

**MINUTES OF CHESHUNT u3a GROUP 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at 2.15pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Laura Trott Leisure Centre, Cheshunt**

**NB** *All relevant documents had been circulated to members via email and were available for members at last month's meeting, on the website and at today's meeting.*

**1. Welcome and apologies.**

Our Vice Chairman, Stewart Walter, welcomed members to the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM of Cheshunt u3a.

Apologies received from our Chairman, Steve Sell and Peter Harris.

**2. Minutes of previous AGM held in April 2023**

There being no matters arising the Minutes were accepted.

**Proposer :** Patricia Shaw

**Seconder :** Janice Seibert

**3. Chairman's annual report :**

Cheshunt u3a, now in our fourteenth year, continues to be a vibrant organisation to which so many members voluntarily give their time organising activities, arranging meetings, and dealing with all the administration requirements to make it run smoothly. Our membership numbers have remained steady in excess of 700 members.

I would like to thank all those members who continue to lead our extensive range of groups. Stewart Wagstaff has kindly taken the initiative to encourage a number of new groups recently. He has been ably supported by our Groups Co-ordinator, Frank Sluter, in helping to set up several groups already, with more possibly on the way. It is also good to see members stepping forward to act as Group Leaders. It is especially pleasing to see that our u3a is now offering members several opportunities to join fellow members on coach holidays away in the UK.

The Group Leaders make their own decisions, and we can only offer the opportunities those Leaders are prepared to take on. If a group is full or does not operate the way you want it to then do, please step forward yourself and start up a separate group. We continue to participate in a Group Sharing Agreement with several other local u3as which gives members the opportunity to enjoy further activities not usually provided by Cheshunt u3a.

As usual our monthly talks have covered all manner of things. We have been entertained by several novelists, a biologist, a wedding toastmaster and a retired policeman. Talks have covered Epping Forest Wildlife, waterways, women in intelligence and the secrets of Bletchley Park.

When our u3a started we held meetings in Wolsey Hall. However, the local Council were set on its closure, despite the representations made by your committee. We moved to the Laura Trott Centre because there is not another venue large enough for our meetings in the Cheshunt area. However, we must accept that we now use what is a multi-purpose Hall that is really designed for sports activities. We have overcome the sound issues by investing in our own equipment and I must thank Stewart Walter, our Vice Chair for continuing to control the sound system at our meetings. Unfortunately, our sound system was not used at our December meeting and the entertainer's system was not ideal given the poor acoustics. With this in mind your committee has decided to re-think the December meeting and we will be using our own system and entertainers in December 2024.

As a committee we feel it is important to maintain links with other local organisations at the monthly meetings; therefore, along with the regular interest and group tables, we offer local community groups the opportunity to highlight their activities. These have included Cheshunt Fire Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Age UK and Three Valleys Male Choir. As well as providing information for our members it also makes others aware of what we do and the interests we have.

According to the Third Age Trust website nationally there are more than 1,000 u3as with more than 430,000 members. Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement. All u3as are encouraged to hold special events to raise the profile of our organisation. We are very grateful again to Jacqui Fry for organising our stand at Tesco Brookfield Centre with their Community Champion Lynn on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The event was very well supported and helped encourage new members. Music was again kindly provided by the A Team and the Wednesday cyclists made their renowned guest visit.

During the year our speaker secretary and raffle organiser, Sue, has liaised with Tesco Community Champion, Lynn, who has arranged a lovely Tesco hamper every month for our raffle draw. We are very grateful to Lynn who has become a welcome friend to Cheshunt u3a; she joined us for our December Christmas party and Sue arranged a lovely flower bouquet presentation at that meeting.

Cheshunt u3a could not operate successfully without the dedication and commitment shown by all of those serving on your committee and I thank them for all the unseen work they take on throughout the year. Along with the committee I would also like to thank the Group Leaders who do such a good job in organising the activities so much enjoyed by the members.

We remain grateful for the support we receive from the staff at the Laura Trott Centre. They have worked with us ever since we were forced to move from Wolsey Hall in 2018, providing us with storage facilities and setting up the Sports Hall in accordance with our specifications. We have also called upon their First Aid support on several occasions.

And finally, every member plays a part in making this a pleasant and vibrant organisation to be part of. It is run by the members for the members, and I believe that this collective spirit will ensure Cheshunt u3a continues to be a place people want to come to enjoy activities, make friends and help make it fun for everyone.

#### **4. Treasurer's annual report :**

Hopefully, everyone has collected a copy of the printed accounts when they registered today and will take them away to read them at their leisure; but please bring them with you for the AGM next month.

Our membership of over 700 local residents generated a large amount of funds and together with the monthly income from the books, puzzles, raffles and refreshments we had a total income of £12,786.

Looking at the payments section of the accounts, you will see that we managed to finish the year by spending a little under £12,000, thus giving us an excess of receipts over payments of £808.

The second set of accounts in respect of the Groups' activities, showed that you generated over £70,000 of income for us, but is also kept me busy in paying out a similar amount of money. However, the Groups also had an excess of receipts over payments of £565.

All income and expenditure is reported to the committee (Trustees) on a monthly basis at the committee meetings.

If anyone has any questions on the accounts, please bring them up at next month's AGM.

I should like to thank Christine Hewkin for examining the 'books' again this year and raising no observations on the accounts.

## 5. Election of committee members

Jean Wardrop and Jacqui Fry stepped down. A presentation was made to them both on behalf of the committee and the u3a membership and Stewart Walter gave a vote of thanks to them both for all the work they had done for Cheshunt u3a.

No applications were received to join the committee although our Secretary, Christine Luff, will be stepping down on or before the next AGM. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact any of the members of the Committee.

The following members were elected to the committee unopposed:

**Steve Sell**, Chair, **Stewart Walter**, Vice- Chair, **Rob Scott**, Treasurer; **Christine Folland** – Membership Secretary,

**Sue Allum** – Speaker Secretary, **Frank Sluter** - Groups Co-ordinator, **Stewart Wagstaff** – Assistant programme editor, **Tony Knight** – RUGs Co-ordinator, **Vanessa Lucas** – Website Co-ordinator, **John Durrant** – Events Co-ordinator, **Malcolm Luff** – Safeguarding, **Peter Harris** – Committee Member, **Andy Smith** – Committee Member, **Heather Douglas** – Committee Member, **Brian Peel** - Committee Member and **Christine Luff** – Secretary.

**Proposer** : Janet **Wallace**

**Seconder** : Linda **Gollop**

## 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Christine Hewkin has kindly agreed to continue as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

**Proposer** : Bill **Nevard**

**Seconder** : Bob **Clark**

## 7. AOB

No questions raised.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

**The next AGM will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (subject to confirmation)**