

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF SAFFRON WALDEN U3A
HELD ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.30 PM
AT THE TOWN HALL, SAFFRON WALDEN**

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the Agenda. The Secretary read the Notice of the AGM.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mary Edwards, Billie Rochford, John & Janet Pearson, Trevor Osbourn, Jessica Jackson, Ann Cousins, Gillian & Michael Lovegrove, John London, Beryl Ihm, Lyn Fisher, George & Betty Turner, Michael Swindlehurst, John & Val Noakes, Greta Collins and Veronica Sylvester.

Minutes of 2014 AGM

The Secretary read out the Minutes and there were no matters arising. These were adopted as a true record by a majority show of hands from the floor.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked fellow committee members for their support during the year. She also thanked coordinators and tutors and the TIC window dresser Peter Divall. Martin Hugall, the website manager was introduced. The new website is our face on the world and brings us the majority of enquiries relating to membership.

New classes. There is a possible new Yoga class, probably on a Friday Ann Cousins is in the process of setting up a Table Tennis Group to be held on a Wednesday afternoon in Debden Village Hall. The new Pilates group is being well attended.

It was advised that a new French conversation class is planned for Tuesday afternoons at 2.00 pm and those interested are advised to contact the Coordinator Sue Rooney.

A survey is being carried out on the subject of ideas for Open Meetings and members were encouraged to complete the questionnaire. Results will be analysed and shared.

Theatre & Travel – doing a very good job with their variety of trips and theatre outings.

Lunch Club continues to be enjoyed by many.

Membership 672– members were reminded about Gift Aid and the Data Protection Act sections of their renewal forms.

Committee members all stand down following the guidance set out in the Constitution. Peter Long, Maresi Bennion, Billie Rochford, Ann Banks and Mary Edwards are not standing for re-election and are retiring from their Committee roles. Terry Allen, Jessica Jackson & Sue Barton will be standing for re-election. Pauline Palmer & Ann Treglown, currently co-opted members, will also be standing. Jean Little is also standing as a committee member.

The Chairman stated that six potential Committee members had attended the last couple of meetings. These are Ann Cousins, Ann Crawford, Trevor Osbourn, Janet Pearson, Alan Nicholls, and Joanna O'Connor. All 12 nominees have been proposed and seconded within the 28 day period prior to the AGM as required by the Constitution.

There is a New Members morning on 12th October in the Bowls club, Abbey Lane at 10.30 where it is intended to welcome new members. It is an occasion for new members to meet Coordinators and Tutors and find out more about the U3A.

The Chairman reminded members that they can join in other local U3A activities without incurring another membership cost, though it should be remembered that this applies to activities/classes where no cost is involved.

The Chairman closed with a reminder of the Mission Statement – Lifelong learning for Third Agers. Principles – self-help, non-political; non-denominational.

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

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the annual accounts and financial statements have been prepared using applicable Accounting Standards and have been examined by an Independent Examiner in accordance with the Charity Commissioners' requirements. There are two sets of accounts; one for the main U3A finances and the other for those of the Theatre & Travel group. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Jean Little for her excellent work in administering the Theatre and Travel accounts. The Treasurer pointed out that there are still sufficient funds in the account and the committee proposed to keep the reduced subscription of £10 for the current year.

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

Resolutions

- To approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31 July 2015

Proposed by Ann Crawford, seconded by Martin Hugall. A majority show of hands from the membership

- To reappoint the Examiner of Accounts, Robert Currie

Proposed by Christine Greet, seconded by Pauline Smith. A majority show of hands from the membership

- To elect the Committee Members

As the Chairman had stated in her report, all members had been proposed and seconded prior to the AGM and the nominations had been received by the Secretary more than 28 days before the meeting. The nominations are:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Terry Allen	Alan Nicholls	Joanna O'Connor
Susan Barton	Janet Pearson	Michael Barton
Ann Cousins	Ann Crawford	Janet Pearson
Ann Crawford	Trevor Osbourn	Tony Treglown
Jean Little	Wendy Smith	Christine Duffy
Jessica Jackson	Joanna O'Connor	Alan Nicholls
Alan Nicholls	Ann Cousins	Ann Crawford
Joanna O'Connor	Ann Crawford	Ann Cousins
Trevor Osbourn	Alan Nicholls	Joanna O'Connor
Pauline Palmer	Joanna O'Connor	Alan Nicholls
Janet Pearson	John Pearson	Michael Barton
Ann Treglown	Wendy Parnell	Brian Linford

A unanimous vote from the membership approved the election of the new committee.

Any Other Business

Terry Allen is investigating the possibility of a new pottery class to be held in a studio near Audley End. Details will appear in Update and on the website in due course.

Reminder - New members Morning 12 October 2015– 10.30 Bowls club

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.00 pm