

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held Thursday 6 May 2010 at Aughton Village Hall, starting at 1030

In attendance: 194 members

Chairman: Ted Morrell

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and presented apologies from Alan and Barbara Bonner, Andrew Beeston, Linda Burden, Linda Griffiths, Joyce Hooker, Dorothy and Fiona Howell, Kath McMinn, Martin and Margaret Pagett, Pat Roberts, Marjorie Sargent, Peter and Pat Sewell, Lesley and Alan Smith, Joyce Taylor, Dennis and Jenny Walton

Minutes of the 2009 AGM, which had been confirmed as a correct record by the Executive in June 2009 and had been available since 1 April at Horizons and on the web site, were formally approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

June Carrington raised the issue of reciprocal membership with neighbouring U3As. The Chairman explained that Maghull U3A was still resisting the principle but that we were dealing with the issue on an ad hoc, not an open door basis, welcoming other members to small and new groups but never depriving our own members of the opportunities offered. Insurance was not a problem with full members of neighbouring U3As.

Chairman's Report – The Chairman gave warm and sincere thanks to so many people, describing their contribution as “wonderful”, in particular his wife Doreen for her patience. The actual membership numbers are 1785 still rising slowly; our aim of course is to be better rather than merely bigger. Warm thanks to Pat McKenzie our hard working Membership Secretary. He spoke about our near family of U3As and his pleasure that Carole Gray and Alex McMinn were now working with a group in St Helens. He reminded members that we all subscribe to the Basic Aims and Guiding Principles, which were set down by the Founders of the UK movement. Speaker Meetings had been sorely missed and return to Christ Church on 3rd June. He outlined the plans for coming months, thanks to our new volunteer, Michelle Karmy-Trace, describing them as an opportunity to bring visitors. He invited suggestions for speakers from members. On the subject of Trustees he advised that Sue Watkinson will become a Trustee, Alex McMinn will step down and he (Ted) will assume the Chair. Describing the Social events of the year, he asked for help and suggestions for future events and asked Groups not to hold their own Christmas events on the same day as the main Christmas Lunch (17th December at The Adelphi in Liverpool). Concluding with a tribute to the organisers of the Memory Course, he stressed the importance of keeping both mind and body well exercised.

Vice-Chairman's Report – Jeff Roberts spoke about the Groups Support Committee with five new members since the last AGM and nine meetings held. The Committee's aim is to ensure that existing Groups are performing well, support any that are struggling and consider new activities. There are 86 active groups in 70 interest areas with four new ones in the last 12 months. Belly Dancing is now a distinct possibility – watch this space! Short Courses had been successful and he paid tribute to David Blanchflower for his initiative and organisation. We are always looking for new approaches to learning and the short course idea has proved a useful recruiting tool. He described the outcomes from the Group Leaders' Conference and thanked John McGiveron and Bill Watkinson for the comprehensive equipment training sessions and manual they had produced. The Conference will be repeated with a vision of events held with the South Lancs Network of U3As.

Secretary's Report – Sue Watkinson spoke about the North West Regional Committee, part of the U3A movement's drive to devolve activities to the regions and her own nomination to that Committee. On Publicity, she thanked Stan and Marjorie Bryan as they step down from organising the distribution of the newsletter (handing over to Ian Haskell) and the many people who are involved in its production and distribution, including Bill (husband) for his involvement in the photography. She asked for more help in all aspects of the newsletter as the tasks grew ever larger.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Jones had circulated copies of the Income and Expenditure account for 2009-10. He thanked Barbara Bonner for her amazing contribution to funds from the Book Stall and explained the various items of income and expenditure. He thanked the Horizon girls and the Treasury team for all their hard work and gave sincere thanks to Jack Dixon for his detailed auditing of the accounts, which has saved our U3A over £2,000 in fee. Having invited questions, Geoff Maitland suggested that comparison figures from the previous year would be helpful in understanding the changes in various account headings. The Chairman then asked for consideration of the three resolutions:

- Resolution 1 – that the accounts for 2009-10 be accepted, proposed by Stan Bryan, seconded by Martin Williams and agreed unanimously.
- Resolution 2 – that Jack Dixon be appointed as the independent examiner of the accounts for 2010-11, proposed by Marjorie Bryan, seconded by Carole Gray and agreed unanimously.
- Resolution 3 – that the 2010-11 subscription is £15 and that this figure is held for 2011-2012, future subscriptions to be agreed at the AGM prior to the start of the financial year, proposed by Alan Starkie, seconded by Michael Lomax and agreed unanimously.

Elections to the Executive Committee. There were four vacancies and four nominations. Outgoing members are Ted Morrell, Sue Watkinson, Carole Gray, with Norman Williamson offering himself for re-election. Accordingly it was agreed unanimously that Wendy Craddock, Pauline Jones, Willem Wiechers and Norman

Williamson should be elected to the Executive to serve for a period of three years. The Chairman noted that two other members had expressed an interest in being co-opted for a period of twelve months and that the next meeting of the Executive would consider this.

Open Forum

Alan Starkie asked whether, given the parking situation at the Scout HQ, was the decision wise to return Horizons there? The Chairman responded that all site activity should be finished by 3 June so the situation should be the same as before the works started. The October speaker meeting will be in the new Church Hall but this will not become a main location, the Scout & Guide HQ is our home.

Stella Potter asked for more compassion in welcoming new or less able members to Horizons. She felt a “clique” mentality was prevalent.

Pearl Webster asked whether she was the only member without Internet access. The answer was a resounding “NO”.

Stan Huyton asked why the waste land (former garden) alongside the HQ building could not be used for car parking. Stan and the meeting thought U3A might consider contributing to the necessary groundwork.

Martin Williams warned that our Community Beat Manager is currently issuing Fines Notices on those parking near the school on Long Lane.

Incoming Chairman's Vision

Jeff Roberts as incoming Chairman, was then asked to speak. Jeff promised no bowing, no chains, no free drinks, just blood, sweat and tears. He will be looking to more co-operation and involvement from different groups of people, with business as usual:

- Increasing membership with new recruits running at around 20 per month
- Forming new Groups and assisting or refreshing existing ones
- Cementing relationships with neighbouring U3As and
- Sustaining links with external bodies, both locally and nationally

Presentations

Ted Morrell then thanked Sue Watkinson for her outstanding service on the Executive for six and as Secretary for the last two and a half years and presented her with a gift and flowers.

Jeff Roberts thanked Ted Morrell as the Founding Secretary, organiser of the Speaker meetings, Vice Chairman and Chairman, responsible for the new members' welcome events, support for the South Lancs Network of U3As and innumerable

emails and for his “can-do” theme throughout his period in office. Ted was presented with a gift and Doreen with flowers.

Date of 2011 AGM was fixed as Thursday 5 May, the time and venue to be arranged and advised.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.