

# Minutes of the Eastwood and District U3A

## Annual General Meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

**Outgoing Committee Present:** Barry Doran, Keith Sherwood, Janet Lander, Doris Fellowes, Madeleine Fletcher, Anne Steel

**Chairman's Opening Remarks:** Keith Sherwood welcomed members and then passed over to Tom Hickingbottom to conduct the meeting.

**Apologies:** Linda Rothwell, Marianne Sparrow, Chrys Millington

**To receive and confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2022:** Tom Hickingbottom moved that they be accepted; seconded by Janet O'Neill. Unanimously agreed. No matters arising

**To receive the Chairman's Report:**

### **Chair's Report AGM June 2023**

Dear Members

Welcome to our 2023 AGM, as I prepared this report I am encouraged by the growing confidence of our members as our monthly meetings have gradually grown in attendance through the year. However, while encouraging members to attend these meetings, we will continue to offer Zoom sessions to those, for whatever reason, who cannot attend in person.

Our committee continues to meet regularly every month as normal. As you know three of our experienced committee members stepped down from their role last year, so we were very pleased to have five enthusiastic new replacements who have all contributed towards the positive work of the committee. It's encouraging to see we have another five members who have volunteered this year.

In 2022/23 most of our groups started meeting in person again. When new group coordinators joined the Committee in June 2022 a review of groups was undertaken and it was discovered that photography, ukelele, skittles, board games, and strollers were no longer meeting. With support and a relaunch photography and board games are now meeting regularly and membership of both groups has increased. The group coordinators have worked to ensure that information about groups is consistent across all media eg website, beacon, and leaflets. This is an ongoing task and the coordinators meet regularly to ensure everything is kept up to date. Several new groups have started, including Café Culture, Goggle Box, Social Trips, and Whist, while an IT users group is also in the pipeline.

We now have 29 active groups, Thank you so much to our brilliant group contacts who, through their enthusiasm and commitment, continue to ensure their groups thrive. I know

there are obvious pressures on groups to ensure we incorporate as many new members as possible.

In order to highlight and advertise the Eastwood & District u3a to our local area, the committee decided to organise a Showcase event on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Attendance was extremely good. This was in the main due to members putting up posters in local venues as well as a few notices on social media groups and local newspapers. A huge thank you must go to all the group contacts for making the Showcase displays so varied. As a result of the event many visitors joined the u3a and others are intending to visit groups first before making a final decision. In fact we have had 53 new members since February, which says everything about its success. My thanks also go to all members who contributed to the day and especially to Marianne Sparrow, Madeleine Fletcher and Anne Steel, committee members, who organised the whole event. This was a hugely successful day indeed. Well done everybody.

We have a membership of 315, although 29 have still to renew their membership, so officially 286. We have had 70 new members in the calendar year 2022 - 2023

We have had some excellent speakers this year: Member Jerry Jarvis' talk about his struggles to get to grips with his early role in refurbishing HMS Resolution, the nuclear submarine was really interesting and thought provoking. Dr Ann Featherstone's talk on The Waitresses strike of 1908 where the waitresses at the Cabin Restaurant in Piccadilly Circus went on strike due to unfair dismissal of a colleague was greatly received. Ella from The Dogs Trust spoke to us about all the good work they do at Loughborough in looking after dogs with care and compassion while they are waiting to be rehomed. The Reverend Barbara spoke to us about all her excellent work in training Labrador puppies to be ready to go out into the world to be guide dogs to the less able. Thanks to Linda Rothwell who has been our speaker finder this year and has made an excellent job of finding so many interesting and entertaining speakers. Well done Linda.

A shout out to our tech team led by Ray Dring and Frank Queripel who are the first to arrive for our monthly meetings as they set up cameras, screens, microphones and our zoom sessions. Thank you lads; you're all very much appreciated by us all. My thanks also go to the refreshment team, signers in and meeters and greeters

Our monthly newsletters have played an important part in the life of our u3a. Thank you to all of who have contributed to it and especially Margaret Naylor who has compiled it since the start of our group in 2014 and continues to do so. Thank you to Sandra Burns who has volunteered to help Margaret.

Thank you to Keith Sherwood, our treasurer, who for all his work and commitment this year.

Two of our committee members are stepping down today; Chrys Millington, who has been our welfare officer, casts a caring eye over the membership, ensuring those you are ill or in hospital receive a get well card from us all, and grieving families are not forgotten when sadly a few members have died this year. Chrys has been a committee member for many years – Thank you Chrys! Linda Rothwell, who I mentioned earlier, is also stepping down from her second stint on the committee. Thank you Linda!

Eastwood & District u3a have had a very good year. Thank you everyone

Barry P Doran June 2023

Tom Hickingbottom thanked the Chairman for his report.

**To receive Treasurer's report, including statement of accounts for 2022 – 2023**

Treasurer's Summary Report The overall picture could be steady as she goes. The finances are still recovering from the effects of covid when there were no subscriptions for a year. There was an excess of expenditure over income last year but hopefully this will stabilise this year. It is important when looking at the accounts to bear in mind that they appear to give a more favourable picture of the U3As finances that is actually the case. The reason for this is that most of the members subscriptions for this year were collected before 31st March and are therefore in last year's accounts. This means that the true balance as of 31st March is not £11,761 but is minus this year's membership income of £4,301; so in reality it is £7,360. This compares with the figures as of March 2022 when the balance was £12,884 less £4,501 advance subscriptions i.e £8,383. This shows that expenditure has exceeded income over the past year by approximately £1,000. I am hopeful that this will be redeemed over the next 12 months. There have been a significant number of new members and as of 31st May total membership subscriptions are £5 higher than they were for the membership year £5,601 versus £5,596. Also, gift aid will be claimed in the near future. I am therefore recommending that the subscription remain unaltered at £20 but would suggest reducing the associate membership from £17 to £12 to try to attract more members

We are still recovering from the effects of Covid and the year when we did not charge subscriptions, but still had some expenses. Our costs exceeded our income by around £1,000 last year, but should be back on track by next year.

**To approve the Statement of Accounts:** Tom Hickingbottom moved that the report and accounts be accepted. Andrea Sadler seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed.

**To approve the annual subscription for 2023 – 2024 :** Tom Hickingbottom moved that the subscription should remain at current levels. This was seconded by Doris Fellowes. Unanimously agreed.

**To appoint an examiner of accounts:** Tom Hickingbottom moved that we appoint Mr. Robert Ratcliffe. Madeleine Fletcher seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed.

**To elect the Executive Committee and Officers:** Tom Hickingbottom moved that the following nominations be accepted. Lorna Stirland seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed.

Chairman	Barry Doran
Vice Chairman	Marianne Sparrow
Business Secretary	Janet Lander
Treasurer	Keith Sherwood
Committee member	Madeleine Fletcher
Committee member	Doris Fellowes
Committee member	Anne Steel
Committee member	Sharon Dudley
Committee member	Anna Frost
Committee member	Marta Simpson
Committee member	Roger Kidd
Committee member	Paul Bettridge

**To consider written proposals received prior to the meeting from Committee or Members:** There were no proposals received

Linda Rothwell and Chrys Millington were thanked for their hard work and cards are to be sent to them.

Keith Sherwood gave a vote of thanks

The AGM finished at 10.45 am.