

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
(Registered Charity No. 1105255)
MINUTES OF 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 23rd May, 2019 10.30 a.m. at Christ Church, Aughton.

Before the meeting commenced Jeff Roberts welcomed all U3A members on behalf of Christchurch.

The Chairman held a moments silence to commemorate departed U3A members over the last year.

1. Chairman's Welcome – Ian Grant

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 16th AGM we had over 130 members present therefore a quorum was achieved. He thanked the Guitar Group for playing prior to the meeting and stressed that everyone involved in the running of our U3A was a volunteer. Val Bullen was also thanked for all her work in running the Social Committee whose events had been extremely successful. The AGM was important as it was an opportunity for U3A members to bring forward matters that may not be included in motions put forward and to ask questions.

2. Apologies

The Chairman received in excess of 50 apologies for non-attendance and had a list that was available to read.

3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were agreed and proposed for approval by Iain Smart and seconded by Derrick Fewings. They will be published on the web page.

4. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

5. Trustees Report- Margaret Gibbon

Before the Trustees Report the Chairman thanked the Trustees for their work and thanked Margaret Gibbon for her commitment to her role as Chair of Trustees and wished her well in her retirement from office. He reminded the members that the Trustees are legally responsible for the activities of Aughton & Ormskirk U3A and at present we have only three elected Trustees.

Margaret Gibbon informed everyone that the Trustees are a team of seven members, of whom four are elected, who are bound by our constitution and must comply with Charity Law. Responsibilities for Trustees include submitting Annual Accounts to our Accountants and the annual return to The Charity Commission plus regular contact with the Third Age Trust and assisting/supporting the Management Committee on its day to day running of business. She further thanked the Management Committee, Subcommittees and all Group Leaders along with the Horizons team for stepping into roles when the need arose. With continuing team effort our U3A will move forward into many more years of friendship, education, and that takes many different forms, and enjoyment. Margaret Gibbon also thanked the Scout & Guide Association for their help and co-operation over the years.

6. Chairman and Secretaries Reports

These will be published as normal in the magazine. This year the printing and distribution of the magazine did not quite tie up with our AGM. The tenure for the role of Chairman is two years so he would be retiring this year and he thanked the members of the Management Committee for their work. This organisation cannot function without the required number of Trustees and as no names have been put forward there are only three elected Trustees. Should one more elected Trustee retire then the Trustees must decide whether the U3A closes or a special meeting held. This must not happen and we would have to consider the older version and return to an Executive Committee system. The U3A are indebted to our landlords for the availability of premises and we thank the Scout & Guide organisation for their vision in their purchase of The Sands which ensures access to our H.Q. The Chairman thanked John Tomlinson for ably acting as Assistant Treasurer and Derrick Fewings for his work in submitting the paperwork and documents to the Accountants. We have had no queries from our Accountants. We have during the year had both VAT and Gift Aid issues and guidance has been sought from Third Age Trust.

We also say goodbye to our Secretary, Linda Burden, who is the conduit for everything that affects our U3A and her attention to detail and clerical skills have provided an excellent service to the U3A. The Chairman wished her good health in her retirement. He also thanked Bill Evans for his work with our magazine. We sadly lost Pete Trigwell a few days ago who exhibited everything we would want in our U3A - his passing is a sad event and it was a privilege to know him. The Distribution Team will continue and our thanks to Ian Haskell for stepping in. Also thanks to Joyce and Alan Nolan for a professional Web Page. There were three persons standing for election to the Management Committee who have already shown commitment and will add additional strength to the Committee.

7. Treasurers Reports

John Tomlinson gave us an overview of the Accounts to date, starting the year with some £95,804 and ending the year with £88,240. A few years ago we committed to reducing the amount of money held in the bank and putting money back into members' hands. This was addressed by reducing the attendance from £1 to 50p, a figure which does not cover the cost of room hire. The present balance is a clear indication of this commitment. There will come a time when it is prudent to stop reduction of account balances. We paid over £28,000 for the hire of around a dozen other local halls. Members spent almost £22,000 on trips to the Philharmonic and theatres around the North West and £6,000 on the hiring of coaches. Drama, Musical Theatre and the Social Committee events generated receipts of £13,000. Receipts and payments sometimes do not align due to the cut off date of the accounts but this is appropriate and acceptable by the Charity Commission.

8. a. Resolution 1 – To approve the Accounts for 2018/19

Proposed by Judi Ingman. Seconded by Iain Smart.

b. Resolution 2 – JVSA be appointed as the Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2019/20

Proposed by Mia Faza. Seconded by Derrick Fewings.

9. Election to the Management Committee Nominees are –

Derrick Fewings, Mike Rimmer and John Tomlinson

Since there were now only three nominees and four vacancies these were agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

10. Thanks to retiring Committee Members, Val Bullen, Margaret Gibbon and Linda Burden.

The Chairman thanked all the above who were retiring for their valued work far beyond the call of duty.

Presentations were made to Linda Burden and Ian Grant. Margaret Gibbon thanked Ian Grant for his leadership skills.

11. Questions/Open Forum

Questions were asked regarding the advertising of holidays in U3A magazine and Third Age Trust are also looking into this as there are other implications.

A question was asked relating to the Art Appreciation Group and the Chairman asked that they send to him the questions they wanted answering.

The level of subscriptions was raised and would be addressed by the Trustees.

12. Chairman's Closing remarks – Ian Grant

The Chairman stressed that everyone concerned are doing their utmost for the benefit of the U3A. There is scope for more members to be co-opted to the Management Committee

13. Date of next AGM – Thursday 21st May 2020.