

Minutes of U3A Thrapston & District AGM, 19th May 2017

1. The meeting began with a warm welcome from the Chairman, as well as notices and announcements being made.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Ann Carter
3. **Minutes of the AGM in 2016** were shown on the screen. Marion Healey proposed, and Paul Ollett seconded, a proposal that the minutes be accepted. This was agreed by the meeting.
4. **Chairman's Annual Report.** This was comprehensive and a verbatim copy is attached to the Minutes. Thrapston & District U3A has continued to thrive and develop. Membership has grown to around 270 and our finances are in good health despite dropping the £1 charge for members at monthly meetings, putting on a free Christmas Social and Open Day, and keeping our annual membership fee the same as in previous years.

The last year has been enormously successful. We introduced New Member lunches where new members can meet group leaders and committee members over a sandwich lunch. These lunches have helped new members quickly integrate into our U3A community. Our membership groups number around 40 at present and we applaud the group leaders for being willing to share their passion with others.

Thanks to our Publicity Officer, Ann Carter and others, we now have beautiful U3A banners to welcome visitors at the entrance. All our leaflets have been redesigned to send the message that U3A is a vibrant community for the young at heart. The website has been regularly refreshed.

Our very first Open Day was an amazing success that attracted 93 visitors, leading to new people joining us.

The end of the year was marked by an unexpected award from the Town Council, this was for our contribution to the Community.

Finally the chairman offered a vote of thanks to all the committee members and the Group leaders who make our activities happen. He acknowledged that the committee had helped and supported him all through his 2 years as chairman, and he had never before worked with such a professional team.

5. **Group Co-ordinators Annual Report.** Full report is attached to the minutes. Marion Healey reported that the past year had been one of the most successful since the start of our U3A. Several groups have outgrown their meeting places and are looking to form a second group. Some of the newer groups include – Cake & Bake, Cycling, a new gardening group, Italian Conversation, Nordic Walking, Line Dancing, Places to Go, Science & Technology, Singing for Pleasure, Spanish, and Woodland Working Parties. The whole U3A movement is about sharing our individual knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm with one another. We are all intrinsically inquisitive beings and the U3A is the perfect platform to satisfy our quest for knowledge.
6. **Statement of Accounts 2016-17.** The treasurer presented her financial report (attached) but was unable to show it on a screen. **It was agreed to make time at the June meeting to show the accounts on the screen before voting to adopt them.** Our finances were in excellent shape and had been looked over by Robert Dickenson who noted the short time (3 weeks) from the end of the financial year in April to the presentation of accounts to the AGM in May. He advised that we change the financial year end to March, noting that this would allow more time for preparing the financial statement. The treasurer expressed our thanks to Robert.
7. **Proposal to change financial year end** from April to March. Proposed by Linda Vickerman, seconded by Richard Swindal. All agreed.

- 8. **Proposal that Robert Dickenson be appointed to continue to oversee the finances.** Proposer: Tricia James, seconder Prue Goss. All agreed.
- 9. **Election of committee.** The following Executive Officers were elected unopposed: Chair – Sheila Underwood. Vice Chair - Viv Tunstall, Business Secretary – Pauline Johnson. The following Committee officers were appointed unopposed: Pauline Dennison, Maddie Godden, Roger Davies, Wendy Davies and Ian Byrnes.
- 10. **New Constitution:** The new Chair briefly explained why a new Constitution was required. Members had been able to view the proposed Constitution via the website, the Newsletter, and in the Library. Marion Healey proposed that the new Constitution be adopted and Richard Swindal seconded the motion. All agreed.
- 11. **Discussion of proposed motions.** There were none.

The AGM concluded at 10.55a.m and was followed by Martin Izzard B.E.M speaking on the topic “Along the Nene”.

Signed:

Date: