

MINUTES OF CHESHUNT u3a GROUP 14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 2.15pm on Thursday 24th April 2025 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 and on the website.

1. Welcome and apologies.

Our Chairman, Steve Sell, welcomed members to the 14th AGM of Cheshunt u3a.

No apologies received.

2. Minutes of previous AGM held in April 2024

There being no matters arising the Minutes were accepted.

3. Chair's annual report

Cheshunt u3a, now in our fifteenth 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. We have welcomed lots of new members during the last year. Obviously at the same time previous members have left us for one reason or another. However, our membership numbers have increased to in excess of 800 members.

Attendance at our monthly meetings has really been impressive this year; something that frequently takes our speakers by surprise! I am sure that attendance is often such that we would have struggled with the capacity that Wolsey Hall used to provide.

I would like to thank all those members who continue to lead our extensive range of groups. ably supported by our Groups Co-Ordinator Frank Sluter. Although a few groups have closed over time a number of new groups have been started or have been re-activated in the last year. It is also good to see members old and new stepping forward to act as Group Leaders. As well as the numerous activity/ hobby groups we now have lots of outdoor pursuits on offer. As well as the physical activities we have plenty of opportunities to travel by coach or train to interesting places in London and the Home Counties. Members also now have many more opportunities to take longer breaks with several groups now organising holidays further afield.

The group leaders make their own decisions, and we can only offer the opportunities that those leaders are prepared to take on. If a group is full or does not operate the way that 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 that 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. In the past year talks have included wildlife in India, the first Enigma codebreakers, Midshires Search and Rescue, beekeeping, stupid criminals and the music of Simon & Garfunkel. We also enjoyed a virtual tour around Camden and Kings Cross, a much more pleasant area of London than it used to be.

It is now some eight years since our u3a moved from Wolsey Hall to the Laura Trott Centre. We have overcome the sound issues of a Hall designed for sports by investing in our own equipment and I must once again thank Stewart Walter, our Vice Chair for continuing to control the sound system at our meetings. We have regretted the occasions when speakers have insisted on using their own sound systems because these never cope with the poor acoustics. After the poorly received entertainer in

December 2023 we decided that it would be better to go in-house in December 2024 and our very own 'A-Train' and 'Singing for Fun' groups entertained us suitably instead. This was well-received, and it has been decided to do likewise in December 2025, with a few modifications.

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. Unfortunately, community groups that have expressed an interest in attending have not been as forthcoming in the past year and we have therefore only made limited use of our community table.

According to the Third Age Trust website nationally there are more than 1,000 u3as with around 400,000 members. Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of the 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. Cheshunt u3a were able to participate again in September 2023 by running an Open Day Event at Tesco Brookfield Centre and we are grateful to their Community Champion Lynn for resolving some legal difficulties by facilitating this within the store. We were pleased that our newly elected MP Lewis Cocking agreed to support us by attending on the day.

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.

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. I have valued the support I have received from the committee in the three years that I have been Chair. They all have their individual roles, and I feel we have worked together very much as a team, in a friendly atmosphere with mutual respect and a unity of purpose. I must pay further tribute to our Vice Chair Stewart Walter. It never ceases to amaze me how he copes with producing comprehensive minutes at our meetings, while also participating fully during and after meetings undertaking numerous follow up tasks. He resolves issues at our monthly meetings and liaises with the speakers and controls the sound levels.

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 2017, 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.

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.

Proposer for acceptance of the Chair's Report: Margaret Partridge, **Seconder:** Yvonne Tebbut

4. Treasurer's annual report

Treasurer's Annual Report at 31st October 2024

This report is to be read in conjunction with the Accounts that were available at the registration desk and which should be read when you've a spare moment or two and then brought along to next month's

meeting when we will have our AGM. If you have any questions relating to the accounts, please send them to our Secretary at least two weeks before the AGM which is on 24th April 2025.

On the reverse of the front page is the Trustees' Report, that lists the Committee (Trustees) that were elected by you at the last AGM on 25th April 2024. There were no further changes to the Committee during the accounting year, although Brian Peel has agreed to shadow me for the foreseeable future.

Following on from the Notes to the Accounts page, is the full set of accounts and you will see that the increase in our membership fees to £15.00 per person has generated over £12,400.00. Along with the monthly sales of Books, Puzzles, Raffles and Refreshments plus an enormous amount of almost £119,874.00 generated by you - the members - to the many Group activities have boosted our Receipts to £134,278.00.

The payments - listed below the receipts – amounted to almost £126,339.00 but still meant that we finished the year with an excess of receipts over payments of £7939.00.

The next sheet shows a list of Sundry Expenses, amounting to £3,300.00 while the following one shows the individual Groups that pay money in and out of the bank and gives their individual balances at the year end. All Receipts and Payments are reported to the Committee on a monthly basis at the Committee Meetings.

The final sheet is from our Independent Examiner – Mrs. Christine Hewkin – who checks through the records each year and who I should like to thank once again for her work this year. Rob Scott

Treasurer

Proposer for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report: Ann Nicholls, **Seconder:** Panny Sorokos

5. Election of committee members

Steve Sell, Christine Luff and Christine Folland all stepped down from the committee. A presentation was made to them on behalf of the committee and the u3a membership and Stewart Walter gave a vote of thanks to them all for all the work they had done for Cheshunt u3a.

There were four nominations to new posts on the committee:

Stewart Walter – Chair Proposer: Malcolm Luff Seconder: Stewart Wagstaff

Jo Ware – Vice Chair Proposer: Margaret Partridge Seconder: Malcolm Luff

Andy Smith - Membership Secretary Proposer: Christine Folland Seconder: Christine Luff

Heather Douglas – Secretary Proposer: Christine Luff Seconder: Frank Sluter

And one nomination to join the committee

Isabel Martin – Assistant Secretary Proposer: Christine Luff Seconder: Marilyn Gould

All were elected unopposed.

The following committee members agreed to continue in their existing roles:

Rob Scott, Treasurer, **Brian Peel** – Assistant Treasurer, **Sue Allum** – Speaker Secretary, **Frank Sluter** - Groups Co-ordinator, **Stewart Wagstaff** – Assistant programme editor,

Tony Knight – RUGs Co-ordinator, **Vanessa Lucas** – Website Coordinator,
John Durrant – Events Coordinator, **Malcolm Luff** – Safeguarding, **Peter Harris** – Committee Member.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

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

Proposer : Steve Sell

Secunder : Bob Clark

7. AOB

No questions raised.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 23 April 2026 (subject to confirmation)