

## **Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Haslemere U3A held on**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 2.00p.m. at Haslemere Hall**

The Chairman, Kate Colley opened the meeting and apologised for the agenda not being displayed on the screen as planned. She was pleased to see so many members (118 had signed in).

Apologies for non attendance were received from Angela Rowson, Janet and Derek Boxall, Barrie Pople.

### **Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM**

Copies of the minutes were available at the signing in desk. Ann Tauwhare proposed and Elizabeth Butler seconded that these were accepted as a true record of the 2010 AGM and they were duly signed by Kate, there being no objections.

### **Chairman's Report**

Kate reported that membership is slightly up from last year. The number of interest groups is much the same with some changes in topics and our in year finances are on a better footing. Two of the new groups are doing well, namely Family History and Singing for Pleasure, and two groups have started a second from their waiting lists. She thanked Colin (5 mile rambles) and Ann (French conversation) for instigating these. Attendance has improved at Table Tennis, now at a new location, and she had found a very enthusiastic group at Short Mat Bowls when she had recently called in. We had had our first coach outing in a good few years which was well supported. The committee is open to suggestions for future visits e.g theatre, Parliament.

The Local Link, an association we have with our neighbouring U3As, namely Milford, Liphook, Alton, Farnham, Petersfield and Woolmer Forest is still running well with local reps meeting 2-3 times a year. Kate had been able to re-establish that our members may attend any class held by most of these without having to pay a joining fee, just the fee appropriate for that class on production of their Haslemere membership card. This does not apply to Milford or Farnham U3As as they have a different format for their yearly membership fee, but our members may join at a slightly reduced rate. The Local Link Challenge will again take place in June, our Scrabble members are keen contenders and it would be good if more members would participate in the other events which are Table Tennis, Tennis, Chess, Bridge and Boules.

Kate thanked her committee for all their hard work. Brigitte (treasurer), Celia (currently membership secretary), Judy (secretary), Sue (accommodation officer), Les (newsletter editor) and Seb (our webmaster and technical expert) will continue to serve on the committee but Celia's role is to change from membership to group coordinator. There are some changes. She thanked Jeff Wise for having devoted so much time to U3A, latterly in his job as Publicity Officer and informed the audience that he has served on the committee several times, going back to when Haslemere U3A was first started. Pauline Watts has done a splendid job over the past 3 years as Groups Coordinator, having got several new groups off the ground and instigated the monthly newsletter to leaders. Joe McDonald has found us the most amazing array of wonderful speakers and has been working with Pam Pullen (his successor) on next year's programme. Pam was co-opted onto the committee during the year and helped Jeff organise the trip to Bletchley Park. Pam has agreed to stay on the committee and Kate was pleased to report that her pleas had been answered as a further 3 members have agreed to join the committee.

Kate thanked the volunteers who had agreed to help Seb on the technical side and understood that their training had commenced today. She was very grateful for all the hard work that the leaders and group organisers do on our behalf, as it is they who keep Haslemere U3A thriving as it does. She ended by saying "Always remember we are only as good as we ourselves make it".

### **Treasurer's Report**

Brigitte presented the accounts, copies of which had been available on the signing-in table.

*Income:* Annual membership fees had increased from £3950 to £4164 this year. Joining fees were £220 compared to £226 last year. Class fees were considerably higher this year but these were needed to cover equipment. A bridge table had been donated to the duplicate bridge group which was sold for £26. Increased numbers attending the monthly speaker meetings had resulted in an increase of £264 from last year –the move to the hall from the annexe has been well received, but of course costs more. Low interest rates continue, so the interest on deposit is even less than last year at £43. £807 had been received by way of Gift Aid. Total receipts were £10721.

*Expenditure:* Class expenses of £992 were considerably higher than last year but equipment has been replaced and some new items have been bought during the year. General meeting expenditure, represented by money paid to charities nominated by speakers, travel costs in some cases, refreshments etc. had increased from £319 to £437. The expanded new-look summer newsletter had been well received but it costs more to print more pages and we also have several copies available for new members joining through the year. Other expenses can be compared on the statement of accounts.

Over all this represents a surplus for the year of £833 compared with a deficit of £641 the previous year. Total funds now stand at £7887 for the year (plus £2467 received for membership subscriptions paid in advance for the year 2011-12). The Bletchley Park visit produced a surplus of £390 which the committee have decided to ring fence for future visits. Judy explained that we had not intended to make a surplus from the day but as the Queen visited Bletchley Park on the same day we had not been able to spend as much time there as planned and our entrance fee had been reduced.

There were no queries raised. Brigitte thanked Elizabeth Butler for auditing the accounts. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Cyndy Lancaster and seconded by John Peterson.

### **Election of Committee**

There were 4 vacancies and 4 proposals. Marion Dell (proposed by Kate Colley and seconded by Brigitte Hewett), John Pearce (proposed by Joe McDonald and seconded by Kate Colley), Pam Pullen (proposed by Judy Rix and seconded by Kate Colley), Margaret Mowatt (proposed by Celia Gregory and seconded by Pauline Watts). The members were happy to elect these en masse.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Elizabeth Butler was thanked for her services in auditing this year's accounts. She had indicated that she was prepared to act for a further year. Her appointment was proposed by Charles Ellison and seconded by Wendy Wilson.

## **Any Other Business**

Kate reported that the committee had been asked to supply a list of members e-mail addresses to other organisations e.g. Haslemere Events, Haslemere Fringe Festival but we had refused to do this. The members fully agreed with this decision and suggested that the committee should have discretion to decide whether those events could/should be advertised on our website and / or circulated through our own e-mail system. It may be more appropriate to put the information on the noticeboard only. Cyndy Lancaster asked whether the Haslemere Design Statement Project could be circulated when people's views are required in January. The committee were happy for the information to be passed to us.

A member (Dorothea Natrass) asked whether the new committee would introduce themselves to the audience, which was duly done.

Leslie Wilson said that on behalf of the membership he wished to express his thanks to the committee, leaders and group organisers.

The meeting closed at 2.40 p.m.