was due to step down at this AGM. Unfortunately, due to his passing away on the 28th August, he was unable to reach this significant point.

During his time as Webmaster, he ensured the site was always kept up to date with relevant information, including group listings, and dealt with all queries in a calm and reassuring manner, supporting group leaders and colleagues as necessary. Over the past year and a half, he was very much involved in the implementation of the new Simple Membership system, and was responsible earlier this year for the transfer of all our groups information to the new system, so that it was accessible for all. He provided the links between the main site and the new system, allowing members to join online and to log into their profile from there.

His successor will be his wife Dorothy, who will do all in her power to follow in his footsteps and continue the work in the same way that he did. It was fortunate that he had some time to provide help and guidance during the latter part of the summer, so that Dorothy feels more confident as a result. There was warm applause from the meeting for appreciation of Derek's contribution to Buckingham U3A.

7. Election of Trustees

Lilia Bogle thanked the outgoing members. She thanked Dorothy Morgan, the outgoing Secretary. She thanked Sarah Katz who has produced the most excellent newsletters over the last year and is now moving out of the area. Paddy Collins has been Treasurer for the last six years and has been the backbone of the Buckingham & District U3A. She thanked him for his support and dedication. Janti Mistry has been Membership Secretary for most of the last nine years. The meeting applauded each of these people in turn, and each was presented with a gift of appreciation.

Lilia is also stepping down as Chairperson. She thanked everyone who has supported her

and Buckingham U3A, who welcomed her as Chairperson, and allowed her to be part of this wonderful organisation. She will always cherish her experiences and will now have more time to join more groups.

Lilia nominated Howard Mordue as the new Chair. Paddy Collins and Lesley Suggate seconded.

Howard said that he was very proud to be taking over as Chair of Buckingham U3A. He thanked Lilia for all her work as Chairperson and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Committee. He explained that the Committee is there to support the groups. He aims to communicate as much as possible, both internally and externally, so that everyone in and around Buckingham should know about the Buckingham U3A.

The following Committee members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election and would be happy to continue to be Trustees: Howard Mordue (Chairperson), Dorothy Morgan (Webmaster), Mark Owen, Katerina Owen, Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officers) and Roland Simpkins (Vice Chairman and Speaker Secretary).

The following people have indicated their willingness to stand for election as Committee members and Trustees:

Susan Geary – shadow Treasurer
Sheryl Hargreaves – shadow Newsletter Editor
Steve Warnes – shadow Membership Secretary
Heather Haydock – shadow Secretary

All of these people were elected en-bloc through a show of hands.

8. Election of President (optional appointment)

Howard proposed Lilia as President, and this was approved through a show of hands.

9. Any Other Business

No other business.

10. Members Forum Q&A

There was a question about First Aiders. Howard reported that this was discussed at a Committee meeting, where it was decided that individual groups should decide whether they needed a First Aider to be trained.

Lesley noted that the acoustics in the hall were not working well. Howard noted that Steve Meakin is the new Technical Support person and he may be able to help.

There was a question about forwarding Buckingham U3A emails to personal accounts. Arthur responded that you could add the Buckingham U3A email as an additional account on Outlook or similar. You would need a Roundcube password to do this, which you can get from the Webmaster.

11. Closing Remarks by Chairman

The Christmas Social is on 14th December and some volunteers are needed to serve the tea and coffee. Please let us know if you are coming to the social.

On 16th December there will be a Community Fair in the Community Centre, and Buckingham U3A will have a stall there; volunteers would be welcome to help on the day.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed, and refreshments were served to the attendees.

Charity No. 1177534

Appendix: Apologies List AGM 2023 – total 34

Name	Surname
Gary	Marven
Pat	Sturgess
Arlette	Romaine
Tracy	Baker
Colin	Baker
Ian	Cooke
Julia	Hough
Claire	Cooke
Antony	Catling
Lynne	Legrove
Rima	Scott
Richard	Scott
Marion	Rogers
Patricia	Berrey
Brenda	Hamilton
Gaynor	Noonan
Margaret	Pringle
Mark	Orchard
Sue	Watkins
Diana	Owen
Steve	Warnes
Patricia	Reynolds
Hugh	Morton
Brian	Hare
Linda	Hare
Jackie	Wilks
Steve	Graham
Tony	Dines
Christine	Dines
Irene	Lee
Ruth	Newell
Andrew	Cross
Yvonne	Cross
Steve	Graham