

# **Pembury U3A**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2pm

In the Village Hall

**Those present :** 101 members attended the meeting.

## **1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for absence**

The Chairman, Roger Gardner welcomed everyone for coming and remarked that this AGM was the best attended that he had ever been to. Apologies for absence were received from Nick and Sally Sturcke, Janet Ditchett, Reg and Annette Worrall, Ann Pomfret, Denise McGladdery, and Mike Tompsett.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM in 2016**

Roger asked if everyone had read the minutes and if there were any objections. John Franks proposed that the minutes be taken as a true record. This was seconded by Paul Cowtan. The minutes were agreed and signed by Roger.

## **3. To adopt the reports of the Management Committee**

**a) Chairman.** Roger said that having completed his first year as Chairman (which he considers to be a privilege) he would like to thank everyone that volunteers to make our U3A such a successful and friendly place. The committee continues to change and Roger thanked Denise McGladdery for her role as Treasurer Activities and Maureen Redmond for her role as Interest Group Co-ordinator. Both are stepping down. Roger thanked Anne Landsbert for organising the lecture lunches and said we are still seeking someone for this role. He thanked Richard Bourne for doing our printing and Rick Lawrence for his IT stewardship. The Welcome Group also deserve thanks, as well as the Interest Group leaders without whom we would not have such an array of activities. Roger said that the highlights of the year must be the Art Exhibition which was attended by local dignitaries. He thanked Janet Richardson and her team for putting on such a good show. The Ukulele group are much in demand. He thanked Brian Collins and all the players. We won the Village Quiz in June, with a team captained by David Bentham, and have a trophy to show for it. Our Newsletter is one of the best, compared to other U3As, thanks to John Smith and Richard Aylen. Our social activities are well attended, our membership numbers are stable and our finances are in good shape. All in all a good year for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Roger wishes everyone a good summer before we return again on 5<sup>th</sup> September for Interest Group Sign Up session.

**b) Membership Secretary.** Andrew Richardson said that his job is to bombard members with emails, make up the membership cards, work out who gets newsletters by post and to remind members to pay membership fees. He also likes to give out useless statistics: Of the members who joined in 2006 there are still 24 left. 497 people have actually joined in the previous years but people come and go and at present, with an average increase of 30 per year we have 309 members of whom there are 96 men, and 248 who actually live in the village itself. Of all members 86% have email. We will have to see what the next 10 years brings.

**c) Interest Group Co-ordinator.** Maureen Redmond said that we now have 63 different interest groups. She thanked everyone for supporting the leaders and the leaders for all their time. She hoped that members would try out something new next year. She would like to introduce Jane Gardner who would be taking over the role after today.

**d) Trips and Events Organiser.** Marion Pink reported on the trips she had organised. We went to Brogdale fruit farm to learn about the many varieties of apples and pears and then on to the Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham to tour the factory and enjoy a tasting session. We went to the Christmas illuminations at Kew Gardens. We travelled to Saffron Walden for a guided tour before visiting Audley End House and Gardens. More recently we went to Bleinham Palace for a tour of the state rooms and to explore the grounds. She asked that members keep 6 October free for a trip to Dover and Deal Castles. And don't forget the barbecue this coming Saturday. Brian Pledge reported on the theatre trips and holidays he has organised. In May we had an 8 day holiday to the Republic of Ireland. This was based in Killarney in South West Ireland. A detailed report can be seen in the Newsletter thanks to Janet Richardson. Theatre trips have included Half a Sixpence at the Chichester Festival Theatre, Show Boat, The Go Between with Michael Crawford, Hobson's Choice, The Glass Menagerie, and most recently 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Sand in the Sandwiches at Brighton. A wide variety of shows. We had a very successful Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall last December, with entertainment by Ray Campbell who inspired us to do the Conga at the end. We now look forward to some more enjoyable occasions next year. The last Lecture Lunch was held at the Nevil Golf Club and organised by Anne Landsbert. She has sadly had to give up the organising so Brian hopes that someone will come forward to revive them.

**4. To adopt the Accounts** for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, which have been approved by the Independent Examiner, Peter Hoole, and agreed by the Management Committee. Roger said that in the absence of Denise McGladdery he has been holding the fort as temporary Activities Account Treasurer and he is pleased to report that on a greatly increased turnover of receipts and payments totalling over £53,000, the Activities made (as it should) a small profit or excess of £95. More importantly its true net balance of funds at year end was around £2,300 after deducting £3,690 for

payments to be made from the £6,020 credit balance at the bank. That is why we can afford to have a Dance in the Barn entirely free of charge to members. On the Business account and on behalf of its Treasurer Alison Wilkins, we are in the fortunate position of rising income to £9,678, costs reducing to £8,200 leaving us with a surplus of £1,478 and accumulated funds of over £7,600. That is why we were happy to take the decision to remove the nominal charges for monthly meetings. But we also need to spend some of that surplus on Interest Groups and buying new equipment to add to or replace equipment which is out of date or requires major repairs. Roger asked if there were any questions. In the absence of any questions John Franks proposed that the Accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Angela Garner and put to the members by a show of hands. With no-one against the Accounts were adopted.

**5. Election of new Committee members.** Roger asked the members to listen to the nominations for the various positions: Firstly to be co-opted for one year: **Trips and Events- Brian Pledge** Nominated by Rudi Liney and seconded by Brian Collins. **Trips and Events- Sally Sturcke** Nominated by Lynn Hine and seconded by John Hine. Roger asked for a show of hands, and with no-one opposing, these nominees were duly elected.

Then for a 3 year term:

**Interest Group Co-ordinator - Jane Gardner** nominated by Claire Dimitros and seconded by Maurice Marchant. **Activities Account Treasurer - Karen Denman** nominated by Helen Beck and seconded by Joyce Pattenden. Roger asked for a show of hands and, with no-one opposing these nominees were duly elected. Roger said that we still have a vacancy for a Vice-Chairman, and now that Jane is elected to Interest Group Co-ordinator we really need a Speaker Organiser.

**6. Any Other Business.** A member asked when we would be able to vote in anyone who came forward to fill the vacancies. Roger explained that last year we had voted to increase the size of the committee, and we can co-opt anyone on to the committee during the year. The secretary had not received any items for discussion so the meeting came to a formal end at 2.35pm.