

ST AUSTELL U3A

MINUTES OF THE AGM

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2019

1. APOLOGIES – there were no apologies for absence. Shirley Polmounter, however, was unable to attend due to car problems
2. MINUTES - The Minutes of AGM held on 5 April 2018 were agreed and signed
3. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Pippa Boardman reported that the St Austell U3A had moved on very quickly over the previous 12 months. There had been a large number of new members with a growing social programme and more new groups. A facility to make on-line payments was also now available.

A section of the committee time had been devoted to the changes needed within the constitution relating to charity law. Colin Brown had undertaken this task with care and tenacity and we now have new written procedures adopted into our standing orders covering this work.

The St Austell U3A would not be where it is without a lot of help from volunteers within the group. These volunteers help to facilitate meeting places use both at the Art Centre and in and around St Austell. Thanks were given to all.

5. GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT – Bridget Spear thanked all group convenors without whom there would be no U3A. Bridget took on the role 3 years ago with 2 aims – firstly to bring some cohesion to the role of group convenor which was aided by the introduction of information pack. The second aim was to increase the number of interest groups available. At the start there were approximately 16 groups (although not recorded) and currently we have 39 with 3 more in the pipeline to begin by the end of the year. Bridget also introduced Michael Grindley who was taking over as Group Co-ordinator as she was standing down.

Bridget had also taken on the task of tackling the U3A website with Pippa – neither of whom knew had any experience of editing a website. With the help of tuition from Sheila Clarkson, they have changed everything from colour, layout, text and photos. It has been kept simple to navigate making it easily accessible and always up-to-date. The site now has approx. 600 hits a month and the feedback has been good. Thanks went to Sandra Buck who will be taking over this role.

6. VOLUNTEERS REPORT – Janet Regan reported that she had been involved in revitalizing a Hospitality Group:

Christopher Scott – Organises rota for carpark attendants of which we have 9 currently. There is now a reserved space for the Speaker's car in front of the hedge by the steps to the Theatre.

Karen Scott – Organises the rota for 12 meeters and greeters at the signing in table to who encourage you to wear your name badges and also escort any enquirers to the membership secretary. Karen also organises the rota for 10 welcomers who move around the assembly room assisting folk with any queries

Kathy Abate – Organises the rota for 11 entertaining coffee bar assistants.

Thanks were given to the hospitality group for early arrival to set up and the friendly and caring approach to both visitors and members.

Janet has for 2 years prepared lists of speakers and thanked all those who had given her topic suggestions. She also thanked Steve Holland for his patience and his technical skills.

Following Janet's retirement Shirley Williams and Norma Jarman would be taking over the role. Thanks went to all for the voluntary work.

7. **SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT** - Barbara Waddington reported on the varied social events which had taken place during the year. It was hoped that they had given all members the opportunity to participate in activities they enjoyed and to try something different.

New ideas are always welcome and, as far as possible, will be included in future programmes. It is, however, a problem when suggestions are received for which the Social Committee has no knowledge (for example "A Day at the Races"). With this in mind if anyone can help we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Events held during the year included 10 pin bowling at St Ozzell Bowl with a meal at Wetherspoons for those who wanted it. Also close to home was afternoon tea at the Carlyon Bay Hotel, a French Café evening and a quiz evening with fish and chip supper at the Britannia Inn

Further afield, trips included a visit to St Ives taking in the Tate Modern and Barbara Hepworth Gallery and, with lovely weather, a picnic and evening performance at the Minack Theatre.

There was also a visit to Hestercombe Gardens near Taunton, a day at Exeter Christmas Market and a tour of the Plymouth Aquarium.

Throughout the year Sandy and the Social Committee had worked tirelessly to provide an interesting and varied programme and the Committee expressed their thanks to them. We are looking forward to the plans for the coming year and hope that members continue to support the social events

8. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** – Richard Ash was membership secretary for the year and thanked Pippa and Rosie Lean for the help they had given him and for Rosie's continued help in signing up new members. He had also been vice-chair of St Austell U3A along with Colin Brown and Beacon Administrator. Beacon is the system provided by the national U3A for secure storage of member and group details. Richard had also produced a membership form, new member's pamphlet and a video which had been shown in the assembly room at Speakers meetings.
9. **ELECTRICAL COMPLIANCE** – Chris Palmer explained what electrical compliance was and his responsibility for PAT testing. He also explained other ad-hoc duties he carried out as the need arose.
10. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Dennis Rayner explained that the accounts he had produced were for 15 month period to end March 2019, This was due to Charity Commission rules that financial year must run from April to March. Going forward, accounts will be for 12 months.

The group had enjoyed a good year financially. At the start of the period, the account stood at £10755.85 and ended with £17184.63 (an increase of £6428.78). The increase reflected the increase in membership. New blinds (£617) and tables (£1091) had been purchased. It was decided that the room rate would be held at £1 per person. Dennis also thanked the person who had anonymously donated £500.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Phil Caitlin and seconded by Steve Burt.

11. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE – the 2019/2020 committee were named as: Richard Ash, Jenny Bishop, Pippa Boardman, Christopher Palmer, Dennis Rayner, Ann Smith, Barbara Waddington and Pauline Weir
12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – bouquets were presented to 4 retiring members – Margaret Clarke, Shirley Polmounter, Janet Regan and Bridget Spears. Thanks to them for their hard work and best wishes.

There was no further business

Adopted and signed.....

Dated.....