

## Annual General Meeting of 10th of May 2022

Similarly to 2021, the Annual General Meeting was conducted by either digital or postal means. The Agenda was distributed to all members of the Moseley, Kings Heath and District u3a. The Agenda included annual reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Interest Group Coordinators.

Members were asked to vote on four resolutions and given the opportunity to ask questions appertaining to each of the reports. Questions of a general nature were also invited.

One hundred and seventeen digital and five postal responses were received. A constitutional quorum of 5% of the membership was therefore achieved.

### The votes on the four resolutions were:

Agreement of minutes of previous AGM: 120 for and 2 against.

To approve the appointment of Helena Mandelberg as Inspector of Accounts for 2021/22 financial year:

122 for and 0 against.

To authorises the Executive Committee to decide an appropriate membership fee for the 2023/24 year:

122 for and 0 against.

To approve the new Executive Committee for 2022/23:

121 for and 1 against.

## Ray Tier's answers to the questions raised regarding the Chair' report.

### Question.

I welcome the collaboration between our U3A group and other local ones as a way of enlarging the number of activities available when numbers for some individual groups may be low.

Thank you. I hope this initiative will help MKHD members find vacancies in groups run by the other two u3as if our own groups are full or if they have a specialised interest that is not catered for by our own groups.

### Question.

I seem to recall that it was reported previously that the committee had enabled some new initiatives such as offering help to members wanting advice & help in getting online, and the 'Barmy Army'. How did they fare?

During lockdown we did provide support and personal tuition to members requesting advice and help to get online and I think that was appreciated. The Barmy Army initiative was very successful and led to Janet Burgess, who was a member of the Barmy Army team, standing for the committee, and subsequently being elected, as Social Secretary. During all the various stages of Covid lockdown we were very limited in the extent to which we could organise any social events but now that covid restrictions have been lifted we plan to restart our monthly meetings from July and have other ideas for social events too.

### Question.

I have not voted on last year's minutes because I did not participate in the AGM, so cannot comment. An abstention option would be helpful for the pernicky ones among us.

We will consider this for next year.

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## Anne James' answers to questions raised regarding the Interest Group Coordinators' report.

### Question.

I've appreciated the telephone contact with my IGC. And a big thankyou to all the committee!

Sarah and I enjoyed speaking to Group Leaders and we all appreciate the time and effort GLs put into running their groups.

### Question.

Given the Government's recommendations with regards to still wearing face masks in enclosed or private spaces where they are mixing with people they don't know, I would feel more comfortable if I knew if there was a generic recommendation across Groups or if is up to individual Group Leaders. Whilst we may know the other members of group meetings may be a week apart or a month so there is still a concern. I hasten to add that I am not against face-to-face meetings but am involved in gatherings elsewhere where wearing face-masks is welcomed if it makes you feel more comfortable as is social distancing and using hand sanitiser.

Although the Government still recommend wearing face masks as outlined in the question, we have decided that it is up to the individual to decide on whether they feel comfortable to meet up with others. Wearing a face mask is still very much an individual choice. Group Leaders are not expected to make decisions as to how and where they meet, whether wearing face masks or not, and this is something which would be discussed with members of the group. The wearing of face masks by the group as a whole would only be possible if everyone agreed and should not be imposed by the GL. We recognise that meeting outside is still preferable where possible, and when meeting inside individuals should be spaced out as far as possible, with good ventilation within that enclosed space. Some groups have been testing before meeting, but this is, of course, more problematic now that tests are no longer free.

I would think that anyone should have the right to wear a face mask/use sanitiser if this makes them feel more comfortable.

Question.

.I hope that additional help will be found for Anne as IG Co-ordinator. The number of co-ordinators has shrunk over the last few years but I can't believe the actual job has. IG's have been told so much about restrictions over the pandemic period that I would have thought now is the time to enable and encourage them. It is not clear whether MKHD members are now able to join all the IGs offered by KN and H&E's u3a's – I don't believe this to be the case but the report but does not make it clear.

MKHD members should be able to apply to join other groups within KN and H&E u3as IF joining these groups does not reduce the number of places available to members of that specific u3a. Each u3a will need to decide if/when they are willing to open up membership of any given group. MKHDu3a members would not, therefore, be able to apply to join the other u3a groups until the other u3a(s) have announced that they are looking for external recruits.

Anne will be meeting with the IGCs of KN and H&E soon, and I hope we will discuss the process through which members can join groups then.

**Tessa Bidgood's answers to a question raised regarding the her Treasurer's report.**

Question.

Puzzled by expenses for Speakers at General Meetings in 20-21 and 21-22.

The payments recorded as Speakers at General meetings were for the online Mirthy Talks we provided during Lockdown. Didn't seem worth starting a new category on the accounts for this

## Faith Walsh's answer to a question raised regarding the Membership Secretary's report..

### Question.

I am concerned about the enforced use of PayPal to renew membership. It can be difficult to resolve any problems with their system, and I am not confident that they use data responsibly. This is of additional concern as they are not UK based. Can an alternative payment platform be investigated?

All banks or financial providers charge for processing payments. We chose to use PayPal as they are efficient and cost effective, but we will review the decision at some point in the future. Members do not need to have a PayPal account to use the online system and the data is not stored by PayPal after payment has been made

### **Additional comment from our Treasurer, Tessa Bidgood**

There was no attempt to force people to use Beacon. Many members sent cheques, and if necessary a member only had to ask for Bank account details, and they could have made a standard Bank transfer.

## Ray Tier's answer to a general question

### Question

Is anyone against having a facebook page? It would allow members and groups to share ideas and make suggestions . Especially as the monthly meetings are on hold. It would foster the feeling of belonging to the local organisation . Being part of the whole rather than operating in our discrete groups. It would speed up communication eg i could announce vacancies in my book group as they arise. Unfortunately this is something I couldn't set up but would certainly join if there were one.

We did consider a Facebook page but were put off by the fact that it takes quite a considerable amount of time each day to run a Facebook page successfully, answer questions and respond to ideas. We are a very small committee due to the difficulty of attracting volunteers and didn't feel we could take this on as well. However we would be willing to reconsider if a member came forward who was willing to run it. Alternatively, our Newsletter allows groups to advertise vacancies and put forward suggestions and I hope that our new website will be an additional opportunity for groups to interact more and generate a feeling of belonging to the u3a as a whole and not just to diverse groups.