



**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
FERNDOWN AND DISTRICT**

Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 15 December 2009  
at Ferndown Village Hall.

**Present**

Betty Wraw (Chairman/Groups Co-Ordinator)  
Margaret Wilson (Vice-Chairman, Membership Secretary,  
Newsletter Editor)  
Joyce Gallaher (Secretary)  
David Godfrey (Accommodation Booking Officer)  
Sheila Goode (Brochure Editor/Computer Liaison Officer)  
Gerry Lewis (Centre Manager)  
Laurie Shields (Deputy Bridge Co-Ordinator)  
Edith Stannard (Catering Co-Ordinator)  
Helen Tremain (Third Age Trust Regional meetings

representative)

Plus 80 members

**Apologies for Absence**

Brian Ford (Treasurer)  
Tricia Page (Bridge Co-Ordinator)  
Pat Hutton (Member)

**1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 5 December 2008, having been posted on the Notice Boards and emailed to members, it was proposed that these should be agreed and taken as read and signed by the Chairman. This action was proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Babs Creamer. A member queried the wording of a paragraph in the Chairman's report concerning the sending of cards to unwell members. It was agreed that this could be misleading. What was intended was that the Committee would only send get well cards and condolences to group leaders. Any other cards should be sent by the group attended by the unwell member.

**2. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members present and thanked them for their support. She introduced and thanked the Committee individually and outlined their responsibilities. Tricia Page was unable to attend and as she was not standing for re-election the Chairman thanked her for her work in organising the Bridge Classes over



the years, which Laurie Shields was now undertaking.

The Chairman reported that we had had another successful year, with membership numbers increasing. We were also running several new groups. She expressed the thanks of the Committee and the members to all the group leaders who give so much of their time and willingly share their expertise and skills. The U3A would simply not exist without their untiring efforts. Grateful thanks were also extended to those members who organised walks, lunches, day trips and holidays. These events are very much appreciated.

Some members had questioned why we no longer base most of our groups at the Ferndown Youth Centre. The simple answer is that as Dorset Education need to keep more rooms for their own use, we were left with no option but to relocate. We were now using more accommodation at the Barrington Centre, where we have been made very welcome and provided with a notice board for our exclusive use outside the Hayes Room. The Chairman asked members to be aware that other groups use the Barrington Centre and we should make sure we do not upset other users with careless comments. An incident had occurred where offence had been caused and she had had to apologise to the management of the Centre. We were also making more use of the Noisy Room which had been refurbished.

The Chairman felt that we should be aiming to make more of an effort to interact with members of other groups by attending coffee mornings and other social events. Holding out a hand in friendship is a very important aspect of life in a U3A. Connecting with people in social situations makes us feel good and positive and according to research, people who feel good function well and live longer.

One of the guiding principles of the U3A movement is that they are self-help organisations dependent on members being willing to share their knowledge, skills, interest and experience. The word university is used in its original sense of people coming together to share and pursue learning in all its forms. With this in mind perhaps some of you have a knowledge or skill that you could share with others in a group or maybe you have organisations skills, or could help with social events. Help does not have to be offered on a weekly basis but if we want Ferndown U3A to continue to prosper it is vital to have people on board who introduce and support new ideas or who are able to volunteer to lend a hand from time to time.

The Chairman finally reminded members that classes commenced next term week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January. The following new groups were starting – the History of the Industrial Revolution on Tuesdays, a Garden Group – Greenfingers meeting monthly with the first meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January and a Beginners Bridge course, which is scheduled to start on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Our next coffee morning is on 5<sup>th</sup> February when John Wraw (the Chairman's son) would be giving a talk on his experiences whilst sailing 5000 miles on the first leg of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race from Hull to Rio de Janeiro.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**



In the Treasurer's absence Edward Whittingdale, our Examiner of Accounts, presented the summary of the finances for Ferndown and District U3A for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, which had been tabled.

