

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

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday 15th December 2014 at 2.15pm at Ferndown
Village Hall**

Committee Members present: Brian Williams, Bob Reeve, John Mullett, Jenny Bass, Gerry Lewis, Jim Cooke, Richard Tucker, Judith Hodges, Betty Ford, Maggie Shew, Glyn Bosanko

The Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 11th December 2013 were proposed by John Gooch and seconded by Laurie Shields. Those of the EGM held on Friday 23rd May 2014 were proposed by Derek Holden and seconded by Alan Bass and both were agreed by all present.

Chairman's Report: Brian Williams welcomed all to this AGM. He recounted the sad start to the year due to Mike Pimley's sudden death. Mike had been a committee member for a couple of years and was bringing us into the 21st century with his upgrading of the website, for which we were all grateful.

This sudden loss of a committee member highlighted the fragility of any spare capacity on the committee and hence, the change in committee numbers from ten to fifteen in the EGM in May. The pressure has been exacerbated by the fact that we have moved into a different area regarding charities which requires extra policies, procedures and documents.

We were still in need of additional committee members and the chairman urged all present to search their minds for people who might fit the bill.

The committee members were introduced and invited to speak if they so desired: **Glyn Bosanko**, Minutes secretary; **Jenny Bass**, Bridge Co-ordinator; **Jim Cooke**, who was retiring and was presented with a small gift in gratitude of all his hard work; **Richard Tucker**, who has been shadowing Jim Cooke and will now take over the role of Membership secretary and computer database keeper; **Betty Ford**, Accommodation secretary; **John Mullett**, Treasurer; **Bob Reeve**, Group Co-ordinator – Bob wanted to thank all the Committee members for their hard work, and asked those present to think hard, as we still require more presenters/leaders. He said it could be a series of meetings, or one only, or part thereof. He wanted to push the Autumn/Spring Friday talks and asked everyone to spread the word. "Get Involved" should be our buzzword; **Judith Hodges**, Public Relations and Publicity – Judith asked for reports from any of the groups about their activities to go in monthly newsletters as, compared to other U3As, ours had far less information. As the newsletters were not really being accessed much on the website, they would be going out by email again, but our aim was to distribute solely via the website or by hand to those members not online; **Maggie Shew**, Website co-ordinator – Maggie said her aim was to make the website really exciting as it should be the first point of call. We must use it and, by doing so, would save on resources. But she was in need of information to go on the online notice board and news pages; **Gerry Lewis**, Social secretary – Gerry said his job was to reinforce to all groups and leaders the talks and coffee mornings, which needed support by increased numbers. He thanked the people involved with the functions and welcomed suggestions for anything new. He pleaded with folk to have patience when he visited groups and to realise that theirs was one of many that he had to call on.

The Chairman then thanked all the course leaders for giving of their time freely, and without whom there would be no courses. Particular mention was made of those leaders whose groups met in their own homes.

An addition to Friday coffee mornings this year had been Bob Reeve's activities and Judith's very successful 'Discovering Dorset'. Those speakers who have taken part might like to consider developing their expertise into a course.

Thanks were directed toward the enthusiastic volunteers involved with our U3A, particularly the tea and coffee makers and the washers-up. Brian also mentioned Richard and Ian with their three or five mile walks in any terrain and weather. Three ladies in particular were mentioned by the Chairman - Margaret Thomas who is leader of four groups and also organises social events, including 'History of the Dance' in March, a garden party in June and the 'Day of Dance' in July; Betty Ford who, as well as being a committee member, organised successful trips to Abbotsbury, Portsmouth and a morning bird watching. She also organised the library display to attract new members. Gina Ponting arranged for us to go to Stonehenge in May and a guided tour of Kingston Lacy's gardens in July.

Thanks were also given to Barbara Brown for the use of her garden for the Strawberry Tea in June (ably assisted by John Mullett), Pat O'Riordan for the singles' lunches, and Brenda Baldry for the Skittles.

Garry Lewis worked tirelessly organising events, including the coffee mornings, the table top sale and the Christmas Lunch.

The Christmas Show had now been established as a recurring event and thanks were given to Peter Hunt and Rita Burke for this year's 'Mystery in the Mansion'.

