

**MINUTES OF THE U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT LITTLETON HALL  
2.30P.M.TUESDAY THE 10TH OF MARCH 2015**

**Committee members present:**

John Brewer (chairman), Freda Bates (business secretary), Clive Boot (chairman designate), Bill Convery (new members), Jean Coveyduck (groups), Margaret Henstock (deputy chairman), Martin Hogg (subscriptions), Valerie King (groups deputy), Margaret Lawson (newsletter), David Mason (webmaster), Chris Sharratt (treasurer designate), Ann Rich (speakers), Tony Venn (treasurer) and approximately 90 members.

1. **Welcome** The Chairman opened the meeting at 2.30.
2. **Apologies** Hubert Henstock, Anne Church, Christine Allen, June Handley
3. **Minutes of the last annual general meeting held on 11th March 2014**  
Copies were distributed before the meeting began and were accepted unanimously.
4. **Matters arising** None.

**5. Chairman's report**

John Brewer said: 2015 has been a year of transition for me and consolidation for our U3A. The membership is stable at around 1300 and we have attracted 100 new members. The number of groups remains just above 100 and we continue to cater for an amazing range of topics. The recorders entertained us at the Christmas Quiz. We do not see enough of what our groups achieve.

Financially we have operated on a break even basis and expect to continue to do so. Our membership subscription is very low at £8 per head. The committee discussed whether an increase to £12 was sensible but have decided that we are adequately financed as we have reserves of £5000. We are pleased to keep the subscription as low as possible and for the time being it will remain unchanged.

Our monthly meetings continue to attract about 100 people and there are also theatre outings and visits organised particularly by Questor Groups.

The main event in 2014 was our 25th Anniversary Party organised by Ann Rich. The Mayor attended and Pat Bright cut the anniversary cake. The event was enjoyed by all.

The willingness of the committee is as always critical and today we are saying goodbye to many who have performed sterling service:

Valerie King - involved with groups and monthly meetings

Martin Hogg - dealt with subscriptions and covenants

Tony Venn - as treasurer dealt with financial and charitable matters

Ann Rich - organised monthly meetings and was involved in many other ways

Margaret Lawson - edited the newsletter every two months

David Mason - has been over many years treasurer, webmaster and much more

He is in reality Mr Winchester U3A.

I take this opportunity to express appreciation for their contribution and hard work.

It will be a very hard act to follow, made more problematic because of the increasing difficulty in attracting new committee members.

I conclude my report by saying that I have enjoyed my final year as Chairman, and by thanking the Committee for their support. I also wish to express my appreciation to the membership for their tolerance and goodwill.

The Chairman's Report was accepted unanimously.

**6. Treasurer's report:** Copies of the examined accounts were distributed before the meeting began.

Tony Venn thanked Chris Sharratt for stepping in last September to assist with the bookkeeping and thanked also Andrew Beadle for acting once again as Honorary Independent Advisor.

At the committee meeting in May 2014 a deficit had been forecast of £1000 to £1500. This included the one off costs of the 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

The three major recurring annual costs of the Winchester U3A are:

1. Capitation Fees of about £4300 to the Third Age Trust.
2. About £5500 for producing and posting our newsletter.
3. The cost of receiving the Third Age Trust Magazine - about £1500.

Clive Boot had carried out a review of possible alternatives to our existing arrangements for the newsletter which predicted a saving of about £700 in 2014 and a hoped for further saving of £900 in 2015. This has now been introduced.

Altogether savings on the newsletter, a smaller contribution than expected to the cost of the 25th anniversary celebrations and monthly meeting donations have meant that we have balanced the books in 2014 and a similar result can be expected for 2015.

The accounts for 2014 were accepted unanimously.

## **7.ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Clive Boot was appointed chairman unopposed and John Brewer presented him with the key to the Hall. The new Chairman said that he had been given to believe that being chairman was a lot of fun. This caused some laughter. He went on to thank John Brewer for his hard work, commitment and kind leadership during the past year and also to thank Bill Convery, Jean Coveyduck and Margaret Henstock who were prepared to continue serving on the committee. Freda Bates, Chris Sharratt and Bob Brinkman would be officially joining as full members for the first time.

The new chairman highlighted the continuing anxiety posed by the lack of anyone being willing to take on the responsibility of organising monthly speakers or editing the newsletter and the sad consequences of this lack - no speakers and no newsletter.

He asked the membership to vote in all those standing and all were accepted.

It was stated that Julian Carlick wished to continue to manage the archive although not as a committee member. Andrew Beadle was voted unanimously as Independent Financial Advisor for 2015. Grateful thanks were offered to Rose and Steve Saunders for their willingness to continue managing the tea rota and to Vera Hogg for continuing to co-ordinate with regional level trustees.

The Chairman went on to say that 2015 looked like being an exciting and challenging year with interesting anniversaries etc. to celebrate. He had already been in discussion with representatives of the University of Winchester and the Hospital Trust. Good things are hoped for from these links.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.**

The meeting closed at 2.58p.m.

**NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY MARCH 8TH 2016**

During the informal discussion following the talk by David Fenton about Wimbledon Tennis Hazel Booth offered to organise the speakers at monthly meetings and Roger Warr said he was prepared to edit the newsletter. Their offers were very gratefully received.

