



Annual General Meeting of U3A in Ludlow
held at 11 am on 27th September 2021
at St Laurence's Church

The Chairman, Robert Hodge, began the meeting by welcoming everyone to u3a in Ludlow's first meeting in St. Laurence's Church. The meeting was told that u3a in Ludlow is required by the Charity Commission to have an AGM every calendar year. This AGM is for the year 2020 and has been postponed from its scheduled date in March because of Covid restrictions. The AGM for the year 2021 is scheduled for the end of March 2022.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from *Philip Adams, John Barker, Paul Beeden, Nino Binns, Heather Birch, Rosie Bristow, Geoffrey Broad, Alison Brooks, Amanda Brooks, Juliet Caithness, Karen Colman, Hugh Cullen, John Curry, Anne Davies, Mark Delaney, Shauna Delaney, Sylvia Duffy, Caroline Eayrs, Jackie Emery, Kathleen England, Reg Fletcher, Jan Gardner, Rose Genner, Deborah Gentry, Tony Gould, Barbara Graham, George Gunn, Janice Haines, Helena Hale, Michael Hale, Judy Hamer, Elizabeth Hatchell, Judy Hennah, Terry Hilder, Barbara Hilder, Coral Hodges, Jackie Hodgson, Ann Holding, Ann Hutchins, Gordon Hutchins, Gillian Jones, Ann Kelcey, Colin Kelcey, Norma Lea, Philip Lea, Josie Llewelyn, Gilly Lloyd, Maria Maynard, John Meadows, Patricia Meadows, Judy McNally, Carola Morrison, Pat Morrison, Elizabeth Owen, Mark Pitter, Faye Pritchard, Deborah Rackham, Margaret Ramage, Angela Rodgers, Penny Rosenthal, Eileen Russell, Margaret Shackleton, Marian Sims, Margot Sutton, Michael Towey, Robert Vaughan, Ben Walters, Mavis Wilson, Margaret Watkins, Steven Wood, Gordon Wooldridge, Marion Wooldridge, Roger Yates.*

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (20th November & 21st December 2020) and any matters arising

The 2021 Minutes had previously been posted on the u3a in Ludlow website. The Chairman asked if anyone present had any corrections or matters arising. There being none, acceptance of the Minutes as a true record of those meetings by Zoom was proposed by *Mike Beazley*, seconded by *Owen Elias*, and approved by those present.

3. Adoption of the Chairman's Report

Robert Hodge presented his Chairman's report which had previously been posted on the u3a in Ludlow website. *Robert Hodge* added that *Suzanne Taylor* was co-opted on to the committee in December 2020. He also expressed his thanks to the support of all

committee members and suggested a particular vote of thanks should go to *Stuart McLaren* for his six years of service on the committee.

In the absence of any questions arising, acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by *Janet Finney*, seconded by *Vic Harnett*, and approved by those present.

4 & 5. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Treasurer's Report and the summary of income and expenditure had previously been posted on the u3a in Ludlow website. *Grace Wilkins* began by saying that she had not been elected as Treasurer until November 2020 and so these accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 had been prepared by the previous Treasurer *David Hatchell*. She expressed her thanks to him for all his help and support.

Grace Wilkins summarised the U3A's financial position by saying that the exceptional feature was the large surplus. Subscriptions for 2020 had been paid before the Covid lockdowns began, and so money was saved because there were no monthly meetings for most of 2020.

Grace Wilkins (in her role as Membership Secretary) reported that u3a in Ludlow had 607 members at the end of 2019 and 578 members at the end of 2020. The current membership is 542 and there is a steady stream of new members joining.

In response to a question from the floor *Grace Wilkins* and *Robert Hodge* confirmed that the new charges for hiring Ludlow Assembly Rooms were still not known.

They then reported that additional savings had been made now that there was no longer a bi-annual printed newsletter and the only mail now sent by post was to the few members who did not have email.

There being no further questions from the floor acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts was proposed by *Andrew Stedman*, seconded by *Owen Elias*, and approved by those present.

Owen Elias expressed his thanks to the Treasurer for her report.

6. Election of Committee Members and Officers

The Chairman pointed out that under our constitution Committee Members served for one year and must be re-elected annually. He pointed out that there had never been a contested election to his knowledge.

This year all the existing members of the committee who are eligible to stand again have done so:

Barbara Ball, Sue Billing-Sly, Janice Haines, Robert Hodge, Peter Law, Suzanne Taylor and Grace Wilkins.

These people have already been nominated and seconded, so the Chairman proposed that the committee be voted in "en bloc". The resolution for the re-election of those existing members of the committee on to the committee was duly proposed by *David Hatchell* and seconded by *Vic Harnett* and the meeting approved the election of those nominated to the committee.

Robert Hodge then called for the election of the three main Officers on the committee. He was again standing as Chairman, *Grace Wilkins* was again standing as Treasurer and *Barbara Ball* as Secretary. Again, he invited a resolution and vote on their election 'en

bloc' which was proposed by *Mike Beazley* and seconded by *Janet Finney*. All three appointments were approved by the meeting.

7. Election of Examiner

The existing examiner of our accounts, *Ian Stewart*, had indicated he was willing to continue. *Ian Stewart* was proposed for Examiner by *David Hatchell*, seconded by *Lesley Shew* and approved by all those present.

8. Adoption of the revised constitution

The revised constitution had been previously posted on the u3a in Ludlow website and the key changes outlined in the September Newsletter. *Robert Hodge* explained that as a registered charity we need to have a constitution which demonstrates our compliance with current charity laws. An update was also needed to include the option of holding AGMs remotely. National u3a had drafted a model constitution which the committee has adapted to suit our particular structure.

There being no questions from the floor, *Mike Beazley* proposed, and *Stuart McClaren* seconded, the Chairman's proposal that the new constitution be adopted. This was approved by all those present.

9. Any Other Business

Richard Pickering asked from the floor if there were any plans to use Zoom to stream future monthly meeting talks from Ludlow Assembly Rooms. This would be helpful to less mobile members of u3a. *Sue Billing-Sly*, the Monthly Meeting Organiser, said that this was being considered as well as the possibility of hiring more high-profile national speakers who could talk to the audience via Zoom.

Finally, *Owen Elias* said that he wanted to thank the committee on behalf of the membership for successfully steering u3a in Ludlow through the pandemic. *Robert Hodge* replied that many study groups had demonstrated great initiative and resilience by keeping their meetings going throughout 2020 and 2021.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11:20am