

Christmas dinner, new member's tea , "That Terrible U3A" production and thanked Alex McMinn for the provision of a number of high quality speakers which has raised our profile within the local community. The Chairman considered that the year's highlights, the work of the Group leaders help us maintain our corporate identity within the local community and our institutional status. In conclusion the Chairman reported that at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 membership was at 1794 and that 2960 was our next issue number, other U3A's have opened at St Helens, Skelmersdale and possibly Parbold in the future. We need to look at our involvement in the Brookside project and how this can be of mutual benefit, to look forward, keep growing and plan for our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

#### **OPEN FORUM:-**

Alan Starkie:- asked whether reciprocal membership with other U3A's was going to be a possibility? The Chairman responded that the Executive Committee had voted 12 to 3 against not to participate in open arrangements with other U3A's

Stan Marsters:- Considered that it was important for us to aware of members who had died. The Chairman of Trustees responded and indicated that he had taken advice from our parent body, The Third Age Trust, and that it would be preferable not to use the Newsletter as a means of communicating recent deaths to members. The issue provoked much discussion and differing suggestions were offered. However at the suggestion of Ian Haskell it was agreed that the issue be taken to the Executive Committee, for them to look "at pros and cons" and bring their finding to the next AGM for the membership to consider. It was thought to be a very important matter worthy of in-depth consideration. This was agreed.

Tony Adamson spoke of "That Terrible U3A" and how he might be giving a talk to Harpenden U3A about the production.

**AGM 2012:-** the membership to be notified of the date, time and venue. The meeting closed at 11.58am.

## **AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at  
The Ministry Centre, Christ Church, Aughton, starting at 10.45 am.

**In attendance:- 139 members.**

**Chairman:- Jeff Roberts.**

1. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and invited them to take the papers placed on the seats i.e. the Trustees Report, Minutes of last year's AGM, the last year's Accounts, and the Agenda, along with U3A News in which we are mentioned three times. Dorothy Harrison was asked to read the weekly notices.

2. The Chairman presented apologies from Alex McMinn, Norman Platt, Bill Evans Dorothy Howell, Lily Bonner, June Pardy, Roger & Alma Abel, Marion & David Sutherland, Michael Lomax, Annie Hazelhurst, Jean & Colin Winn, Eric Wilson, Geoff Wilson, Pearl Webster, David Blanchflower, John McNeill, Bernie Bushell and apologised for the change of date.

**3. Minutes of the 2010 AGM:** there being no objections, **the Minutes** were taken as read and formally accepted.

**Matters arising from the minutes:-** Stan Huyton raised the issue about hard standing for the waste land next to the sands as no action had been taken since last year. The Chairman explained that U3A does not own the land and the Church is unsure as to how to proceed. If and when they make a decision we are happy to help as we have done with the pot holes in the Sands this year.

**4. Secretary's Report- Wendy Craddock-**spoke about the importance of communication, publicity of groups and events to our membership, the local community, and the wider audience. The individual roles of the members of the Publicity committee were outlined for example in the production and distribution of our excellent Newsletter which is received quarterly by all the membership, 60.3% now collected by members, distributed to 24 local outlets along with 3500 copies of our publicity leaflet. Group leaders can now use the television at Horizons to advertise their groups and events. They were also urged to use our excellent website which is real time and continually updated. For one week only Aughton & Ormskirk U3A became shopkeepers to celebrate United Nations Day for the Elderly and to showcase our groups and activities to the wider audience. The Memory Course Train the Trainers Course had attendees from across the North West Region. Our monthly speakers have included amongst others John Bercow Speaker of the House of Commons. The meeting was reminded that 2013 will be our 10<sup>th</sup> year the membership being invited to join in the planning of the celebrations. The AGM was left with this thought "Where would you like to see Aughton & Ormskirk U3A in five years"?

