

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF SAFFRON WALDEN U3A

HELD ON Tuesday 2nd September 2014 at 2.30 pm

AT THE TOWN HALL, SAFFRON WALDEN

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Michael Swindlehurst, Veronica Sylvester, Eiraly's Pickering, Joan Shadbolt, Neville Harding, Pam Sherman, Philippa Croft, Job and Margaret Tissot von Patot and Stella McSweeney, John Stokes.

3. Minutes of 2013 AGM (and adoption as true record).

The Secretary read out the Minutes. No matters arising. Adoption as a true record.

4. Chairman's Report.

The free draw will be made at the end of the afternoon's proceedings.

Thanks were expressed to the following:

- committee members for their support during the year
- coordinators and tutors
- window dressers for the TIC window - Peter Divall and Isobel Jones
- Martin Hugall, website manager . The website is Saffron Walden U3A's face on the world and brings in the majority of enquiries relating to membership. It is anticipated that in the coming months the website will undergo a revamp .

New classes e.g. Pilates (3) Mah- jong 2, Italian, Lunch Club. There may well be a Pilates (4) class. Mainly4Men held bi-monthly is doing well.

A survey is being carried out as the committee is keen to have the ideas of its members, and to make members part of the future of Saffron Walden U3a. The results will be analysed and shared. Theatre & Travel –a new team is bringing fresh ideas and management techniques.

The Chairman said she would like to extend a welcome to the new editor of Update, Jessica Jackson.

Speakers at Open Meetings - the committee welcomes feedback and asks that if you know of a speaker whose presentation or subject was both interesting and professional to please share the details.

The Bowls club move for Open Meetings was made by the Committee due to parking provision.

Membership 627 – a reminder was made to remember to Gift Aid as this provides useful additional income.

Committee members all stand down following the guidance set out in the Constitution. However all are prepared to stand for re-election with the exception of the Secretary, Jenny Lauder, who informed the Chairman of her resignation today. The Chairman thanked her for her valuable contribution to Saffron Walden U3a. There will need to be a discussion about a successor at the Committee meeting on the 15th September.

The Committee is interested in recruiting a Public Relations officer to build local links. This decision has been taken due to the growth in retirement residential projects here in SW. The Chairman suggested to the AGM that they should come and along and “shadow” a Committee role to see if it is something they would like to be involved with. Maintaining and taking our U3A forward is essential. If you think this would be of interest, please speak to a member of the Committee. The chairman went on to say that we want to make this U3A an association which incorporates classes and activities that you as members want to be involved in – so we value your opinions.

There will be a New Members Coffee morning on 3rd November in the Bowls club, Abbey Lane at 10.30 where it is intended to welcome all the new member. It is an occasion for new members to meet Coordinators and Tutors and find out more about Saffron Walden U3A.

The Chairman reminded members that they can join in other local U3a activities – certainly Thorley welcomes our members.

The Chairman closed with a reminder of our Mission Statement – ‘Lifelong learning for Third Agers’. The principles of which are that it should be self-help, non-political and non-denominational.

The Chairman asked that we all look forward to the coming academic year and to the continuing growth of our U3A activities.

5. Treasurer’s Report.

The Treasurer reported that it was not possible to get the accounts examined in time for the Autumn Update due to the examiner being on holiday. A complete set of accounts will be available in the subsequent Update.

The cost of membership has been reduced this year by £5 because of an excess in the accounts. This will be looked at again next year to see if any further adjustment needs to be made.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his attention to detail and his valued contribution to the U3A.

6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1. To approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31st July 2014.

Proposed by Joy Holman; seconded by Christine Greet

6.2. To approve the reappointment of the Examiner of Accounts, Mr. Robert Currie.

Proposed by Peter Grimes; seconded by Ann Banks

6.3. To re-elect Committee Members.

To re-elect Sue Barton, Mary Edwards and Peter Long – proposed by George Turner and seconded by Myrtle Blight.

To approve the re-election of Ann Banks, Maresi Bennion and Billie Rochford who have previously served for four years – proposed by John Banks and seconded by Sue Washington.

To elect previously co-opted members Terry Allen and Jessica Jackson – proposed by Bill Morris and seconded by Beryl Ihm.

7. Any other business

The Chairman showed a DVD dated from 1983 held by Essex Records Office describing Saffron Walden U3a – she requested that if anyone recognised any of those appearing to please come and write down their names on the board at the front.

REMINDER – New members Coffee Morning – Monday 3rd November at 10.30am at the Bowls club.

The AGM closed at 3.15pm