ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Chairman’s Report 2017

The past year has been a real milestone for U3A in Ludlow. We celebrated the 20th anniversary in the summer with some members of the original committee who set up the Ludlow branch in 1997. Without exception they were delighted with the growth of U3A as they were unclear how, or indeed if, it would develop all those years ago. We were able to say thank you to David Hughes, Monica Furness, Maureen Davenport and Joyce Brand. It was sad that Olwen Hughes, who had played such an important part in the development and growth of U3A in Ludlow died in May. She had chaired, organized trips and talks, edited the newsletter and been active in numerous other ways. She will be missed.

I said as I began my first year as Chairman that I hoped the U3A committee would be a team game. It has proved to be so which came, to me at least, as a great relief and of real benefit to U3A in Ludlow. Our membership numbers have been steady and are now showing signs of growth while the number of study groups is easing towards seventy. This impressive figure is due in no small measure to the enthusiastic work of our Study Group Adviser, Dr Annie de Laurier. Her efforts, and those of Dr Derek Ball in his gathering and editing of the Monthly News keep members informed about what is going on. Robert Hodge, who runs the website, resolves all sorts of IT issues and edits this Annual Report also plays an important role in publicity.

The Monday morning talks have been as enjoyable as ever and are too numerous to list here but I particularly enjoyed the SS Great Britain, A Life in Music and the presentation on Hearing Loss. Our thanks go to Janet Finney for her organizational skills, usually far into the future. Our newish Secretary Deborah Gentry cleverly guides us through the complexities of constitutional matters and David Hatchell ensures the sums add up which means we can generally avoid accusations of mismanagement. On financial matters at least!

The committee will be losing the lady that everyone will have seen welcoming newcomers outside Oscar’s on Monday mornings. Penny Robinson will be standing down at the AGM having been on the committee for six years. “Served her sentence” I believe it’s called! She has acted as the collective U3A memory in a largely new committee. Thank you, Penny.

In the wider world beyond Ludlow we are part of the Shropshire Network where U3As in the county get together to compare notes and grumble about “advice” from London. Network activity goes through peaks and troughs but 2018 is looking like a busier year. Watch for upcoming publicity!

Nationally U3A is going through another self-examination phase caused by its continuing success.

U3A nationwide now has over 400,000 members and more than 1,000 U3As which is remarkable. But some form of control, however gentle, presents a challenge and, for some reason, governance issues fail to excite many. And when all said and done, how much does it affect Italian conversation on Thursday morning or table tennis on a Tuesday?

Which brings me back to where I started; U3A is, or should be, about the membership of each branch. Fortunately, we are thriving, and I know the committee will do all it can to keep that going.

We are looking forward with optimism to another good year in 2018. I hope you are too.

Stuart McLaren
The Chair, Barbara Ball, began the meeting by welcoming those present and thanking those who were contributing to the mornings events both in Oscars and later in the Auditorium. She advised the meeting that the pot made at the January meeting, when our speakers were from the Albrighton Pottery, was being raffled with the proceeds going to the Assembly Rooms.

1. Apologies for Absence
   Apologies were received from Stephen Abbot; Dido Blench; Jude Butemont; Barry Capsey; Roy Coles; Terry Couzens; Anne Davies; Elizabeth Dowden; John Dowden; Mary Eminster; Rita Fuey; Pam Hardy; Mike Haines; Fran Johnstone; Mair Little; Marian Maynard; Dick McNally; Pat Morrison; Beth Neden; Geoff Neden; Faye Pritchard; Pat Schofield; Chrissie Verduyn; Geoff Wright.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (21st March, 2016)
   The Minutes had been circulated with the March Newsletter. The Chair asked if anyone present had any corrections. There being none, acceptance of the Minutes as a true record of that meeting was proposed by Gill Harnett, seconded by Mike Beazley and approved by those present.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
   None were raised.

4. The Chairman's Report
   This had been circulated previously with the March Newsletter. However, Barbara Ball chose to highlight a few points;
   - The need for us to support each other as we get older, when we might find it more difficult to participate in U3A activities. A lot of thought has already gone in to this and we will continue to work on it.
   - This last year has seen the introduction of the Monthly News emailed to members. Hopefully, you find this useful. Because of this the Committee has debated whether we need to continue sending a printed Newsletter twice a year. At present we have decided that we will continue to do so as there are other papers we need to send you in February and October/November? We also hope that it serves as a reminder that members are part of a larger organization not just their Study Group.
   - We have been working to ensure that The Monthly Meeting has broad range of speakers and we believe that they are well received. We have also been pleased that the Study Group Co-ordinators have been willing to contribute to today’s events and will be doing so again later in the year when we will be holding another Quiz.

   The Chair asked if there were any questions from the floor. There being none, acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by Peter Vipond, seconded by Janice Haines and approved by those present.

5. The Treasurer’s Report
   The Treasurer’s Report and the summary of income and expenditure in number form had already been circulated with the March Newsletter. David Hatchell did not go through the figures again but asked directly if there were any questions from the floor. There were none. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Rosemary Bristow, seconded by Vic Harnett and approved by those present.

