

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting held Thursday 10th May 2012 at Christ Church, Aughton, starting at 10.30am

9. Chairman Jeff Roberts a power-point presentation followed Jeff had Chaired Group Support for one year before handing over to David Blanchflower A report was given detailing the activities of the Group Support Committee A Cheese and Wine Evening had been held for Group Leaders in recognition of their work. New members were made welcome at the New Members Afternoon Teas these brought forward new volunteers. Jeff thanked all the committee members involved. The highlights of this year have been the re-launch of the Newsletter as a Magazine, the Christmas lunch at the Adelphi, the Government initiative "Race on Line", its main aim to enable older people access the Internet. Jeff outlined the A&O U3A involvement by setting up of a Computer Advice Centre and offering monthly tutorials Christ Church School had been the venue for six weekly computer courses. Jeff said he had been Treasurer for five years, two years as Vice Chairman and two years as Chairman and had seen many changes not least the single photocopy sheet which was the original Newsletter is now a colourful Magazine. Tradition means that Jeff would become the Chairman of the Trustees, and he regarded the Trustees as an "upper house". The Trustees provide the Charity Commission with a report on activities and the submission of the annual accounts, their role was also to advise membership of changes to the Constitution. Trustees have no voting rights, and the work of the U3A is delegated to the Executive Committee. We are part of the South West Lancs Network, which is chaired by Ted Morrell.

10. Open Forum Sue Watkinson responding to an earlier question regarding the capitation allowance paid to the TAT informed the meeting that the TAT acted as a parent body in giving advice to U3A's and supporting the Regions, as well as insurance cover. Jack Dixon congratulated the Treasurer on the accounts he had examined over the last three years and thanked him for his patience with explaining any queries. He was very impressed with the healthy condition of our finances and acknowledged all the hard work undertaken by the Treasurer.

11. Incoming Chairman Dorothy Harrison reminisced about the inaugural meeting being Member No 7 Theatre Group Co-ordinator from the beginning and now the first lady Chairman. She thanked Jeff Roberts, our outgoing Chairman, for his nine years of energy and care, a presentation from all the members was then made to both Jeff and Ann Roberts. We are all learners and teachers and we have come a long way through volunteering. Volunteers are precious and necessary for our organisation. Dorothy stressed the need for being optimistic having "Fun, Laughter, and Adventure" and urged the membership to join her in that adventure. Give U3A a big Cheer and a big Clap
Thank you to everyone for coming.

The meeting finished at 11.32am

In attendance:- 120 members.

Chairman:- Jeff Roberts

1 The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and invited them to take the papers placed on the seats Minutes of last year's AGM, the last years Accounts, and the Agenda please note item 10 will now be Open Forum.

2. The Chairman presented apologies from David Sunderland, June Carrington, Ted & Doreen Morrell, Alex & Kath McMinn, Dorothy & Fiona Howell, Geoff & Elaine Maitland, Colin & Carole Gray, Barry & Sheila Mitchell, Frank & Joan Porter, Marie Hale, Norman & Eileen Platt, Roger & Alma Abel.....

3. Minutes of the 2011 AGM there being no objections, **the minutes** were taken as read and formally accepted. Proposed Beth Blamires, Seconded Norman Williamson.

4. Matters arising from the minutes. The Chairman responded to the question of Obituaries raised during Open Forum 2011. It had been **Agreed** by the Executive Committee that neither the Magazine nor at Horizons would notification of recent deaths be publicised. There had been two Executive Meetings where discussions had taken place, the decision had been unanimous. The Chairman considered that tributes should be left to Groups and their Leaders.

5 Secretary's Report :- Wendy Craddock the Publicity Committee continues its dedicated work in promoting our U3A and producing the Aughton & Ormskirk U3A Magazine and thanked everyone who contributed by way of articles, photographs, group information on behalf of the editorial team, and reminded everyone that our Website is an excellent vehicle for cascading information. A Database has been designed, I assure you that we follow Data Protection guidelines for your Membership details, this was actually designed to assist in the distribution of the magazine but developed further to ease communication with our members. Our membership comes from over 90 areas and is urged to distribute our publicity leaflets and bookmarks. The 'Performing Arts Groups' have seen productions by the Drama Group, the Musical Theatre Group, the Choir and Keyboard Groups singing and playing in the community. Sporting activity competitions have been held between local U3A's. Our Science Group ran a very successful 'Science Day' for North West Region with over 106 U3A members from 22 U3A's. The Memory Course have published two books, have presented seminars to Yorkshire and East

Midlands regions U3A's, and an article in Third Age Matters has generated interest from across the U.K. A congratulatory email has been received from Ian Searle Chairman of the Third Age Trust. So may I on behalf of Aughton & Ormskirk U3A thank everyone who has contributed to a successful Publicity year locally, regionally and throughout the UK.