Edward Whittingdale drew attention to the following points relating to the Accounts-

#### **Income**

- membership had increased bringing the total income from subscriptions to £16406.00;
- Gift aid had increased by £500 to £2606.72;
- a sum of £1000 had been transferred from the Social Fund Account.

#### **Expenditure**

- as expected, with the move to new accommodation and the increase in costs for existing accommodation, this expenditure had increased by £3678 to £16023;
- the capitation fee to the Third Age Trust was due to increase from £2.50 to £3.50 in 2010. This capitation fee included insurance, and four copies per year of U3A News, and access to the Resource Centre for group leaders;
- with the introduction of our new database for enrolments it was necessary to replace our old computer;

#### **Reserves**

- the Accumulated Fund @ 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008/09 now stood at £11563.84 of which the majority (£9856.88) was invested in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund, which like many other deposit accounts, was earning a lower rate of interest than previously.

#### **Receipts**

- Mr Whittingdale was pleased to report that after his request at the 2008 AGM all receipts had been received. this year.

#### **Scrutiny of Accounts**

Mr Whittingdale advised members that the balance sheet, the Treasurer's report and the Chairperson's report and details of Trustees are required to be submitted to the Charity Commission annually.

#### **Examiner of Accounts**

Edward Whittingdale advised the meeting that he was willing to continue as Honorary Examiner of Accounts if this was their wish.

#### **4. Adoption of the Annual Account for 2008/9**

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Barbara Gooch and seconded by Pauline Staniford.

#### **5. Election of Honorary Accounts Examiner**

As previously indicated Edward Whittingdale was willing to continue as Honorary Examiner of Accounts and this was proposed by Pat O'Riordan and seconded by Judith Church.

## **6. Election of Committee**

The Chairman reported that nine nominations had been received for the ten vacancies on the Committee following the decision of the Chairman and Secretary to stand down. Eight of these nominations were for existing Committee Members and one was for Mr John Mullett.

The election of these members to the Committee was proposed by John Gooch and seconded by Edward Whittingdale. This leaves one vacancy to be filled.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **(a) Publication of Group Leaders' telephone numbers in Brochure**

A member had requested that group leaders' telephone number should be printed in the brochure so that prospective members could check the availability of places before enrolling etc.

In response, the Membership Secretary pointed out that there were issues of confidentiality involved as the brochures were placed in libraries and other public places.

With the introduction of our new database all enrolments were dealt with centrally, unlike other U3As where prospective members contacted the group leaders directly regarding availability. Enquiries could be made by contacting the mobile number shown in the brochure or by our dedicated email address.

However this point would be put to the group leaders when they meet in 2010 to discuss the content of the brochure.

### **(b) Proposal of Thanks**

John Gooch thanked the present Committee and Chairman for their sterling work over the years especially the members who were not standing for re-election, Tricia Page, Betty Wraw and Joyce Gallaher.

### **(c) Distribution of AGM Papers**

Pat O'Riordan questioned the necessity of posting AGM Papers to each member in view of the cost involved. It was pointed out that there was a legal requirement for the papers to be received by members by a certain time before this AGM and this might not be possible if they were distributed on an ad hoc basis. However this would be looked into for 2010.

### **(d) Condolence Cards to Members**

Edith Stannard advised the meeting that she wished to clarify the position regarding sending cards to sick or bereaved members raised earlier in the meeting. In the early days when numbers were far fewer she was appointed



as Welfare Officer to send cards to members. With the increase in members it had become impossible to know the circumstance of each member and carry this out effectively. The Committee had therefore agreed that when group leaders were sick or bereaved the Committee would send a card on behalf of the Committee and members to them. In the case of members, it would be left to the members of the class attended to send their own cards.

**(c) Welcome to new Committee Member**

Margaret Wilson welcomed John Mullett to the Committee. Margaret also thanked the outgoing Chairman Betty Wraw, Secretary Joyce Gallaher and Bridge co-ordinator Tricia Page, for their work and support over many years

The meeting ended at 2.10 p.m.