

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting held Thursday 8 May 2009 at Aughton Village Hall, starting at 1045

In attendance: 150 members

Chairman: Ted Morrell

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and presented apologies from Alan and Barbara Bonner, Brian and Elva March, Alex McMinn, Joan Hughes, Andrew Beeston, Claire Williamson, Marion and Eric Wilson, Norman Platt, Dorothy Harrison, Dorothy Howel, Roger and Alma Abel, Jean and Colin Will, Margaret Newton and 20 members of the Bridge Group.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM, which had been confirmed as a correct record by the Executive in June 2008, were formally approved. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report – The Chairman thanked all retiring members of the Executive and those who had offered themselves for the forthcoming year. He outlined the growth in membership over the first five years, initially very high but now steady as neighbouring U3As grow and develop. A plea for more volunteers led to thanks for all Group Leaders (the bedrock of our organisation) and others who help in a variety of ways, probably in excess of 300 members. 51 Horizons meetings and 11 monthly speaker meetings required a great deal of effort and everyone was thanked warmly for their contribution. Personal highlights of the year were covered and new initiatives introduced. A volunteer reading scheme with school children is the latest project, while the Computer Advice Centre continues to support members (450 already). Mind Gym is now offering ongoing courses in Memory techniques. A new White Paper "The Learning Revolution" will have a big impact on U3A both nationally and regionally and is well worth reading.

Vice-Chairman's Report – Jeff Roberts gave tribute to all Committee members who have always got our best interests at heart and those who are involved with other initiatives for short periods. Finance, Group Support & Learning, Publicity, Social and Travel (no longer in existence) have given over 10,000 volunteer hours in the year.

Secretary's Report – Sue Watkinson outlined the relationship between Third Age Trust and all U3As, noting the support given by TAT to our own U3A in so many ways. Proposals for a North West Regional Committee were explained and the informal structure for a local network for South West Lancashire and North Sefton.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Jones had circulated copies of the Income and Expenditure account for 2008-09. He thanked the Horizons coffee teams, the Membership Secretary for her input, particularly with Gift Aid and the book stall. He explained that the per capita charge from Third Age Trust had increased to £3.50, increasing expenditure but that Charity Commission rules now allowed us to appoint an independent Auditor (not necessarily a Chartered or Certified Accountant) who was competent to audit the accounts. Jack Dixon had agreed to undertake this role. Restricted Funds were explained and the item of Groups income, which would be adjusted by deducting rental costs in arrears. Thanks were

expressed to Kath McMinn and Lesley Smith (paying-in); Alan Worthington (Groups) Ken Unwin and Jack Dixon for constant support.

Resolution 1 – that the accounts for 2008-09 be accepted, proposed by Beth Blamires, seconded by Willem Wiechers and agreed unanimously.

Resolution 2 – that Jack Dixon be appointed as the independent examiner of the accounts for 2008-09, proposed by Bill Evans, seconded by Linda Griffiths and agreed unanimously.

Resolution 3 – that the 2009-10 subscription is £15 and that this figure is held for 2010-2011, future subscriptions to be agreed at the AGM prior to the start of the financial year, proposed by Michael Lomax, seconded by Bill Watkinson and agreed unanimously.

Elections to the Executive Committee. There were six vacancies and six nominations. Accordingly it was agreed unanimously that Stan Bryan, Bill Evans, Bernie Handford, Dorothy Harrison, Ann Haskell and Edna Lally should be elected to the Executive to serve for a period of three years. The Chairman noted that two members (Sandra Webster and Willem Wiechers) had expressed an interest in being co-opted for a period of twelve months and that the first meeting of the Executive on 19 May would consider this.

Open Forum

Michael Lomax raised the question of reciprocal membership (with Burscough U3A, particularly membership of the Choir). The Chairman responded that this would be the first topic of discussion in the new "network" and the Vice-Chairman explained that reciprocal membership was intended to support small or failing groups. A related question, about U3A members holidaying in our area and being allowed to attend meetings was approved as a "common courtesy".

Alan Nolan raised a question about insurance cover under the above circumstances. Chairman believed that this would be covered as the capitation fee would have been paid by the visitor's "home" U3A.

Margaret Heselgrave (in absence) had tabled a question, seeking U3A support for the proposed Urgent Care Centre at Ormskirk Hospital, particularly for facilities to treat stroke victims with a drug giving the "Lazarus" effect. Her view is that the growing elderly population in West Lancashire makes this an essential part of the facility. There was no support for the proposal, members expressing the view that U3A is not a lobbying organisation and that to allow one appeal might open the floodgates for many more. It was suggested a) that the Welfare Group might consider the proposals and advise the Executive further and b) that individual letters of support might be encouraged. Again, there was little support for either suggestion.

Date of 2010 AGM was fixed as Thursday 6 May, the time and venue to be arranged and advised.