

HIGH LANE U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2016

1. Diane Saxon chaired the 2016 Annual General Meeting due to the fact that Margaret McDermott was unable to be present.
2. Pam Curley read the minutes of the previous AGM which were agreed and accepted as a true record: proposed by Ken Bentley and seconded by Sheila Harrop. There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIR'S STATEMENT FOR 2015

High Lane U3A has now been established for fifteen years and has gradually grown in numbers so that we currently have 468 members. For yet another year we can keep our membership fee at £5 probably the lowest in the country. The Third Age Magazine remains at £2.50 for five copies which are delivered to your home throughout the year.

Over one hundred members have attended each of our monthly meetings where we have been entertained by an interesting range of speakers arranged in his final year by Walter Mason. Sheila Harrop has taken over from Walter and has booked the speakers for 2016. At the April meeting the Singing Group, led by Tony and Margaret Glynn, treated us to a wonderful programme of songs. Pat Christopher talked to us about the World War One Exhibition which members of the Family History Group had organised, Jean Drinkwater explained the difference her guide dog is making to her life and John Carroll gave a very amusing talk about air travel before the age of the Jumbo Jet. We hope to encourage more members to participate in this way.

We held three social events in 2015: the Annual Lunch at Disley Golf Club, a Social Evening at the end of October and the Christmas Party in December all of which were well attended.

Any U3A depends upon its Group Leaders. Fortunately High Lane is blessed with many leaders who devise interesting programmes for their members throughout the year and without them we would cease to function. Two new groups have started this year; card making and musicals and a third new group the Quiz group has had an introductory meeting.

Thanks to our groups members have enjoyed holidays in Scotland, Stratford and Ireland, a cruise to Istanbul and the Greek Islands, monthly visits to Churches and Pubs, theatre visits, lunches in a variety of local restaurants and a walking holiday in Shropshire.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, edited by Diane Saxon, together with our website, is full of useful information. This is your newsletter so we would welcome more contributions from members.

Finally many thanks to our committee for the time they spend in ensuring that High Lane U3A is a successful organisation. In particular I would like to thank Carol Harrison, who is standing down this year, and who, together with her team of volunteers, has efficiently organised refreshments at Wednesday meetings for the last three years.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Good afternoon, I will now attempt to advise you about the High Lane U3A finances without putting you to sleep. I am not going to go into great detail as the income and expenditure totals are on the Charity Commission website under charity number 1091296, however, I am going to try and explain in English what happens to your money. If any person wishes to discuss the accounts in any detail then I will still be around after the meeting should you wish to ask any questions.

As you know, last year, in order to reduce the funds we hold, the subscriptions were reduced to just £5 per year from £7. This is probably one of the cheapest subscriptions in the country, however, we cannot promise to keep it at that level due to the amount that we have to send off to Head Office and other expenses.

Our subscriptions, due to the reduction in the amount charged, reduced by some £810 to £2,414. From this we had to pay Head Office approximately £1,600 leaving just £814 spare.

The monthly meeting entrance fee raised approximately £1,305, but hire of the Village Hall, the cost of the speakers and refreshments cost £1,657, ie a deficit of £352. So after taking that off the spare money of £814 that leaves just £462 to meet the cost of the newsletter, committee expenses, including post etc, running the website and occasionally financing equipment for the groups. The cost of these areas were around £586 leaving an overall deficit of £124.

We continued to put on occasional events, such as the annual lunch, Christmas lunch and of course the curry evening. The popularity of these events continues and at times we have a waiting list for these events. I have a feeling the popularity is to do with the personal challenge we all have that one day we may be able to answer at least one or two of the questions in the quiz. Just to make things easier for you, one of this year's quizzes will be about the U3A finances, so I hope you are all still awake.

All in all, the surplus made on these events and the small bit of interest from the Vernon Building Society totalled £341 and this has enabled us, once again, to show a small surplus overall of £217 for the year.

The bank account has a balance of just £59 and the Vernon Building Society £6,165, all of which is free, available and fully liquid.

Now, for those of you who have been asleep, to sum up, we are still in a viable financial position, hence the continuance, for the time being, of the low subscription rate. Before I close, I would like to thank Peter Collins, who acted as our Independent Auditor, for past accounts up to 2014, and to confirm that the new Independent Auditor is now Mike Clarke from Glossop. Mike is also the Independent Checker for the Village Hall accounts and chairman of the Glossop Soul Group (Save Our Unique Library) who are at present trying to rescue Glossop Victoria Hall away from the Glossop Council, Derbyshire County Council and the ravages of time.

Thank you for listening.

5. **COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer were elected in 2015 so have another year to serve. Pam Curley agreed to continue as Secretary.

Three of the existing committee members had decided to stand down, Carol and John Harrison and Derek Jones, and we would like to thank them for all their hard work in keeping High Lane U3A running successfully.

We have had nominations for two new members, Barbara Kenneth and Andre Lister

The Committee for 2016 will be:-

Chair: Margaret McDermott

Vice Chair: Sue Harlin

Secretary: Pam Curley

Treasurer: Les Birks

Committee Members:

Pam Andrew, Maureen Christian, Pat Christopher, Sheila Harrop, Meg Humphries, Barbara Kenneth, Paul Kenneth, Trevor Kinvig, Andre Lister and Diane Saxon.

6. **GROUP LEADERS' REPORTS**

Group Leaders read out their annual reports.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm