

# SHEPTON MALLET U3A

Held at The Council Chamber, Mendip District Council Offices, Shepton Mallet

on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

The Chairman, Malcolm Weeks, welcomed members and visitors to the sixth AGM of Shepton Mallet U3A

## 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Val & Chris Sherring.

## 2. Minutes of AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

The Minutes of last year's AGM had been distributed via email and placed in the Chamber. Malcolm Weeks initialled them as a true record.

## 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## 4. Chairman's Report

Malcolm Weeks gave his report on the last 12 months, the sixth year of Shepton Mallet U3A.  
*Please see attached.*

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Lesley Clark gave her Treasurer's Report for the last 12 months (Audited Accounts were also available on a side table)  
*Please see attached.*

## 6. Group Co-ordinator's Report

Margaret Breese gave her report on the state and progress of our Groups  
*Please see attached.*

## 7. Constitutional Changes

The Committee had amended the existing Constitution to bring it into line with the national model and to reflect local needs. Members had been notified of the changes.  
A vote to accept the new Constitution was proposed by Edward Westmorland and seconded by Betty Craig and formally adopted following a unanimous show of hands.

## 8. Motions

No Motions were put forward

## 9. Election of Committee

The Secretary had received 4 nomination papers, all of whom stood unopposed, as follows:

Barbara Voules - Speaker Meeting Organiser  
*Proposed by Sandra Morris, seconded by Lesley Clark*

Derek Hiller - Publicity Organiser (having performed this role as a non-Committee member previously)  
*Proposed by Sandra Morris, seconded by Lesley Clark*

Tony Parker - Vice Chair (having served for one year as a co-opted member in this role)  
*Proposed by Derek Hiller, seconded by Frank Booth.*

Liz Nash - Secretary (having served for one year as a co-opted member in this role)  
*Proposed by Brian Jeffery, seconded by Jean Birks.*

All current members of the Committee members will stand again with the exception of Brian Harwood, who is standing down having served for six years.

The Committee now has a full complement of 12 members.

## 10. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 10.45am

## **Chairman's annual report 2016-17**

The year has seen a continued growth in membership. Since the last AGM we have strengthened the committee with Liz Nash and Tony Parker being co-opted as Secretary and Vice Chairman. Everyone on the committee has given the U3A great support over the last year in their various roles and this has enabled the continued smooth running of Shepton Mallet branch and I much appreciate their support.

The biggest change during the year has been the move for the monthly speaker meeting from The Club Lounge to Mendip Council Chamber. The previous venue became increasingly difficult for both speaker and members when the bar was opened in the same room and the consequent disruptive noise. Added bonuses have been that the new venue is light and airy, is set up for us, and coffee/tea is included for attendees in the charge.

We once again had successful presences at both the Collet Park Festival and the Mid- Somerset Show. Once again thank you to all who volunteered to help at these events. The excellent promotional leaflet put together by Julia Goddard has made it easier to promote the U3A and we were joined at the Mid Somerset Show by members of Wells U3A.

During the year two very successful social events were held – an anniversary event held at The Somerset Earth Science Centre organised by Margaret Breese and Lesley Clark and a Quiz afternoon run by Pete Norman and his team with refreshments organised by Janet Murray.

The task of booking speakers was handed seamlessly from Brian Harwood to Peter Norman and Barbara Voules and we continue to enjoy a varied programme.

We have also revised the Constitution to fit in with the model provided by National Office – Keith Taylor has masterminded this onerous task.

During the year members of the committee have also met with Wells U3A to explain the benefits of the IT management system we use which has aided them in their decision on whether or not to adopt the system.

I would also like to thank Derek Hiller for producing posters, delivering them around the area, and also writing articles for The Shepton Mallet Journal.

