

**PORTSDOWN U3A**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2016**  
**AT COSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
**AND REPORT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Carole Chapman gave Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

**1. Apologies** had been received from Christine London, Anne Ryder, Pauline Warder, Philip Dare, Bill Evans, Pamela Smith and Jean Lee.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:** the last AGM was held on 18th November 2015. The Minutes had been on the website all year. They had also been emailed to those members who were online. Some paper copies were also available. Acceptance of the Minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Trevor Evans and seconded by Julie Bloomfield. The Minutes were thus accepted and signed as such by Beryl.

**3. Matters Arising:** there were no Matters Arising.

**4. Chair's Report:**

- Beryl pointed out that 2016 has been quite an eventful year for our U3A and especially busy for Carole and myself and members of the Jutland Project and the Somme Film group. I am sure you will hear more of these successes in Carole's report.
- We still have our high profile lecture to look forward to later this month and tickets are still available from Carole. These tickets are free and not restricted to U3A members, but you must have one if you want to attend.
- We have had a few changes of personnel in the last year. Christine agreed to take on the role of Group Co-ordinator until the AGM and now this role is to be shared by Janice and Heather Henderson. Beryl thanked Christine and wished her a speedy recovery.
- We have found a volunteer willing to be Treasurer but it happened too late to put her name forward for election today so the committee will co-opt her after this meeting. Her name is Margaret Potter (known as Maggie) and I am sure we are all grateful for her willingness to take on the job of Treasurer. I know I am.
- We also lost our Membership Secretary as Maureen is moving up to Yorkshire to be near her family but we persuaded Julie to take on the role and she has been doing sterling work with preparing the data for the Beacon system.
- In September I had the pleasure of chairing the GL's annual get together. I think these occasions are useful as they allow GL's to have their say and to put forward ideas.
- Earlier this year it became necessary to Register Portsdown U3A with the Charities Commission as a charity in its own right. We now have our own Charity number – 1168337.

- In August, Carole & I attended the National Conference in Nottingham and it was a very interesting experience. There was much talk about possible changes to the way in which the Trust is structured. The feeling was that the delegates did not want the NEC to stray too far from the idea of 'Bottom Up'.
- After much heart searching we have agreed to use the Beacon System for recording membership records. It will do much more than that but we can only move slowly and so we are concentrating on the data that we hold for each member and the groups to which they belong.
- The "I Remember When ..." book is now available. Free copy if you were a contributor but they are available to purchase for the small sum of £1.
- The South Central Network continues to flourish and is proving quite useful. It now has about 17 members.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report and the Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the Accounts:**

- Beryl reported that the accounts have been prepared by her as she had been acting as Treasurer since Richard resigned.
- As you can see, we had assets of nearly £4,000 and we are in a good healthy position. It has to be said that committee and GL's (and others) subsidise us by using their own resources and premises.
- We have decided that it is not necessary to put up the Fees for 2017 but we think we may need to do so from April 2018. I would like to thank members of the committee especially Frankie for pretending to be me at the General Meetings.
- She also wished to thank Clive Reid for his Independent Examinations of the documents and the figures that were in front of members.
- Clive was unable to do the Independent Examination for the next year and so the committee would appoint someone early next year.

#### **6. Business Secretary's Report:**

- 2015-2016 has been an extremely busy year. Although a major part of my role centres on the everyday administration of our U3A and contacts with the National Office, it also involves the management of events which, I hope, enhance the experience of our members.
- Last week's performances of the silent film, *The Battle of the Somme*, firstly in co-operation with Portsmouth Grammar School and then publicly at Portsmouth Cathedral, were very successful, both as regards numbers and also as moving occasions. Many thanks to all those who attended and those who helped.
- And just a quick reminder: there is still time to get tickets from me for our Annual Lecture by Dr Lewis Dartnell. This will take place here in exactly two weeks, at 2.00pm on Wednesday 30 November.
- This year saw the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, 31 May-1 June. As a result, it was an opportunity to take part in some high-profile events: on 24 May, the opening of the Jut-

land Exhibition at the National Museum of the Royal Navy by the Princess Royal and, on 31 May itself, the Commemorative Service at the Naval War Memorial on Southsea Seaford. It is an ongoing privilege to work on the Jutland Project with Steve and Jeanne and their teams, through drop-in sessions for the public and preparation of the Roll of Honour and map detailing the local casualties of the battle. Thanks also to the Jutland Research Group for its support with the Somme film project.

