

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PENRITH AND NORTH LAKES U3A

Thursday 16 June 2022 at 2.15pm. At The Players, Penrith

A quorum was established. Josie welcomed everyone.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Margaret Irving, Alan Irving, Bridget Davey, Valerie Kendall, Maggie Neale, Anne Reynolds, Philip and Mary Lund, Alan Beale, Elaine Jenkins
- 2.
3. **Motion: That the Minutes of the AGM of 17 June 2021 be adopted:** Proposed: Gillian Stoddart: Seconded Angela Davies. The minutes were approved and adopted as correct with no dissension.
- 4.
5. **Chairman's report 2021-22:** A verbal report was given. The reported year was again affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, though it ended on a much more optimistic note. Spring and summer 2021 saw most of us emerge from the third national lockdown prioritising meeting up with family and friends, trying to have a holiday, or if lucky, attending that rarity, a wedding! The 29th March had seen "stay local" travel restrictions lifted & groups of 6 allowed to meet outside, so small groups could walk or cycle further afield. Under step 2 on the 12th April outdoor hospitality opened along with indoor leisure, non-essential shops, libraries & self-contained holiday accommodation – but too late for Easter itself. Indoors, mixing between households was still banned. It was not until the 17th May under step 3 that many of our groups could start to consider meeting up again. This was when groups of 6 people (or 2 households) could meet up together indoors and up to 30 could meet outdoors (or indoors for weddings). Organised sport or group exercises were allowed, as well as larger organised Covid secure events outdoors. Shielding ended but caution was still advised: The Delta variant, which had first appeared in India had spread to the UK at the end of March. Rising cases led to a 4 week delay in implementing step 4, which had been planned for 21st June. The 19th July eventually saw most legal limits on social contacts removed. Groups began to look forward & plan, and meetings initially outdoors could move indoors. Because of the restrictions then in place and any postponed meeting unlikely to be quorate, the Committee decided to again hold the AGM of 17th June via Zoom, together with proxy voting so that no one was disadvantaged.
- 6.
7. PNLu3a marked its 25th anniversary in 2021. National U3A day was marked by having a socially distanced, drop-in publicity event at Penrith Bandstand on 1st June. A good number of present, lapsed and potential new members dropped by to pick up leaflets & chat. The excellent displays, together with interviews on local radio & newspaper articles, helped to raise the profile of our u3a. Our Open Day at Penrith Rugby Club on Nov 22nd saw over 30 new members sign up. About 70 past and present members were able to celebrate our 25th Anniversary with prosecco and a cake. This was cut by our founder Chair, Pat Winn. Other founder members were also present.
- 8.
9. The Monthly Meeting which had been taking place via Zoom, resumed indoors in

September. Confidence in indoor meetings took some time to build, not helped by the emergence of the even more infectious Omicron variant at the end of November with facemasks again becoming compulsory on 10th Dec. Luckily we had scheduled the December monthly meeting to be via Zoom. The variant proved to be less severe and the wave eventually lessened so that from 24th Feb all legal restrictions were ended, with contact tracing & the legal requirement to self-isolate if positive ceasing (though this was still advised). Since then there has been a gradual return to normality.

- 10.
11. Considering the difficulties that we have lived through it is remarkable that meetings often managed to go ahead in some form during the pandemic. We are particularly grateful to all those convenors who enabled this. Understandably too, these times also made others consider their future role and some convenors made decisions to step down from their roles for a variety of reasons.
- 12.
13. Mike Lawson who convened indoor bowls very sadly passed away and Howard Simpson also sadly lost his wife Anne shortly after he stepped down from convening Badminton. Both Howard & Anne also used to assist with setting up the equipment at our monthly meetings. Others who stepped down were Jim Sellars - Archaeology 2, Sheila Summerscales - Book Circle 1, Linda Cooke - Book Circle 3, Kathy Taylor - Book Circle 4, John Upson - Bridge, Philp Helm & Sheila Stuart - Folk Music, John Rogers – Geology, Tony Mitchell-Harris (co-convenor) – Industrial History, Mike Head – Italian, Trevor Keith – Mainly for Men, Sue Lancaster – Moderate Walks, Alan Wright & Eve Knafler – Table Tennis, Marilyn Keith – Ukulele Fun, Dorothy Cadwallander & Hazel Stansfield - Writing for Pleasure. Ian Forrest's role convening German has also been taken on at the present time by Mike Head & a quick look at the present groups will also show that some who have stepped down are still convening other groups and that others have come forward to take on vacated convenor roles. Only Book Circle 4 and Gardening which Richard Hall had previously stepped down from have ceased to be, though Geology may also have to do so if no convenor can be found. We are therefore grateful to all those who have stepped forward & taken on the role of Convenor. We are though particularly grateful for all that our Convenors have done over the years. Howard Simpson & John Upson were Co-ordinators (a previous title) of their respective groups when our 10th Anniversary Booklet was published in 2006 with John also convening Music Appreciation, & Howard, Spanish. Hazel was then convening Scrabble and John Rogers was about to take up his role – he eventually went on to run 3 geology groups from beginners to advanced, later assisted by his partner Fiona Harwood. One can only begin to appreciate the work and commitment of all our convenors over the years: We are all very grateful and say a huge “Thank You”.
- 14.
15. The Monthly Meeting is open to all our members & we thank Sue Tomlinson who has continued to put together a varied programme with talks ranging from Life on Cunard Ships to Cicero. She never seems to run short of ideas for speakers!
- 16.
17. Robin Acland's St Andrew's Saturdays are also open to all and we were grateful when these re-started in October, even if the Dec meeting had to be postponed due to rising Covid infections.
- 18.
19. I would also like to thank the Officers and Committee of our u3a who are also Trustees, a role they take seriously. We have continued to monitor policies and update as appropriate & the secretary & chair have undertaken training provided by the NW region.