6. Vice Chairman's Report Dorothy Harrison:- Social Committee:- The Social Committee in most of what it does brings us away from our normal groups into mixing with each other generally. Where would we be without those who man the Welcome Desk and the tea and coffee girls at Horizons, which are essential first impressions for those wishing to join U3A. In the past year, this committee has held a BBQ during the summer, a Murder Mystery Evening in the autumn, a Christmas dinner at the Adelphi hotel in December, and a Sinatra Evening last month, all of them very successful and sold us our U3A Diary. During the remainder of the year there has been arranged a BBQ on June 30th at Aughton Village Hall, a band concert on September 15th, and our Christmas Lunch at the Adelphi on December 21st. We hope you will give these events your support. I would like to express our thanks to Norman Williamson who has led this group for several years, and is now going to have a well-earned break. Our grateful thanks to all who have worked on the Social Committee alongside Norman. **Helping Each Other Group** is not a social welfare group, but seeks to show people where they can get help, and to help one another. Our help as we see it is a casual friendliness. The U3A is largely a retirement organisation, so people are getting slower, and are not as energetic, though not everyone I hasten to add, look at table tennis, cycling, and the musical theatre. People watch out for each other in their groups, when there is illness, bereavement, help needed etc and there are numerous visits to people with flowers, good wishes and lifts. On behalf of us all, Marion Wilson sends a card to all critically, long term ill people and those who are bereaved, and we thank her for this. Help Direct now have a table at Horizons they can find the information and help that you may need on a whole range of services. We have listed in the magazine useful telephone numbers e.g. citizens advice, taxi, bus, rail, etc. Over the wintertime, we have included in the magazine two contact numbers, where people can get help if they can't get out, or get stuck in any way. We have extended our activities, in taking those who find it hard to walk any distance, or who cannot get out much. Since September we have been visiting the Iron men at Crosby, with afternoon tea at Lady Green, Liverpool One for Christmas shopping, Afternoon tea with a film show at the S&G HQ and the King and I at the Empire. These were greatly appreciated by all and to be repeated. Our next outing is to Downy Duckling days at Martin Mere. We now have 22 people in this group, 6 people on a small committee, with volunteers who give us help. We are always looking for people, who would benefit from the outings we take, those whose mobility is impaired, or

have difficulty getting out and about. For the future we do need people to take the initiative to start new weekend groups. It is a lonely time for many. We need to look out for those U3A members who have dropped away and seek to find out if all is well. After nearly 9 years together, our concern goes beyond the U3A.

7. Treasurers Report Chris Jones The meeting was provided with copies of the accounts for the year ending 31/03/2012. It was reported that expenditure for the year had increased slightly due to the purchase of chairs for the S&G HQ. Tributes were paid to Barbara Bonners bookstall, the income from Horizons and Norman Williamson and the Social Committee's efforts. With the help of Gift Aid we have once again balanced income and expenditure, we didn't have the expenditure of replacing IT equipment for the IT suite, and speaker costs have increased. Thanks were also given to Jack Dixon, for examining the books so diligently, to Alan Worthington as Groups Treasurer, Kath McMinn for banking money and to Lesley Smith for producing the spread sheets. A question was posed from the floor by Ron Rowles "The income from subscriptions fell marginally in 2011/12 compared to the previous year, whereas hearsay has it that the number of members increased during the year. There seems to be a minor discrepancy between the number of members as evidenced by the subscriptions received and the number in respect of whom payment had been made the Third Age Trust" Chris Jones responded by explaining the capitation allowance paid to the TAT, how those figures had been calculated and the Insurance cover provided for members by the TAT.

The Chairman asked for the considerations of the three resolutions

Resolution 1 The Accounts for 2011-2012 be accepted Proposed by Bernie Handford, Seconded by Pauline Jones

Resolution 2 That Mr Brain Molloy be appointed as independent examiner of the accounts for 2012-13. Proposed by Norman Williamson, Seconded by Eddie Healey

Resolution 3 that 2012-13 subscription figure of £15 be held for 2013-2014 Proposed by Beth Blamires, Seconded by Doreen McGiveron.

8 Executive Committee Jeff Roberts There are 15 members on the Executive Committee, 5 members are stepping down and there are 5 nominees. Dorothy Harrison, Bernie Handford, Bill Evans, and Edna Lally having completed their initial term of 3 years offered themselves for re-election Proposed Bill Hale Seconded Stella Potter. Anne Snell, Margery Sargent, Ian Haskell, Norma Seddon, and Alex McMinn have been nominated, seconded and accepted their nominations proposed by Chris Jones Seconded by Norman Williamson and agreed unanimously. There is scope for two co-optees with full voting rights and two co-optees without voting rights.