

Orpington u3a Annual General Meeting Agenda

To be held on Monday 15 January 2024

1. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM, held on 16 January 2023
2. Chairman's report, acceptance of report previously submitted
3. Treasurer's audited Annual Finance Report
4. Group Coordinator's report
5. **Election of Officers to the Committee**

In the absence of new nominees to the Committee the following have agreed to stand for election:

Chairman: Sue Howe

Vice Chairman: Yvonne Sallis

Treasurer: Robert Browne

Secretary: Janet Anderson

The rest of the committee can be elected en bloc subject to members' approval:

Janet Tucker, Linda Howard, Janet Holmes, Maurice Childs, Anne Lusk, Neil Woodhouse

6. Examiner of Accounts: Stuart Wood to be nominated and elected

7. Any other business

Conclusion of meeting with time and confirmation of number in attendance.

Minutes of Orpington u3a Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday 16 January 2023

Present; Committee: Pauline Dawson, Janet Anderson, Linda Haward, Sue Howe, Peter Richards, Sybil Robinson, William Sear, Janet Tucker, Janet Holmes, plus in excess of 97 members representing a quorum. Apologies: None

1. Minutes of previous AGM, held on 17 January 2022 were accepted
2. Chairman's report, acceptance of report previously submitted.
3. Treasurer's Provisional Summary of Accounts (The Treasurer's audited Annual Finance Report to be included in Feb/March Newsletter.)
4. Group Co-ordinator's report, previously submitted.
5. In the absence of new nominees to the Committee the following were voted in by the members.

Election of Officers to the Committee

Chairman Sue Howe

Vice Chairman Yvonne Sallis

Treasurer Robert Browne

Secretary Janet Anderson

The rest of the existing committee were voted in en bloc by the members.

Janet Tucker, Linda Howard, Janet Holmes, Peter Richards, Maurice Childs.

Nominations for the 10- Committee member was left pending for the decision of the incoming Chairman.

Examiner of Accounts: Stuart Wood was nominated and duly elected.

6. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded at 3 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

This year has flown by for me since taking on the role of Chairman in January. I have attended regional events at both the London Region and Kent Network of u3as; had several meetings with the Chairs of Bromley and Beckenham and (my favourite part!) visited quite a few of our groups, where I have enjoyed chatting to our members. In this, our 25th Anniversary year, we were pleased to welcome the Chair of the Third Age Trust, Liz Thackray, to our General Meeting in July and be presented with a certificate of achievement.

Seeing our Founder Members and Past Chairmen on stage at the 25th Anniversary Lunch was an especially emotional moment. Without their commitment we would not be where we are today, with over 950 members and approaching 90 Interest Groups. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. Many of our Group Leaders have been in position for years, but replacements are hard to find from amongst their own groups when they want to step down. Some very popular groups have therefore closed as people are unwilling to make a small commitment to help – often all this entails is being the point of contact for the group. I would urge anyone to consider taking on this vital part of our organisation; remember we will always offer advice and support.

I am very pleased to say that all of our hard working and dedicated Committee are standing for re-election. We are a staunch team, helping each other with our roles and constantly endeavouring to do our best to both promote and invigorate our organisation. I would like to thank them on your behalf for all the hours they selflessly give up for the benefit of others.

So, here we are 25 years on, with the ethos and spirit of the organisation still strong, but with a need to reflect and keep pace with our changing society. It would be wonderful to think that at the 50th Anniversary of Orpington u3a members will look back and thank us for the part we played in its development.

May you continue to learn, surrounded by friends and accompanied by laughter.

Sue Howe

2023 Group Coordinator's report

2023 has been a good year for Orpington u3a groups. We have had several new groups start up bringing our total number of groups to nearly 100 with more in the pipeline.

This year started with just me coordinating groups but I was soon joined by Anne Dungan who is sorting out the technical side and also Ann Lusk who has a special interest in welcoming new members and giving them information about various groups and how to get the best out of their membership.

Neil Woodhouse is another new volunteer who is very keen to create fresh ideas for new groups, Neil has already started with Country Music and Curry Club with plenty more ideas up his sleeve.

It's vital to have new blood to make us vibrant and energised. I would like to thank Anne, Ann and Neil for volunteering and look forward to an interesting and exciting

2024

Janet Holmes

Orpington U3A Treasurer's Report for FY 2022/23

Our financial position remains strong and robust.

Revenue Account The increase in our income in 2023 compared with 2022, compensated for a similar increase in our running costs, such that the surplus on our revenue account was comparable at £2,049.

Exceptional Items In contrast to recent years, in 2023 we purchased equipment and incurred costs associated with the 25th Anniversary celebrations. We have also sold equipment that is surplus to our Interest Group requirements. The net expenditure on Exceptional Items was £2,053.

Total Funds Including the expenditure on Exceptional Items, we essentially broke even in 2023, such that our total funds were sensibly unchanged at £17,456.

2024 Member Subscription Since our total funds substantially exceed our minimum reserve, for the third year running the Trustees have decided to keep the membership subscription at £12. Taking account of inflation over the past two years, in real terms this effectively represents a decrease in the subscription of approximately £1.50.

Independent Examination of our Accounts We are grateful to Stuart Wood for examining our 2023 accounts and confirming that they represent a true and accurate record of our finances. I would also like to thank Stuart for his help and guidance.

Looking ahead We recognise that our funds substantially exceed our minimum reserve, which we have conservatively set at £5000. After three years strongly affected by COVID, during which we accumulated funds at an average rate of £1,600 per year, in 2023 we broke even, thereby 'turning the ship around'. We are committed to reducing funds towards our minimum reserve over the next 5 years by providing additional funding targeted to: (i) increasing the number, diversity, and availability of Interest Groups, (ii) offering new learning opportunities, and (iii) continuing to improve new member experience.

How you can help us reduce costs and administration

1. If you can, please pay your membership subscription online using our PayPal account.
2. If you pay income or capital gains tax, please make sure you have completed a Gift Aid declaration so that we can claim the associated tax rebate on your subscription.
3. If you currently receive a paper copy of our Newsletter and you have an email address, please consider whether the electronic version you receive would suffice, thereby reducing printing and postage costs.
4. If you currently receive a paper copy of Third Age Matters (TAM), please consider whether you really need it. Deregistering for TAM would reduce our payment to the Third Age Trust.

For a Gift Aid declaration form or to stop receiving paper copies of our Newsletter and/or TAM, please contact our Membership Secretary, Linda Harwood (membershipsecretary@u3aorpington.org.uk).

Report prepared by: Bob Browne, Treasurer, Orpington u3a

1 2023 is used here as shorthand for the Financial Year 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.

2 2022 is used here as shorthand for the Financial Year 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2022.