

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A

12th AGM

7th MAY 2015 Christ Church, Aughton. 10.30am

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman W. Wiechers welcomed everyone to the Meeting.
2. **Apologies** for absence received from Marion & Eric Wilson; Chris & Peter Robinson; John & Irene Critchley; Paul Thompson; Doug & Sylvia Scobie; Deidre Slater; Ann & Ian Haskell; Anne Faza.
3. **Minutes of AGM 2014** were read and accepted as a true and correct record. Proposed by Iain Smart and seconded by Mia Faza.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reviewed the year starting with the 2014 AGM where concern was strongly expressed by those present due to problems with the Constitution. The quorum requirements were resolved at the SGM before the AGM and an executive committee was validly elected at the AGM governed by our original 2004 Constitution. He felt that he was elected Chairman because of his past experience in resolving various problems. He thanked Pauline Jones and Cathleen Barnes for taking on the roles of Secretary and Minutes Secretary respectively. A special word of thanks was expressed to Bill Watkinson for his extensive work on the finances and resolving various financial problems. He thanked all the committee for the work they had put in.
In order to implement resolutions passed at the AGM regarding trustees a working party was set up with Geoff Maitland as chairman to make recommendations on the setting up of a trustee body. The executive accepted their report but had difficulty incorporating it into a new Constitution. Discussions on this were protracted as it was difficult to agree who should run the U3A i.e. the executive or the trustees. However, he was pleased to report that the Constitution has been completed and sent to the Charity Commission and Third Age Trust for their comments. Depending on the outcome of this a

Special General Meeting may be held in the autumn for this membership to vote on the new Constitution. Special thanks to Ian Haskell for his time spent in incorporating the recommendations into the Constitution.

The Chairman then thanked the retiring committee members, Alex McMinn founder of our U3A, Dorothy Harrison, Bernie Handford, Bill Evans, and Idris Williams. He wished to make it clear to the membership that their wishes and concerns are always discussed and attended to by the committee.

Communication with the members is improved due to the monthly e-news and the U3A website as well as the magazine. He also thanked Brian Bostock for setting up our Facebook page. Thanks too to Sue Watkinson, Margaret Kitchen and Bill Evans for their work on the magazine. Finally he expressed gratitude to all the 90 plus groups for making our U3A such a success. The full report can be seen on the Notice Board and the website. A copy is also attached to this document.

6. **Honorary Secretary's Report**: Another year gone by but at least we can feel a sense of achievement. Difficult though the year has been, we have now finalised a new constitution and sent it to the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust for approval/comments. When we receive approval, (let's be positive here) we will put it forward to the Membership for acceptance and/or amendments at a Special General Meeting. This is my sixth and final year on the committee and it would be wonderful to leave it knowing that at long last we have an agreed and settled constitution which a large majority of the membership is happy with. Fingers crossed!

During the last year the committee and sub-committees have all worked extremely hard on your behalf. Goodness knows how many voluntary hours have been put in. The Finance and Resources Committee conducted a study in Group costs and expenditure and returned some recommendations which will be in force from September 2015. The Social Committee ran some very successful communal events which were enjoyed by all those who attended them. A summer event in June 2015 will be followed in the autumn by an 'ABBA' concert ~ which promises to be a lively and popular occasion. There is also the usual Adelphi Christmas luncheon ~ always very popular.

The Groups Support has organised events for new members and also for Group

Leaders. These are both vital events for all concerned and extremely informative from everyone's point of view. There are also new groups opening up as well as some new short courses.

The Publicity Committee has had an extremely productive year, covering a wide range of duties including magazine production and distribution and the design of a new publicity trifold leaflet. They have also produced an on-line calendar to work in conjunction with the wall planner in HQ and they regulate the design and content of our U3A website. At outside events they maintain a presence under a new gazebo bought specifically for this purpose.

Although not strictly a sub-committee, equally important are Speaker Meetings organised by Speaker Secretary Mia Faza who has organised a wide ranging and diverse number of Speaker Meetings over the last 12 months. Such a lot of hard work goes into the planning of these.

I, personally, thank each and every one of them most sincerely.

Now that some of our long standing Group Leaders are retiring, I hope that more volunteers will come forward to take their places.

I look forward to working with the newly refreshed and positive committee and I am sure that the year ahead will be a happy and productive one.

7. **Treasurers Report:** Bill Watkinson gave a detailed explanation of how the U3A finance is organised. He has been surprised at the large amount of work it entails and is grateful to the previous treasurer Chris Jones for his support. There are generally about 30 bills a month to pay in addition to dealing with money paid in by the Groups. With regard to concerns by some members that trustees are paid a stipend this is false. He pointed out that they are entitled to claim travel expenses when travelling out of area for U3A. One of our trustees is paid for production of the Newsletter. He said that we are fortunate to have Bill Evans to do this work. Bill has tried unsuccessfully to employ someone to do this work. When discussing 2015 accounts thanks were extended to Jeff Roberts for managing the gift aid section.

a. Resolution 1 – The Accounts for 2014/15 be accepted:-Acceptance proposed by Sue Watkinson and seconded by Pauline Jones

b. Resolution 2 – Mr Brian Molloy be appointed as the independent examiner of the Accounts for the year 2015/16:- Acceptance proposed by Geoff Roberts and seconded by Alex McMinn.

c. Resolution 3 – Subscriptions for the year 2016/17 should remain at £15. Acceptance proposed by Chris Proctor and seconded by Margaret Wiechers.

Question to Treasurer: Sylvia Dillon asked why the accounts were not available before the AGM and why is there no 'profit and loss' account. Reply: There is not enough time from the end of the financial year to the AGM meeting. This should be rectified next year when the AGM will be held in June 2016.

8) **Executive Committee election:** the Chairman stated that originally there had been 9 nominations but now only 6 and as there are 6 vacancies voting was not required. The nominees are Linda Burden, Denise Lathom, Geoff Maitland, Ian Grant, Dermot Glennon and Dennis Morley. They were installed en bloc. Proposed by Colin Gray and seconded by Alex McMinn.

9) **General Motions:** None received.

10) **Open Forum:** Vera Snelson, Gardening Group, asked if, when new members are introduced at Horizons, they are asked if they would run a group? She said that she found it difficult to believe that out of nearly 2,000 members, no-one will take on the Gardening Group. The answer was that we do try to encourage new members to volunteer but can only do so much. When a Leader is retiring someone within the Group should offer to run it. Judy Ingman suggested that it could be mentioned at the Welcome Desk. Chris Proctor said her group pays a pound at meetings but now the Treasurer only wants 50 pence. Reply was that this is to reduce the imbalances in the accounts as some groups have always only paid 50 pence. The remainder is for the group to purchase refreshments and to defray expenses, if required. A question was raised regarding delivery of the magazine, reply was that the work is spread out and Groups should try and deliver their own members' magazines.

11) There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The next AGM will be held on Thursday 2nd June 2016.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting closed at 12.10pm.