The year's big event was the Open Day in May. As we lost members each year it was felt that we needed to attract new members. Much of the success of this day was down to Judith Hodges and Bob Reeve, ensuring that the brochure and course details were available to existing and prospective members before the actual Open Day. This was six weeks ahead of publication dates in previous years. We aimed to repeat this exercise on the last day of this year's summer term, and we looked to all members for help and encouragement.

As with all modern organisations we rely heavily on computers. Thanks were given to Jim Cooke and Richard Tucker for their sterling work and skill to make our database accurate and accessible. As the cost of a postal service drop to all members is in the region of £250 a time, members who have online access were asked to ensure it was on our records, as monthly newsletters were to be sent out via email and by hand for those without online access.

The website had become more user-friendly thanks to Maggie Shew and Judith Hodges who had a baptism of fire for the first three months. It was vital that members give Maggie feedback so that the website can be informative and up-to-date.

With regard to finances, a surplus had been achieved, and the Chairman said he intended to ask John Mullett to freeze membership fees for this coming year.

He then thanked everyone for their attendance and attention.

Treasurer's Report: John Mullett presented his Report to all members present. This showed that Income consisted of:-

Subscriptions £22,808.20, Interest £95.63, Social Income Transfer £2,000 and Gift Aid £4,169.94.

Set against this was Expenditure:-

Accommodation £16,884.22, Capitation Fees £1,536.50, Equipment £642.71, Printing Postage & Stationery £1,336.59 and Sundry Expenses £797.01.

The Reserves on the Balance Sheet showed a healthy £23,433.86 as at 30th June 2014.

John thanked Edward Whittingdale, our Accounts Examiner, whose last year this will be. He had given FU3A many years' service and we were now in the process of trying to replace him.

Adoption of Annual Accounts: Rodger Pettengell proposed that the accounts be adopted and Dave Oddy seconded this. It was agreed by all present.

Election of Committee: As the maximum number of Committee members was now fifteen, there was no need of an election unless someone was opposed. All existing Committee members were thus re-elected. This was proposed by Rita Burke and seconded by Hilary Mullett. There were also two new Committee members who had put their names forward: Derek Holden and Doreen Kinnear.

Election of Honorary Accounts Examiner: This position was now unfilled as no-one had come forward to offer their services. If it was not filled then we would probably have to get a professional to do the job, with a subsequent outlay. Mr Cornelius Cornes volunteered for the position and this was to be followed up.

Any Other Business: Jean Horsey mentioned that the Youth Centre hall they used for Line Dancing was not in a very clean state and wondered whose responsibility it was. This problem was to be looked into by Betty, the Accommodation Officer, and she will talk to Jean and report back. Cornelius Cornes wondered if the website could be promoted via the email and newsletter, and this would be looked into.

Judith Hodges stated at present the newsletters were distributed via individual email addressing and the hard copy newsletters for non-computer members had a prompt written on them.

Martin Tuck wished to know where the Notice Board in the Barrington actually was, and he was subsequently directed to it. It was also mentioned that there was another board in the Youth Centre.

Margaret Stephens questioned the procedure regarding the Bridge Class at Longham that had closed. If there was no transfer to another group would a refund be available regarding the supplement that the players paid. This was answered in the affirmative.

Alan Bass wished to know why there was a restriction of only four classes. This was to allow all members the chance of joining any class, especially the popular ones, which could be difficult if each member had an unlimited number of classes they could attend.

Cornelius Cornes confirmed that members joining in November found it difficult to get into many classes because they were already full.

Pat O'Riordan wondered if a notification of members' deaths could go into the newsletter. Where the information was known this was already policy, but it was dependent on members telling Judith. Judith Hodges asked if someone who was involved with the 'Mystery in the Mansion' production could produce a report to go in the newsletter.

Jean Horsey stated that the 'Mystery in the Mansion' clashed with a line dance session and wondered if it would be possible to arrange it for another date next year.

The Meeting ended at 3.25pm.

The next meeting of the Committee is on Friday 19th December 2014 in the Village Hall Noisy Room at 10.30am.