- The other major opportunity for me has been further involvement in intergenerational debating events. In June, Nigel Gossop and I took part in the Young People's Debate at Portsmouth Grammar School. This was part of the Portsmouth Festivities and was on the subject of solar panels. Last night, I was privileged to be one of the judges at the local Chichester heat of the Historical Association's Great Debate. The theme of this is the impact of the First World War on local communities, with the final due to take place on 11 March 2017 at the Imperial War Museum in London.
- Earlier this year, I also took part in a Shared Learning Project with the Royal Philatelic Society in London. The aim was to produce sets of Cinderella Stamps, which are similar to the real thing but are generally used to advertise, inform or decorate. My set had the aim of drawing attention to our own Philosophy Group.
- As a result of this year's activities, I have served on Subcommittees for the Somme Film and the Open Afternoon, and continue to serve on those for the Website and Beacon. In all of our efforts, I have greatly appreciated the support of the other members of the Committee, and especially of Beryl. Additionally, thanks to Christine London on the Open Afternoon Subcommittee and to Diana Gregg on that for the Somme Film.
- Once again this year, Beryl and I had the opportunity to attend the National U3A Conference in Nottingham and, as always, it proved to be very useful as a means of meeting other U3A members and of finding out how other groups are managed.
- Next year promises to be as busy. We will certainly be offering another lecture. And, having done a talk earlier this year on the Holocaust, I look forward to doing one in 2017 on the Russian Revolution, 1917-2017.
- So I would finally like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be involved in so many interesting things.

**7. Elections:** Carole read out the nominations:

Chairman – Beryl Shepherd, proposed by Janice Henderson and seconded by Heather Henderson.

Vice-Chairman - Vivienne Grigson, proposed by Janice Henderson and seconded by Heather Henderson.

Business Secretary - Carole Chapman, proposed by Shirley Russell and seconded by Denise Noyce.

Member of the Committee - Joyce Wilkinson, proposed by Sharon Searle and seconded by Rosemary Qew

Each of the nominees was individually and duly elected.

**8. Resolution: to celebrate Portsdown U3A's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as detailed in the Notice of AGM, 2016**

Carole read out the first part of the resolution -

**(a) It is proposed that in 2017 Portsdown U3A members celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

This was carried unanimously.

She then read out the second part of the resolution -

**(b) It is further proposed that the celebrations should be funded in whole or in part by Portsdown U3A to a maximum of £1,000 (approximately £5 per head).** This was also carried unanimously.

Beryl then explained that the official business was now concluded and as such declared this part of the meeting closed.

**CLOSURE OF THE FORMAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING at 2.25pm**

**9. Members' Open Forum:**

Janice Henderson reported that the Beginners Bridge group was doing well and it was hoped to start an Ordinary Bridge group in the evenings.

Jo Dance reported that Play Reading group 1 had lost 2 members.

Eric Lee reported on the Music Study group.

They were requested to email any changes to Joyce for the Newsletter.

**10.** Carole Chapman reported that there was to be a Somme and Ypres trip in August 2017.

She also mentioned that a subcommittee was to be created for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Beryl wished to record her thanks to the committee and the Group Leaders for all their hard work during 2016.

Heather Henderson wished to record thanks to Beryl and Carole for all the hard work they do on behalf of Portsdown U3A .

The Open Forum closed at 2.35 pm and was followed by tea and biscuits in the front hall. Members were encouraged to mingle with new members who had been specially invited.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....