**5. Vice Chairman's Report :- Dorothy Harrison** –Thanked the members of the **Social Committee** for all their hard work, particularly – the organisation of Horizons coffee morning, the welcome desk and the selling of diaries and other tickets on a regular basis .She also complimented them for organising the BBQ in June, a Race Night in October

and Christmas Dinner at the Adelphi in December. Thanks were also expressed to the Digital Camera group for arranging a Display and Exhibition on the BBQ day. Appreciation was expressed to Marion Wilson and Claire Williamson who have both retired from the committee.

**The Helping Each Other Group** began in 2008 The U3A by its nature is a retirement organisation but not a social welfare group. We seek to show people where to get help and to help each other, as we age we can be seen to be slowing down and may need help to get to our groups. The "Mindgym" programme has helped us to understand our changing need. People watch out for each other within groups when there is illness or bereavement support is shown by visits, cards, flowers and offers of lifts. Cards are sent to those who are critically ill or bereaved on our behalf by Marion Wilson. Thanks were given to Pat Atherton for her work with regard to theatre visits using "dial a ride" for our less able members. Other services from the Helping Each Other Group include links with Help Direct, lists of useful telephone numbers, dial a ride services, asking for help during the difficult winter months and the provision of information packs. Future planning includes week-end activities. The Vice Chairman requested U3A members to approach members of the committee with their concerns.

**6. Treasurer- Chris Jones:-** The meeting was provided with copies of the 2010/2011 accounts. The Treasurer stated how last year's income reflected the previous year and paid tribute in particular to Barbara Bonner's Bookstall, those selling U3A diaries, and the increased income from Horizons. The Newsletter costs had been held due to the foresight of buying postage stamps in advance of the postal rate increase. Thanks were given to Jack Dixon, for examining the books so diligently, Kath McMinn for banking the monies, Alan Worthington as Group's Treasurer and Leslie Smith for producing the spread sheets.

The Chairman then asked for consideration of the three resolutions

- Resolution 1. That we accept the accounts for 201-2011. Proposed by Beth Blamires, seconded by Willem Wiechers and agreed unanimously.
- Resolution 2. That Jack Dixon to be appointed as independent examiner of the accounts for 2011-2012. Proposed by Chris Proctor, seconded by Marjorie Bryan and agreed unanimously.
- Resolution 3. That 2011-2012 subscription figure of £15.00 be held for 2012-2013. Proposed by Stan Livingston, seconded by Dorothy Gaskell and agreed unanimously.

**7. Executive Committee- Jeff Roberts** - Thirty five members have served on the Executive Committee so far and we are always looking for people to serve on sub committees with the possibility of joining the Executive Committee later. Three

members have served for three years and offer themselves for re-election Beth Blamires, Davis Blanchflower, and Chris Jones there were no other nominations. Proposed for re-election by Ted Morrell, seconded by Anne Snell, the motion was approved. Stan Bryan, Chair of Publicity resigned from the Executive Committee and his place as Chair of Publicity was taken by Margaret Kitchen. In accordance with the Constitution, Margaret will serve on the Executive Committee for the remainder of Stan's term-she will be due for re-election in 2012. Thanks were given to Stan and Marjorie for all their hard work.

**8. Chairman's Report-Jeff Roberts** –Used a power point presentation to name the Executive Committee members with positions held plus the year for re-election or of retirement. The Chairman spoke of his aim to reach 100 groups 94 being the current total. Group Support's busy year included the introduction of several new groups with short courses proving very popular with the membership. The audit of group activities in November showed that of the 1700 members, two thirds participated in activities during the audit month. 80 members attended the new member's afternoon tea, at a cost 15pence per head (when divided by the total membership), resulting in volunteers to help on the Welcome Desk, Horizons and lead a new short course. The Shop project, with very little cost, generated much interest from the wider audience 37 new members joined Aughton & Ormskirk U3A as a result. The Memory Course "**Train the Trainers**" raised our profile in North West region. The Chairman thanked the Group Leaders and reminded them of the Cheese & Wine evening on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> which is to thank them for all their hard work during the year. Committee members were thanked for all their hard work. The Chairman mentioned the "year's highlights" the Summer BBQ, the contribution of the drama group, the shop project, the