



Registered Charity No. 1073206

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held on **Friday 7th December 2018 at 10am**
in St Mary's Church, Ferndown

1. **Welcome & apologies for absence:** The Chairman welcomed all members, particularly new ones, and noted the apology from John Mullett who was helping with the expected arrival of his new grandchild.
2. **Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on Friday 15th December 2017:**
The Minutes needed a slight amendment on page 5, section 5, in that the maximum number of Committee members was 17 not 15 (as shown correctly on the FU3A Website). Having taken this into consideration, approval of the Minutes was proposed by Rita Burke; seconded by Marlene Clarke; and agreed unanimously.
3. **Adoption of Management Report for 2017-18:** This was proposed by Jo Brearley; seconded by David Oddy; and approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report & Adoption of Accounts for 2017-18:** This was proposed by Keith Banks; seconded by Rodger Pettengell; and approved unanimously.
5. **Election of Independent Examiner:** Ian Burr had accepted the invitation to serve once more as our Examiner. This was proposed by Betty Ford; seconded by Mike Andrews; and approved unanimously.
6. **Election of Committee for 2019:** Bob Reeve expressed his thanks to all the members who had served during the last year. Maggie Shew was standing down and John Mullett was retiring from the position of Treasurer. As the number of nominations did not exceed our maximum, the Committee could be voted in en bloc. This was proposed by Rodger Pettengell; seconded by Marlene Clark; and approved unanimously.

7. **Presentation to retiring Committee members:** Bob thanked **Maggie Shew** for her outstanding work with the website. She said it had been a lovely 5 years and it was now time to stand down. The website was easy to manage on all platforms. She reminded everyone that it was still a struggle to get enough articles, photos etc to put on the website. Hopefully it would be able to focus on new members in the future. Maggie was then presented with a gift from FU3A. Bob also thanked **John Mullett** for his outstanding work over the last 8 years. In his absence John had sent a message: - "Many thanks to Bob for his kind words and to all the members of our Committee and a big 'Thank You' for the presentation – I very much appreciate it. I have served on the Committee since 2010, taking over as Treasurer shortly afterwards, and have spent the last eight years looking after the pennies, and I have to say it has been a pleasure and a privilege. I have always believed that the very important role of Treasurer should come with a 'Use By' date and now I feel that I have come to the end of my 'shelf life' and it is time to hand over the reins. I am not going away and you will still see me around. Everything is only as good as the sum total of its parts and in your committee you have a very able and competent team and I hope to continue to be part of it and have a say in the future running of Ferndown U3A. Hoping you and your families have a very lovely Christmas. Thank you once again."

8. **Election of Honorary President for 2019: Gerry Lewis:** This was proposed by Rita Burke and seconded by Maggie Forson.

9. **Chairman's Report on 2018-19 to date:** Bob told us that we currently had 566 members, 61 Leaders and 87 groups. This represented a 2nd yearly increase in numbers.

He said that there were **5 challenges** facing us as a U3A:

1. **Enough Money:** We had to ensure that our accounting maintained a positive balance: we were able to do this through Beacon, careful budgeting and monitoring future figures with an interactive spreadsheet. Our reserves were strong but accommodation costs were likely to increase. Clare Clayton at this stage mentioned that we had to accept the possibility of having to move venues if costs became too high. The Barrington, run by PramaLife, were intending to increase accommodation costs but we had not had any detailed negotiations with them yet. Flexibility and patience were important when it came to deciding on the venues to use.

2. **Enough members:** When it came to Committee business, delegation was important and this was where the various sub-groups fitted in. We hoped to 'grow our own Committee members' such that we would have people who were able to 'shadow' the various current roles.

3. **Get it right:** This included everything under the term 'Governance'. There were structures and responsibilities to observe when it came to Finance, Insurance and Licences.

4. **Efficiency:** This is where we help ourselves. As a Committee we do more for our members than a lot of other U3As. One area was regarding communication by email - there were libraries where our members could access the internet, and FU3A buddies who were willing to help. This summer we would be offering the facility for membership fees to be paid by Bank Transfer.

5. Continue to grow and develop: We must not stand still and must move forward. The Chairman was asking each Committee member to identify one new Group for next year, and we still needed new Group Leaders to come forward. We must try to grow a new generation of Leaders for Groups, even just for a one-off occasion. Jean Stone would be drawing up the 2019-20 list of Groups and Leaders in January, so please talk to her.

Bob then mentioned our new FU3A banners with the new 3rd Age Trust strap-line 'Learning not Lonely'. This was to promote U3As particularly for the lonely, and learning for all over-50s. Self-help learning together happens all the time, it never stops.

He then introduced Derek Holden who outlined the current plans for 2019:

- Feb/March – requested visit to Exeter Met Office
- April 9 – provisional booking for London Post Office
- April 25-28 - Malta Study Visit
- May 24 – Mary Rose Museum – open to all
- June 16-18 – Ironbridge Visit
- July – Poole Croquet Club Visit planned

The popular Oxford Bakery Visit was on hold as it was not clear if they had received planning permission as no building work had commenced yet.

Bob told members that the dates for 2019/20 had all been agreed, including April & June 2020 Study Visits. He reminded us all of how much FU3A means to us and how much it does for us. He hoped we would all go away from here proud of our FU3A.

10. FU3A Charity of the Year: 2018 and 2019:

The raffle prizes in aid of our Charity of the Year 2018, *Societi - the UK Kawasaki Disease Foundation*, would be distributed after the AGM. In total, we have raised over £777 this year. The Chairman thanked everyone for their generosity, including volunteering and donating. Special thanks went to Diane Conway and Gerry Lewis.

As a result of the votes cast by FU3A members, our Charity of the Year 2019 will be *The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance*: our first contribution would be on Tuesday 11th December when our Panto will be performed.

Clare informed everyone that there was to be a sponsored walk in aid of DSAA on Saturday May 4th 2019 along the 16.5 miles of the Castleman Trail. We would need organisers and helpers as well as walkers, who would all make their own contribution to the success of this venture. We would, of course, be finishing at a pub in Ringwood!

11. AOB: Our Honorary President Gerry Lewis was presented with a specially-made birthday cake to celebrate his 90th birthday on 29th December.

The Annual General Meeting for 2018 closed at 10.55am.