

Minutes of the 2021 Pembury U3A AGM held on  
Monday 3 August 2021  
held online via Zoom

1 The Chairman welcomed everyone.

Apologies for absence were received from:

S.Giles, K.Denman, P.Myhill, M.Marchant, M.Adams  
R & C Ayles, G.Molloy, J & R Gardner, R.Garner, M.Pink  
R.Worrell.

2 The minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed with one minor correction.  
There were no matters arising.

### 3 Management Committee Reports

#### a) Chairman's Report

b) First and foremost I must apologise for such a short report as I do not have much to add from the last newsletter.

Another year has passed and we are still basically in lockdown. Freedom Day is allegedly just around the corner but I am not sure which corner. Anyway fingers crossed we will have a normal SignUp Tuesday in September.

Thank you all for keeping in touch with Pembury U3A during this difficult year. We have managed to meet in Groups of six mostly outdoors. Sadly we have not had such brilliant weather as we had last year. We have also successfully overcome the complexity of Zoom for our monthly meetings with some fascinating speakers that Helen Beck has organised.

Your committee has managed to keep the show on the road and on your behalf I would like to extend my thanks to them for all their efforts over the year. A special mention to the members who are standing down after serving brilliantly during their term of office. Namely Helen Beck, Sally Sturke, Brian Pledge and Janet Goodchild. Thank you for all your extremely hard work for Pembury U3A.

Brian Pledge has been a Committee Member since the start of Pembury U3A almost 15 years ago and the stalwart of the holidays for the U3A, for the last 12 yrs. He has been very ably assisted by Ann. The holidays have been a phenomenal success with some wonderful memories for those who went on these trips.

Janet Goodchild has also been on the Management Committee since the start of Pembury U3A and has been a very active group leader running two Patchwork Groups, a Crochet Group plus the Welcome Committee. Sally Sturke has run the Theatre group and they have been to some wonderful productions including the Opera at Glynebourne. During lockdown it has been Helen Beck who has organised all our speakers, which have helped us all to keep in touch during the past 18 months and kept us sane.

An enormous thank you to them all.

I will repeat my appeal, that was in the last Newsletter, that we need new people on the Committee or some of the activities will not be able to continue and that would be very sad as we have been a very successful U3A and don't forget it is your U3A.

We have managed to start a new group on Climate Change led by John Hawker and John Vale Taylor.

Congratulations to ChrisRock, who has been made the National Advisor for the Russian Language Groups.

Sign up Day is on Tuesday 7th September when I hope to see you all in the Village Hall so that we can make the rest of 2021 and all of 2022 a really successful and hopefully normal year for Pembury U3A.

Thank you

Michael Cartwright  
Chair Pembury U3A

## b) Membership Secretary Report

This year the Government restrictions and lockdowns required to deal with the Covid 19 pandemic have meant changes to the administration of the Membership function.

Our Management Committee took the decision to extend the membership year to help compensate for reduced Interest Group activity and membership renewal was therefore moved from September to January.

This has subsequently been adopted for future renewals which will therefore take place on January 1st each year. Fees were paid by cheque or direct bank transfer with the latter becoming more popular this year.

We have attempted to keep members updated as requirements for group meetings changed but this became difficult with frequent changes being made. I will continue to attempt to update our website in line with current group activity.

The delayed 2020 AGM was held in January using Zoom video conferencing. This proved successful and has been repeated for this 2021 AGM.

Monthly members' meetings were not able to be held in the Village Hall due to social distancing requirements but these have now resumed using Zoom. Members are becoming increasingly familiar with Zoom and recent meetings have been very successful.

Our website has been used to host galleries of images for the Art Group and Photographic Group enabling these groups to continue when face to face meetings were not possible. Members are encouraged to view these galleries.

Membership renewals for 2021 have been reduced by the inability of groups to meet as well as house moves, change of circumstances etc. The updated statistics are as follows :-

Current paid up membership 260 Number, not renewed for 2021 54, Email subscribers 218, New members 2020/21 17

Rick Lawrence

Membership Secretary 28/07/21

### c) Group Coordinator Report

1:)I have now been in role for 6 months, and so I have yet to find out what 'Normal' looks like as regards Interest Groups in our U3A. Whilst it has been impossible for many groups to run during Lockdown, I would like to commend the ingenuity of those who have managed to keep going on Zoom, which I know has been greatly appreciated by those able to attend. As restrictions have eased some groups have been able to meet in gardens, and the walking groups have been enjoying getting out and about together again.

Now that restrictions have officially been lifted, groups are cautiously beginning to plan for the future again. We currently have 72 groups, with 52 group leaders. We have four new groups: Russian online, led by Chris Rock, and Gardening, led by Pauline Hawker, have started up during the year; Ros Braham has offered to start up a Drawing group in September, and Annie Partridge is starting a dressmaking group. Angela Cartwright agreed to take on leadership of the Afternoon Tea and The Ambling Groups, which were lacking leaders.

The two reading groups have now amalgamated, run by Reg Worrell, and are to meet in the meeting room at the Village Hall.

I would like to thank all those who work so hard to make our groups work.

Sadly Mary Nisbet, who led one of the Mindfulness groups, passed away earlier this year. My thanks go to her and all the at she did for our U3A.

At present we do not have leaders for History, Mindfulness or Table tennis, so if anyone would like to take over leadership of one of them, please do let me know. I am sure there are also members who feel that they have an interest which is not provided for by our present groups. It does not need to be onerous to lead a group, as members of individual groups are usually happy to take turns in organising events. If anyone has an idea for a new group, please let me know, so that I can help you set up.

We were unable to hold our annual U3A Day in the Rec this year, due to restrictions and our Sign-Up Day will have to be run on a much smaller scale in order to keep our members safe and keep within the limits on numbers in the Village Hall. More details about the Sign-Up day will follow.

In the meantime I am asking all group leaders to find out who would like to remain in their groups and to fill any gaps with those on their waiting lists. There will be a list of groups with vacancies in the next Newsletter, which will be published before the Sign-up Day.

Hopefully over the course of the next year we will be able to fully get back to all our activities, whilst being mindful of the feelings and safety of others.

Wishing you all a safe and active year ahead.

2) John Hawker pointed out that the allotment group had continued to meet throughout the lockdowns as its outside and easy to keep apart.

#### **d) Trips & Events Organiser**

Due to Covid restrictions there is nothing to report.

#### **4 Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31/03/21**

The accounts, having been accepted by the Management Committee and confirmed by the independent examiner, were approved by the meeting.

#### **5 Election of New Committee Members**

The following were elected :

Secretary: Lorraine Braam

Membership Secretary: Rick Lawrence

Welcome Group Coordinator: Beverley Hougham

As there were no nominations for Vice-Chairman the post remains vacant.

## 6 Confirmation of Changes to the Constitution

The meeting approved the changes to the constitution of Pembury U3A approved at the Special General Meeting held 7 July 2021.

## 7 Any Other Business

- a) Janet Goodchild, Sally Sturcke and Brian Pledge expressed appreciation for the thank- you gifts the Chairman had presented to them on behalf of Pembury U3A and said how much they had enjoyed their time, and the company, in their roles.
- b) Helen Beck confirmed that the Village Hall is now available, with limited numbers, and would be used for the sign up day in September.
- c) Beverley Hougham reported that she is hoping to organise a Christmas lunch at the Masonic hall when it reopens shortly.