

Report of the AGM of the Penrith and North Lakes U3A held on 20th June 2019 at the Playhouse, Penrith.

A quorum was established which enabled the AGM to take place.

1. **Apologies:** Howard & Ann Simpson
2. **Tellers:** Sue Tomlinson and Andrea Willett were appointed tellers
3. **Minutes of the 2018 AGM:** The minutes were approved and adopted as correct with no dissention.
4. **Chair's report:** Mike Head reported on another successful year. There were currently 54 groups and new groups during the year included photography, folk singing, French intermediate & sketching. Unfortunately French 1 & a literature group were no longer active. The annual membership fee of £13 had remained unchanged and as well as membership of the various subject groups, members continued to enjoy the regular monthly meetings with a good mix of interesting subject areas covered by the various speakers. The monthly Saturday English Literature sessions had also been well attended and had seen continued collaborative work with the "Penrith Remembers" group close to the Centenary of the Armistice. The Newsletter, published every two months continues to be sent by e-mail, post or collection to all members. The Annual Summer Event had been a coach trip to Bowes Museum on 29th July 2018. Thanks were given to all those who helped with all the various activities of the U3A. The Chair then went on to outline a policy change, which had been agreed by the committee, concerning the reciprocal arrangements between North Cumbria U3As. The present position whereby members of neighbouring U3A's were charged £9.50 [£13 minus the £3.50 Third age Trust fee] would be changed to allow individuals who are already members of other U3A's in North Cumbria to join PNLU3A without paying the annual subscription. They would be associate members and so would have no right to vote at an AGM or EGM but could attend monthly meetings and groups, provided there was no waiting list for an activity they wish to join & they would not be able to join a waiting list. They would provide valid evidence of current membership of another U3A & pay the costs of any activity on the same basis as other members. All group convenors must be full members of PNLU3A.

The Executive Committee felt that the change, which would be a common reciprocal policy across North Cumbria, would benefit our members who belong to other local U3As and it was particularly useful to have joint arrangements to make up numbers for special events, trips & unusual interest groups. All those U3A's in the North Cumbria Network had agreed to take the same reciprocal approach.

5. Treasurer's report:

The annual income to the main current account at HSBC bank was £10,384 and the expenditure was £9,016, giving a surplus of £1,368 for the year. The income from subscriptions, which remains at £13 per annum, was over £8,000, which was £500 more than last year. The claim for Gift Aid generated £1,167. During the year we had once again received a grant from the Third Age Trust to cover the cost of our Annual Open Day to attract new members as well as show existing members what other activities are available.

Postage costs had been high at just over £1,000, an increase of £200 from last year, so again, members were urged to receive their newsletters electronically. The cost of collecting subscriptions and data protection forms had also affected the higher postage costs. The net surplus had increased this year by £500 which was partly due to there being no IT equipment purchases needed.

The balance total of the main account was £17,757 which included £7,551 in the bank current account and £10,123 invested in Penrith Building Society.

The total of the Interest Groups income for 2018 -2019 was £8,637. This is largely from members' fees for venues, usually collected at every meeting and given to the treasurer, who pays the invoices from the venues through the bank account. The expenditure figure was £8,049, giving a surplus of £588. This is largely due to members paying a little over the amount needed to pay the invoices and thus having monies in reserve. The year-end balance for the groups account was £2,472.

The amount available to interest groups in grants, from the main account, has been increased to £200 per year. Ten grants of funds were awarded totalling £762. This included grants for books, speakers, a trip to Vindolanda for the Archaeology group, costs towards a trip to the

Royal Navy Museum for Mainly 4 Men group and a Bridge scoring system.

All groups report their finances to the Treasurer at frequencies dependent on their turnover. Other than small cash amounts, all group income and expenditure is dealt with through a separate Groups account maintained by the Treasurer who records all groups individually so that any accrued balance is shown against each specific group.

The surplus of the main account and the groups account together total £1,956 and when added to last year's capital gives £20,486 of capital reserves for the year 2018-2019.

The Reserves Policy of having unrestricted reserves of 6-9 months expenditure was discussed. Total annual expenditure could be difficult to predict and there could be large variations in groups' expenditure year to year. The Committee were looking at ways of reducing the reserves and groups continued to be encouraged to submit requests for grants.

A more detailed breakdown of the accounts was available in printed form at the meeting.

6. **Adoption of Accounts:** Motion: That the accounts for 2018-2019 be adopted. Proposed by Ian Forrest, seconded by Philip Lamb. The motion was carried.
7. **Appointment of an independent financial examiner:** The previous Independent Financial Examiner had been Saint and Co. It was proposed that these Accountants should again act for the coming financial year. Proposed by Andrea Willet & seconded by Philip Lamb. The appointment agreed.
8. **Election of the Committee:**

Officers and members of the committee were proposed by the following:

Chair: Mike Head. Proposed by Pam Head, seconded by John Upson

Vice-Chair: Andrea Willett. Proposed by Gillian Stoddart, seconded by Angela Davies

Secretary: Josie Dunlop. Proposed by Ian white, seconded by Mike Head

Treasurer: Denise Walker. Proposed by Beryl Armstrong, seconded by Bernadette Buckman

Maggie Neale. Proposed by Linda Thomson, seconded by Geoffrey Lambert

Sue Tomlinson. Proposed by Elaine Jenkins, seconded by Jane Boylan

Ian Forrest. Proposed by Marion Marr, seconded by Renate Moore

Lesley Hall. Proposed by Doreen Dixon, seconded by Mike Head

Jane Stables. Proposed by Mike Head, seconded by Peter Smith

The vote was taken en bloc and was proposed at the meeting by Elaine Jenkins and seconded by Sue Carruthers. The Officers and members of Committee were duly elected.

9. Any other business:

The outcome of an AOB item from last year's meeting was discussed. The committee had decided not to forward emails about items of possible interest to individual members but to forward the items to the relevant Group Convenor to pass on if appropriate. The monthly newsletter from the Third Age Trust was available via their website for any interested member & a paper copy was available to view at the monthly meetings.

10. Thursday 18th June 2020 was confirmed as the date of the next AGM.