



Faringdon and District

FARINGDON & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity Number 1116311

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 held on Thursday 11th April at 2.30pm at FARINGDON CORN EXCHANGE

(Throughout these minutes (P) indicates proposer and (S) indicates seconder)

The Chair declared the meeting open and quorate with in excess of 100 members in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Rita Higazi

2. Minutes of AGM 2018

The minutes have been available on the web for members to review.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (P) Simon Coe (S) Margaret Brown and agreed *nem con*.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report appeared in draft form in the Spring Newsletter and has been on the website for several weeks.

At the 2018 AGM Peter Smith stood down as Chairman after 3 years in the post and I was appointed Chairman with Alison Thomson as Vice Chairman.

We welcomed Danielle Mills to the Committee to support Shela Rowan in Programme Planning. Geoff joined the team as Newsletter Editor when Elizabeth Smith Stood down. The Committee remains at 12 members.

During the year we have held 12 monthly meetings all in the Corn Exchange with a wide range of topics from traitors and assassins, family history and amateur dramatics to rain forests, photography, travel, and most recently ceramics. Our general meetings have been well attended and we have much to remember from our speakers.

Our interest groups now number 42 with a wide range of activities being pursued.

Our 'Thank You Drinks and Nibbles' evening was held in the Barber Rooms in May and it was a chance to thank Group Leaders and to greet new members who had joined since October 2017.

In August, thanks to Steve and Jenny Braithwaite's continuing generosity, we held our Summer Lunch, which was attended by 117 members who shared a lovely lunch with excellent wine and very congenial company. We were grateful to the Ukulele Group and Recorder Consort for entertaining us. A table quiz provided by Jenny Braithwaite tested our knowledge of recycling and the weather smiled on us.



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In October we held our Annual Open Day which attracted a good number of visitors. I am grateful to everyone who came, either to help on the day or to show interest in U3A. As a result, 19 new members signed up on the day bringing our membership to over 500.

In January, 95 members came together for January Japes which is establishing itself as a firm favourite. After our delicious lunch we enjoyed a fascinating travel talk from Tony and Rosemary Hadland about their trips to the Falkland Islands. The following week 75 of us came to a showing of a 'Britain on Film' show entitled Rural Life and were treated to an afternoon of nostalgia and happy memories.

Our first major project after last year's AGM was to get our U3A compliant with GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation) and with Safeguarding. Thanks to the dedication of the IT Coordinator and his little workforce we are now compliant with both, and the policies can found on our website.

This year we decided to upgrade the U3A computer to cope with the demands of the job, particularly for communicating bulk mailing and for coping with graphics and PowerPoint presentations.

We also invested in a new lapel microphone. After a few hiccups we can now offer a hands-free microphone for our use.

While IT plays an important role in our organization and administration we still operate a pen and paper option for those without a computer.

Finally, I extend my personal thanks to the Committee whose support is invaluable. A special thanks to Simon Coe who after 5 years as secretary has decide this year to stand down. I am pleased that Peter Foot has continued to represent us at Thames Valley Network and that Geoff has agreed to take over as Newsletter Editor and for all his help. I was very grateful for the help and advice handed over by Peter Smith and always appreciative of those who offer to organize refreshments, particularly Peter and Mary but also everyone who volunteers to help them. I also thank those who came to help set up and clear away gazebos for the Summer Lunch and those who help with January Japes, Drinks and Nibbles and Open Day. Your presence defines who we are.

It has been a busy, eventful year and we have lots more planned for the future.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Copies of the 2018 Accounts were distributed to those members attending the AGM in the Corn Exchange.

The number of members increased in the 2018, so our Membership increased as did the Gift Aid Tax.

If a holiday is booked through Riviera Travel and the member makes them aware of the fact, our U3A will receive a commission.

As our U3A has adequate funds the membership fee has been reduced starting with 2019.

The report was accepted as an accurate statement of the accounts (P) Christina Field (S) Kay Byers *nem con*.



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6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As the Secretary Simon Coe was standing down it was necessary to elect a new Secretary
There was one nomination for Roger Wilkins for the position (P) Margaret Brown (S) Simon Coe.
The meeting approved the appointment *nem con*.
The other members of the committee had agreed to continue.

7. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

The meeting was reminded that in accordance with the constitution it is necessary each year to reappoint the examiner of accounts. It was proposed that Mike Bathe continue in this capacity
(P) Nigel Wilkinson (S) Margaret Brown approved *nem con*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business points

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 2:49 pm