Finally we owe a big thank you to Brian Harwood who is standing down from the committee after six years. Brian played a big part in the setting up the Shepton Mallet U3A. He has brought a great enthusiasm to the task, booking speakers since the first meeting, organising the Collet Park Festival stand, delivering newsletters to venues around the area and we are all extremely grateful for his efforts and wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Hopefully we can look forward to another successful year and growth in membership with new groups formed and existing groups strengthened. A big thank-you to group leaders and of course, you the members without whom there would be no U3A. Keep spreading the word!

Malcolm Weeks, May 2017

## Treasurer's Report 2017

Firstly, my thanks to my fellow Committee Members for their trust and support during the past year.

I decided that, after helping me in the past to prepare the accounts, Brian Harwood and David Briars deserved both my thanks and release from this task which must, on occasions, have tried their patience. Consequently, I am now indebted to Andrew Goddard and Jonathan Fowle for their help this year.

At the close of March, our Bank Account stood at £5500, which included £230 remaining from the Grant for our Health and Wellbeing Day which we enjoyed yesterday. Should we wish to have a future even of this kind, costs will have to come out of our funds as the Grant money has now been spent.

The figure also includes membership renewals made in March for which we thank you and would remind those of you who have yet to renew their membership.

At the end of the year membership stood at 187. From the fees received £654.50 Capitation payment has been made which provides funds for running the National U3A, together with £337.50 covering the mailing of the Third Age Matters magazine.

We have yet to receive notification from the Inland Revenue concerning our accumulated Gift Aid. We thank all of you who qualify and have completed the Gift Aid Form. If you no longer pay income tax or change your address, please let us know in order that I don't submit incorrect information which could result in a fine.

Since our move to this Council Chamber, our room hire costs have risen from £30 a month to £52.20. Brian Harwood has stepped down from organising these meetings and our thanks go to him for all his hard work sourcing very excellent speakers. Barbara Voules and Pete Norman have taken over this task and are striving to keep to a budget but, in order to continue bringing us good

quality speakers, it is necessary for us to subsidise these meetings rather than increase attendance fees.

In the past year we have purchased a laptop computer costing £470. This is primarily used at Speaker Meetings and for the administration of our Beacon Software. This software only costs £65.50 annually based on a per capita fee of 50p which covers technical support. The software greatly assists in the maintenance of our Membership, Group and Financial records.

Over the past year we have invested in excess of £300 in publicity, printing and the production of the Newsletter. Although our Committee Members and Group Leaders are very generous regarding their time and administration costs, it is inevitable that overheads for printing, postage, stationery and travel will continue to rise. These costs are closely monitored and kept at the absolute minimum necessary.

Along with the other members of the Committee, I thank you all for your continued support.

## **Report on Special Interest Groups 2016 - 2017**

At present we have 22 thriving groups. During the year we have lost the Skittles Group but have gained an additional Family History Group. Groups meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Some groups are full, while others would welcome new members. Groups that are full have a waiting list.

Groups meet in a variety of venues, group leader's homes, the Shrubbery Hotel, Evercreech Football Club, Doultling Village Hall, St Paul's Community Centre, Shepton Bowls Club and Holmcroft Court. Other groups like Walking and Strollers are out and about while some groups also make occasional visits to wholesalers, exhibitions and talks. Solos and Munch Club meet in a variety of local pubs and restaurants.

Members who attend groups not only gain in learning or sharing a new interest, skill or hobby, develop existing interests or keep fit. Perhaps, more importantly, we make new friends and have fun.

Group leaders meet together twice a year, once to share the positives of the past year, hear about new developments and raise any issues. For our second meeting we had an enjoyable tapas lunch at the Brasserie last September to thank everyone for their contribution to our thriving U3A.

Some of our group leaders have been in place since we started 6 years ago and very understandably need a change, so we must

be aware of this and we need members to come forward to take on those groups. We also need leaders to cover the parallel groups which are full and have a waiting list. We always welcome ideas for new groups.

It is very rewarding to see the time, commitment and enthusiasm that group leaders give to our U3A and on behalf of us all I would like to give them a huge thank you.

Margaret Breese, May 2017

Group Coordinator