

Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall
11.15am 21st February 2017**

Good morning everyone and welcome to our 14th Annual General Meeting. I trust you all have access to the agenda, last year's minutes and the accounts. They have been circulated around the hall at the beginning of this meeting.

1 Apologies for absence.

Philomena Davison, Myra O'Connor, Nola, ns Leslie Miles, Jean Howells, Elizabeth Paxton, Irene and David Farr.

2 Approval of the minutes for the 2016 A.G.M.

Approved by Derek Davison.

3 Chairman's Report

Maybe I'm biased, but I feel that Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A is an extremely successful and welcoming U3A. I have received numerous compliments on your behalf regarding the warmth and friendliness of our members, groups and meetings. I like to think that we can offer something for everyone and that each of you can offer something in return, be it your attendance at meetings and your support of our activities and groups. Many of you will have heard me saying this before; that I feel sad when I hear about people who are lonely and have no involvements outside their home. I just ask you all to keep your ears and eyes open and pass on information about what U3As have to offer. It doesn't matter where they live, locally or a long way away, the U3A movement is worldwide and hopefully they could find a branch within travelling distance.

We have a wide variety of activities on offer, with groups varying from discussion and study, to games, crafts and fitness, just to mention a few. New groups that have started this year include the strolling group for people who just want a sociable leisurely stroll of about 2 miles followed by a hot drink, a cycling group and a couple of groups arranged through "Life Leisure Stockport", Zumba Gold and Walking Cricket. We are always looking for new ideas and will give any help we can to establish further groups. The principal aim of the U3A is for members to work with members to develop old, or introduce new interests.

In October, following a suggestion from members, we held a coffee morning where group convenors could bring information about their activities. It was extremely enjoyable and informative for those who attended. I must admit we were slightly disappointed with the number of members attending but felt as it was a new venture we ought to try a similar event again. We have arranged a date for another coffee morning and hope that group convenors will once again come and tell members about their groups. This time we are going to open the morning to people who may be interested in finding out about us, as well as to all of you who are already members. Invite your friends and neighbours and put Tuesday April 25th in your diary and come and join us for a relaxing and informative morning.

On a sad note we have lost a few members over the last year and I'm sure I speak for all of you when I offer our sympathy to their families and friends. On the other hand we have welcomed many new members and I hope they will enjoy all that our U3A has to offer and maybe in the future take on a role to help with its organisation. We are always looking for new blood to join our committee as every year someone's term is coming to an end. Please think about whether you would be willing to

help. You can speak to any member of the committee about what the different roles entail. There are many very interesting and rewarding roles that don't take up a lot of additional time.

Our charity for this past year has been Kinder Mountain Rescue. We have held events, run raffles, sold booklets and Christmas cards, as well as the money raised at every meeting with the sale of books, cd's etc. The representatives who visited us explained that they were working towards furnishing all their teams with mobile defibrillators and the money we raised would be extremely valuable for this project. Over the year we have managed to raise £2060-30. They have thanked us profusely for all our efforts and generosity. The committee have discussed a charity for this coming year. Following the talk at the General Meeting earlier in the year many of our members have expressed a desire to raise money for "Mercy Ships". The committee looked at various charities and we unanimously decided to make this our charity for 2017. All monies collected throughout this year will go to Mercy Ships. Over the year we do support other charities as well. Some of our speakers do not want personal payment but request that their fee goes to a specific charity that they support. On behalf of the different charities I would like to thank all members for their generosity over the year.

We now move on to the next item on the agenda.

4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Paxton presented his report.

Could I have someone to accept and second the report?

Accepted by Derek Hesketh

Seconded by Heather Spreckley

All those in favour – Carried

5 Appointment Independent Examiner of Accounts

Can I propose that we should ask Paul Atkinson to examine the accounts next year?

Accepted unanimously - Carried

6 Election of Committee Members

Hazel Bhatt	Proposed by	Joyce Moss
	Seconded by	Kitty Watt

Olwyn Wych	Proposed by	Joan Fogg
	Seconded by	David Farr

All in favour
None against
Carried

Can I also ask all members if they agree to Joan Fogg continuing as minutes secretary, with no vote on the committee.

Carried

7 Members Annual Subscription

At the last AGM members gave permission for the committee to review our financial needs. At present we have decided that we do not need to alter the annual subscription, but I would like to again request permission for the committee to reassess the situation later in the year.

Accepted unanimously - carried

8 Amendment to the Constitution

Resolution for the AGM

Following advice from the National U3A, part of our constitution needs updating to keep in line with the Charity Commissions guidance "Charitable Purposes Section 3". This change is minimal and basically says exactly the same thing but in a slightly different way.

At present our object clause for Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A states:

The Objects of the U3A are:

To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time employment in Marple Bridge and Mellor and its surrounding locality.

The resolution is to change it to:

To advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Marple Bridge and Mellor and its surrounding area.

The committee request that the membership accept this resolution as it makes no change to our objectives, but we need to do this to keep in line with the Charity Commission.

Proposed by Peter Kitchen

Seconded by Joyce Moss

All in favour

None against

Carried

9 Any Other Business

No matters have been raised in advance so I will move on to the next point on the agenda

10 Vote of Thanks

I always find this a difficult section as I feel so many people work hard to make our U3A successful and I worry that I may forget to mention someone. Can I start by giving my thanks to anyone who has helped in any way over this past year and to everyone who has helped to make our U3A what it is.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Carol Rice for competently fulfilling the role of Membership co-ordinator for the past 6 years. It is a demanding role and Carol has worked tirelessly to ensure it all runs smoothly. She is going to continue working with our membership in the role of

System Organiser for the introduction of our computerised membership system. In this role she will remain a co-opted member of the committee so that she can attend meetings as and when necessary. Thank you Carol.

Also our thanks to Tony Addy for his time on the committee. We all see him at the General Meetings arranging the technical equipment for the speakers. I am sure he will continue to help when he can. I would like to take this opportunity to ask if there is anyone who could help us with this role, at the meetings, to speak to me or any member of the committee. We still have Derek Hesketh who helps with the equipment but we need someone to work alongside him. Thank you Tony.

Our thanks to Pam Taylor for the hard work and support she has given on the committee and to our U3A in general. I am sure we will see her at General Meetings and she will continue to help whenever possible. Thank you Pam.

Presentation of vouchers to Carol Rice, Tony Addy and Pam Taylor.

Thanks also to Kitty and Alan Watt for the work they have done over the past few years as group coordinators. They have been a great support in helping to set up some of our new groups and also being a contact for all group convenors/leaders. They are now standing down and we are hoping someone will volunteer to take their place. Thank you Kitty and Alan.

Also thanks to Tony Wolfendale, our web master, to Don Farthing for printing the Newsletter and other documentation and to Malcolm Moss for producing an excellent informative magazine.

Thanks to those members who help Bill Prophet with the refreshments, to Chris Kitchen and Kitty Watt who welcome you in at each General Meeting. Also to those who run the book stall and the CD and tapes stall whose money all goes to help raise funds for our charities. Thanks to Jonathan Gort who sets out the hall for us and to those who help moving chairs at the end of each meeting.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all group and activity convenors/leaders and to members who have helped in any way during this last year and to all of you who have supported us. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers and committee of Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A including our minutes secretary Joan Fogg, for all their hard work and commitment towards the smooth running of our U3A.

Could I ask all committee members from last year to stand while we all show our appreciation?

11 Formal conclusion of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 11.45am