- 20.
21. Particular thanks go to Jo Laycock who has had to stand down from her role as publicity officer due to serious ill-health. Her enthusiasm, organisational skills & interviews on Eden FM will be particularly missed.
- 22.
23. Finally, thanks as always to the Newsletter editors, Chris Wilkinson and Robin Acland and the team who ensure e-mail or paper copies are available to all members. We have even had a paper edition in glorious technicolour!
24. At the end of March 2022 we had 554 members and - groups.
- 25.
26. **Financial report 2021-22:** The report had previously been made available on the website and was also given verbally. This year's figures have shown that activities and meetings are coming back to life after the Covid pandemic and finances are healthier. On the main account the income totalled £7443 with £7105 coming from the members subscriptions. The expense total is £7379 showing a surplus of just £64, this demonstrates that the £13 fee from members is an appropriate amount. We applied for two grants from 3rd Age Trust during the year, to cover costs for the u3a Day in June and the Open Day in November, these grants totalled £295. The largest expense of £1820 was sent to 3rd Age Trust as the capitation fee of £3.50 from every paying member. Also, £1470 was sent to 3rd Age Trust to cover the charge of the TAM magazine contribution and the Beacon licence fee. Monthly meetings have cost us £861 for speakers' fees and the hire of the Players Theatre. The final balance of the main bank account is £6306. The group account, which stands at £2902, is also running smoothly with £170 difference between income and expenditure, showing that the cost of venue hire is not a problem for now. £319 in total was granted to the ukulele, pottery and sketching groups for items needed to benefit the members. The income to the group account is £6023, while the expenditure is £6193, making an overall deficit of just £110 which is healthy at this time and shows that the finances are on an even keel. These figures show that our reserves are still in a good position and can cover any expenses, without generating income, for the foreseeable future. Denise expressed her thanks to all the committee members who have helped her with finances during the year. **Motion:** that the accounts for 2021-2022 be adopted. **Proposed:** Richard Hall. Seconded: Jim Sellars. Agreed unanimously
- 27.
28. **Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner. Motion:** That Saint & Co. be appointed as Independent Financial Examiner. Proposed: Jane Stables. Seconded: Mike Head. Agreed
- 29.
30. **Adoption of new constitution based on Third Age Trust model branch constitution 2021** As was explained in the April newsletter, the committee has felt for some time that our old constitution needed to be updated. The main drive however is the need to have the ability to use remote technology such as zoom for formal & other meetings. During the pandemic we have had to use emergency powers to ensure good governance to be able to do this for our AGM & Committee meetings. Unfortunately our present constitution only allows us to alter the constitution by having an in person meeting, so this AGM will be the first opportunity to do that. The new model constitution will also allow us to be able to use proxy voting for future AGM's, meaning we will not have to worry about being quorate in person at future meetings. The TAT model constitution has been approved by the Charity Commission & follows its advice about best practice. We have made a couple of minor alterations to the model constitution to do with maximum length of service on the committee (12 years) & of the treasurer (6 years with an option

for a further 3 years) & to allow for the election of Officers at the first Committee Meeting if not previously elected at the AGM. These alterations have been approved by the Third Age Trust & the Charity Commission has confirmed that these minor changes do not have to be approved by them. The new constitution has been available to view on our website & printed copies made available on request as well as at the May monthly meeting. **Motion:** That the new constitution be adopted. Proposed: Angela Davies
Seconded: Sue Tomlinson. Agreed

31.

32.

33. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and other trustees. Josie encouraged people to join the committee. Nominations received are: Chair – Josie Dunlop. Vice-chair – Sue Tomlinson. Secretary – Margaret Irving. Treasurer - Denise Walker. Other nominees for the committee are Alan Beale, Jane Stables, Maggie Neale, Lesley Hall. The Committee was duly elected en bloc.

34.

35. Any other business: None

36.

37. Thurs 15 June 2023 was confirmed as the date of next AGM