

**Minutes of the Bolton U3A Annual General Meeting  
held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 2.00pm, St. Andrew and St. George's United  
Reformed Church, St George's Road, Bolton BL1 2BX**

**Officers**

Jeanne Kelly – Chair  
David Dean – Treasurer

Lynn Gray – Vice Chair  
Liz Robinson – Business Secretary

**Committee Members**

Alison Dyson - Membership  
Janet Thatcher – Venue Co-ordinator  
Maggy Simms – Website  
Kathryn Chatwin – Publicity

Ernest Harper – Front of House  
Duncan Macpherson – Group Leader Co-ordinator  
Steve Brown – Group Leader assist  
Pauline Treuherz - Newsletter

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Jeanne Kelly, following confirmation that the number of members present constituted a quorum. Jeanne welcomed all members and thanked them for their attendance.

Before commencing today's business, Jeanne wished to apologise that the recent talk by Mr Scargill on Sir John Barbirolli had been cut short, as some members had complained. She explained that this was unfortunate and had mainly been caused by technical difficulties as well as the Mayor's attendance. It was, however, important to stick to the timings allocated by the venue. She agreed that it would be made clear to future speakers that they have a limited time to speak.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Laura Bannon, Eileen Wilkes, Elisabeth Ginniff, Nellie Platt, Eamonn Kelly, Gay Mason and Tim Mason

**2. Minutes**

Minutes recorded of the 2022 AGM had been circulated prior to today's meeting. The Chair asked members present to confirm the Minutes as a correct record by a show of hands. Approval was proposed by Carol Dean and seconded by Mike Howarth.

**Members confirmed the 2022 AGM minutes as a correct record.**

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the 2022 Minutes.

**4. Chair's Report**

Jeanne expressed her thanks to Committee members for their support during her second year as Chair, and to all the members who had volunteered to lead and assist with groups during the year. Jeanne introduced the committee members. She also introduced and thanked Win Conway, who has arranged speakers for the monthly meetings throughout the year.

The Chair's report will be emailed to members after this meeting. Jeanne brought particular attention to the grant from Bolton CVS, received in March of this year. This provided the branch

with £9,794, to be used for initiatives for reducing mental stress and isolation that can be experienced by older people. Jeanne thanked the Vice Chair, Lynn Gray, for identifying this opportunity and assisting with the fund application. The Fund has allowed the Branch to set up several new groups – Chair based exercise, Line dancing, Pilates, Nordic walking, 3 Coffee and Chat groups, as well as trips and outings. It has also enabled the branch to promote membership of the U3A, and to form an arrangement with the local NHS Social Prescribers, that offers free membership.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

David had circulated the Annual Financial Report to members prior to the meeting, but as technical difficulties meant these could not be presented on screen, copies were circulated for reference.

The Annual Statement for the year 2022/23 (year end September 2023) have been scrutinised and approved by the Branch auditors.

David brought particular attention to the following:

- The balance sheet shows a surplus of £6,407.96, although this is due to the grants received from Bolton CVS and others for £10,424.
- Group activities continue to be the main source of income. The cost of room rental exceeds this income, but the resulting deficit is adequately covered by annual membership subscriptions, that were maintained at £20pa
- Total expenditure for the year was £17,635.67, £2,294.61 higher than last year however this figure is also affected by the Bolton CVS grants. If grant expenditure is subtracted from this figure the spending increase is a more manageable £233.61.
- The decision to change the Newsletter to an online publication has resulted in significant savings on postage and stationery from last year.
- Funds from subscriptions membership figures for 2022/23 are lower than the previous year due to advance payments for the year of £3,436 being included in the 2021/22 accounts.

David wished to alert the membership that any proposed increase in membership subscription fees has to be presented to the membership at the AGM. Currently this is not necessary, and the branch is thought to have sufficient resources for any shortfall in the year 2024/25. However, the Committee reserves the right to increase membership subscription fees by up to 10% if that is considered necessary in the future.

**Members accepted David's report with a show of hands and there were no objections.**

## 6. Report from Group Leaders' Co-ordinator

Duncan had published the annual Group Leaders' Report which had been sent out to members. He apologised that two reports had been missed so were added late.

As previously explained by the Chair, the Bolton CVS grant has enabled the setting up of more groups. The three new Coffee and Chat groups are popular, and there is capacity for more, at Bromley Cross and Westhoughton for example if members local to these areas are willing to lead the groups. These groups are easy to lead, as all that is required is counting attendees. There is no money taken as they are funded by the grant.

Besides the funded groups, there is also a new Chinese Poetry pop up group, and a new group on Italian Renaissance Art. Michael Biggs has suggested a travel group that would use bus passes on local transport. He has been invited to speak on this at the January meeting and follow up with a meeting at the Olympus Restaurant. A group of 12-15 is proposed and more information will follow as it becomes available.

The Psychology group is now sadly at risk unless members are prepared to take over leadership of this group. Duncan wished to impress on members present that participation by the membership is crucial to the future of the branch. Some group leaders run more than one group and it would prevent overload if the responsibilities could be shared.

### **Members accepted the Group Leaders' Co-ordinator's Report by a show of hands**

It is a requirement of the U3A Bolton constitution that all Officers and Committee members stand down and stand for re-election each year. All the listed below had been proposed and seconded by U3A members and their names were read out before the member vote. Nomination forms will be retained for one year for reference.

## **7. Election of Officers**

Jeanne Kelly - Chair

David Dean – Treasurer

Lynn Gray – Vice Chair

### **Members voted to elect the Officers listed above by a show of hands**

## **8. Election of Committee Members**

Alison Dyson - Membership

Duncan Macpherson – Group Leaders' Co-ordinator

### **Members voted to elect the Committee Members listed above by a show of hands**

## **9. Election of Co-opted Committee Members**

Liz Robinson – Business Secretary

Maggy Simms – Website

Kathryn Chatwin – Publicity

Stephen Brown – Assistant Group Leaders' Co-ordinator

Pauline Treuherz - Newsletter

### **Members voted to elect the Committee Members listed above by a show of hands**

## **10. Presented Motions**

No motions had been put forward by members.

## **11. Committee Members standing down**

Jeanne informed members that two members were standing down from the Committee:

Janet Thatcher has served five years on the Committee. She has been a highly organised and efficient Venues Co-ordinator and will be very missed.

Ernest Harper has served as Front of House on the Committee faithfully and has been a valuable member.

Both were thanked and presented with a small parting gift as a token of gratitude.

## **12. Questions**

There were no questions from the floor.

## **13. Close of meeting**

As the business of the meeting had been completed, the Chair closed the meeting. The next AGM will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, at 2pm

Mike Howarth led a vote of thanks to Jeanne for her sterling work as Chair this year.