6. Election of Committee Members
   The Chair pointed out that under our constitution Committee Members serve for one year and must be re-elected annually. This year four members were retiring from the Committee and she wished to record her thanks for all their hard work;
   - Alison Jackson had withdrawn last year for personal reasons.
   - Sylvia Duffy, who had been the one to bring to our attention the issues of older age, had chosen not to stand again
   - Geoffrey Neden, who was not here today, was also standing down. He had been our hard working technical and IT support for several years and we could not have managed without him.
   - Barbara Ball herself was standing down as she had now served for six years, the maximum allowed by our constitution.

   We had received seven nominations. Those standing had already been nominated and seconded, so the Chair proposed that the Committee be voted in “en bloc”. She asked those standing to make themselves known: Derek Ball; Deborah Gentry; Robert Hodge; Janet Finney; David Hatchell; Stuart McLaren; and Penny Robinson.

   The Meeting approved the election of those nominated to the Committee. Barbara Ball/ Stuart McLaren? then called for the election of the three main Officers on the Committee; Stuart McLaren as Chairman – nominated by Peter Bull, seconded by Margaret Watkins.
David Hatchell as Treasurer – nominated by Gillian Jones, seconded by Vic Harnett.
Deborah Gentry as Secretary – nominated by Mike Beazley, seconded by Pat Smith.
All three appointments were approved by the Meeting.

7. Election of Examiner
The existing examiner of our accounts, Ian Stewart, has indicated he is willing to continue. Ian Stewart was proposed for Examiner by Maralyn Gaunt, seconded by Peter Vipond and approved by those present.

8. Any Other Business
None.

Stuart McLaren concluded the meeting by thanking Barbara Ball for her service over the years. He also pointed out that 2017 was the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Ludlow U3A and the Committee was discussing how to mark this milestone.

Treasurer’s Report 31st December 2017

Having reported an increase in membership for the last few years, this year it has dropped marginally, and as a result the accounts show a small shortfall of income against expenditure. I see no problem with this since U3A in Ludlow has total available funds in excess of £5000 which has been the organisations benchmark figure for the recent past.

The Membership Fee has been held at £12 now for a number of years and I do not envisage an imminent change since our outgoings have in general been contained.

Our Chairman attended the U3A National Conference which is customary, particularly for new Chairman, and the Miscellaneous expenditure was for six commemorative plaques that were presented to those pioneers who started U3A in Ludlow 20 years ago.

My thanks go to Ian Stewart who has examined the accounts and has kindly indicated that he is prepared to do so again at the end of 2018.

David Hatchell

Resolution to change charitable objects of U3A in Ludlow

The current Objects clause (clause 3) of our constitution, adopted in September 2103, reads:

*The charitable objects of the U3A are: i) To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and older people in Ludlow and its surrounding locality who are not in full time gainful employment; ii) The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.*

While this clause does cover most of the activities we may want to undertake, some U3As are developing interest groups whose activities go beyond the definition of ‘social and leisure’ activities and fit better within the description ‘personal development’. The Charity Commission requires that all activity carried out by a U3A must be charitable and within the objects clause of its constitution. It has been agreed between the Commission and the Third Age Trust that local U3As should adopt a new single object clause, as follows:

*The object of the U3A is: the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.*

In addition, only U3A activities that fall within the charitable objective are insured, so amending our object clause will ensure that all our activities remain covered by insurance.

Following advice from the Third Age Trust, the Committee of the U3A in Ludlow considers it appropriate for the U3A to change Clause 3 of its constitution. To amend the Constitution, a resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting.

**The following resolution will be proposed at the AGM (item 6 on the Agenda)**

The members of the U3A in Ludlow (‘the U3A’) agree that Clause 3 of its Constitution be amended to read:

*The object of The U3A is: the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.*
The Annual General Meeting will be held on
Monday 26th March 2018 at 10.30

AGENDA
1 Apologies for absence
2 Minutes of the last AGM and any matters arising
3 Adoption of the Chairman’s Report
4 Adoption of the Treasurer’s Report and Accounts
5 Election of Committee Members
6 Resolution to change the charitable objects of U3A in Ludlow
7 Election of Examiner
8 Any other business

U3A in Ludlow
Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017

MAIN ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE

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STUDY GROUPS’ ACCOUNT

| Balance b/f      | 1033.83  | 651.44   |
| Amounts Paid in  | 994.00   | 1794.79  |
| Amounts paid out |          | 757.87   |
| Balance c/f      | 1269.96  | 1033.83  |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER

| Total available funds b/f | 5993.31  | 5036.38  |
| Surplus/Loss(-) for year  | -330.83  | 956.93   |
| General Bank A/c          | 8652.34  | 8546.57  |
| Groups’ Bank A/c          | 1269.96  | 1033.83  |
| Events Bank A/c           | 211.14   | 211.14   |
| Cash/stamps in hand       | 231.00   | 317.60   |
| Subs paid in advance      | 3372.00  | 2982.00  |
| Creditors (Groups)        | 1269.96  | 1033.83  |
| O/Standing Cheque         | 60.00    | 100.00   |
| Total available funds c/f | 5662.48  | 5993.31  |

David Hatchell
Treasurer

Ian Stewart
Examiner