

## **EALING AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

**The Annual General Meeting of Ealing U3A was held at  
Ealing Green Church on 20 March 2025**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Jill Stern - Chair, Derek Atkinson - Vice-Chair, Liz Major - Treasurer, Sylvia Stirling - Secretary, and 80 members in the Church and 21 on Zoom, total 105 attending.

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence**

Jill Stern welcomed members attending in person and by Zoom. She read out apologies for absence from: Penny Booth, David Delaney, Jean Fitzpatrick, John Foxwell, Noula Insole, Margaret Jackson, Karen Leyton, Jim McWilliams, Vivien Phelan, Leslie Sommer, Carl Woodall, Philip and Judith Woods, and thanked them for the courtesy of letting her know they were unable to attend.

2. **Appointment of Tellers**

As there were seven candidates standing for election for seven places, there was no need to appoint tellers.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM**

Minutes of the last AGM, held on 21 March 2024, had previously been circulated, and were unanimously approved as a correct record.

4. **Annual Report for the year to March 2025**

4.1 Jill Stern gave the annual report. In summary she said it had been a privilege to serve as Chairman of such a remarkable organisation which was going from strength to strength. Two years ago we had about 500 members, but now we had 651. She was delighted that new members seem to come by recommendation.

**Talks in Ealing Green Church**

4.2 She said that no other u3a in the country provided three talks a month, and because of our central location we were able to attract excellent speakers. We had had 28 talks and events during the year, and she mentioned highlights, including the Groups' Showcase, the Photographic Competition, and the December quiz. Attendances had risen to an average of about 100 attending in the Church and between 30 and 40 attending by Zoom.

4.3 She paid tribute to all the volunteers who made the talks happen: Patricia Plummer and Jane Cocking, with Derek Atkinson who engaged the speakers; on the technical team Alan Browne, Paul Sawbridge, Phil Broomsgrove, Phil Hart, Chris Freemantle and Sue Peach, and the small army of volunteers led by Jean Newsom who opened up the church and set out the chairs and put them away. She expressed her gratitude to the Church Trustees who allowed us to meet in the Church,

and to Sarah Hunter, the Church Administrator, who had been enormously helpful to us during the year.

### **Summer Programme**

- 4.4 Unlike most other u3as, Ealing did not close in the summer, but held a Summer Programme of three talks. In 2024 these were about Lord Byron, given by Jeremy Holmes; the Origins of Mathematics, given by Emeritus Professor Robin Wilson; and the Evolution of Man, given by Dr David Jones of the Natural History Museum. She thanked Juliet Edwards, Liz Major, and Derek Atkinson for arranging these excellent talks.

### **Coffee Mornings**

- 4.5 We had continued the practice of having a coffee morning held in five different venues in Ealing, usually on the third Thursday of the month, and in the year we had held 11 such meetings, with over 50 members attending on each occasion. These were a good opportunity for people considering joining Ealing u3a to find out more about us.

### **The Groups**

- 4.6 However, our special interest groups were at the heart of our organisation, and we currently had 70 such groups with the promise of more to come. She paid tribute to Sue Peach, who, as well as everything else she did, was the Groups' Co-ordinator. She urged anyone who was having difficulty finding a place in a group to get in touch with Sue. A new group could be started when two or more people were interested, so there was no reason to be disappointed because a particular group was full.
- 4.7 The Groups' Showcase had been held on 30 May, and was very successful with over 150 members attending, and more conveners were able to be present than in previous years. A number of new subject groups were set up as a result, and again Sue Peach was responsible for organising the event.

### **Excursions**

- 4.8 The Excursions Group had been running since 2023, and started with day trips to towns such as Bath, Cambridge, Rochester, Salisbury, and Winchester. In February 2024 we had branched out and taken our first trip to the Derwent Hotel in Torquay for four nights. This was an enormous success and was repeated in 2025, and is now available for booking in February 2026. Her thanks went to Patricia Plummer whose organisation ensured members had a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.
- 4.9 The trips to the Questors theatre continued to be arranged by Rosemary Hart, with participants enjoying group discounts on tickets; Derek Atkinson had continued to lead London Revisited trips to buildings of historical and architectural significance in London, and the walks arranged by Julia Buckland, Sally Pickles and Maureen Spriggs were greatly appreciated. All these outings enabled our members to

have an enjoyable and safe time out with companions, and she was grateful to the organisers.

### **Other Events**

- 4.10 Other events were the Photographic Competition with 110 entries, up from 99 the previous year. Three of our members, Guinevere Lohneis, Jim McWilliams and William Dudman had done an excellent job in judging the competition. Jim McWilliams had organised the picnic in Walpole Park in August and set our minds working on a quiz, unfortunately it wasn't the best weather, nevertheless it was a very enjoyable afternoon.
- 4.11 In September we three held tea parties at the Ealing Golf Club, which was a very popular venue and the reason why we had moved from two tea parties to three. These events were heavily subsidised by Ealing u3a, and she thanked Julia Buckland for organising them.

### **Communications**

- 4.12 The Ealing U3A Newsletter had been published on a monthly basis with Sue Peach as its editor, and members contributed articles and photographs. We had a small number of Newsletters printed and posted to those members not on email. Again she thanked Sue for her work on this which kept us abreast of all the events in the wider borough of Ealing.
- 4.13 The Ealing u3a Facebook Group continued to be monitored by Judith Forward, and had an active membership of some over 70 people, and there was room for more members to join and contribute.

### **Finance**

- 4.14 The annual membership subscription for 2024 had remained at £20 (or £10 for those joining after 30 June), and had been held unchanged for 2025. Our financial position remained healthy, as would be seen in the Treasurer's report.

### **Website**

- 4.15 During 2024, Ealing u3a along with 700 other u3as had migrated our website to a new package called Siteworks, which had been developed by a team from various u3as. Here, the work was carried out by Phil Broomsgrove, Jurek Narozanski, Sue Peach, Jenny Sturt and Teresa Kelly and our thanks are due to them. More training sessions for group conveners are promised for the coming year.

### **Farewell**

- 4.16 Jill said she was sad to report the deaths this year of several well-known members: Patsy Robinson, our new committee secretary, who died unexpectedly in August; Yvonne Hughes, who had been speaker organiser for a number of years and had died in July, and Mervyn Allen, in October, who had been one of our 'welcomers,' but was also known as a champion for Marie Curie. We would remember them and

the others who have gone who have made Ealing u3a such a wonderful organisation.

### **The Committee**

- 4.17 Jill then turned to the work of the committee and thanked the members who worked tirelessly to make Ealing u3a as good as it possibly could be Lyn Duffus in keeping the membership records; Liz Major who kept tight control of the finances, and all the others, but in particular she thanked Derek Atkinson who had been an absolute rock when she had begun as a 'rookie' chairman, and Sylvia Stirling who had been a fund of advice and assistance.

*Proposer: Rosemary Hart*

*Secunder: George Martin*

The Annual Report was then adopted unanimously, and the full version is on the Ealing u3a website.

### **5. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024**

- 5.1 The Treasurer, Liz Major gave her report and presented the accounts, which had been emailed to members, and made available prior to the AGM. She reminded members that the financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December, and that the accounts are reported on a cash basis, which means that when subscriptions are paid before the end of the year, they are reported in that year even though they relate to subscriptions for the next financial year.

- 5.2 She showed pie charts on the screen, so that members could see at a glance the proportions of our income and expenditure in various categories. Our income was about £20,000, the largest amount of which was from subscriptions and which had grown. Our expenditure was about £17,000. She explained the differences in come and in expenditure between 2023 and 2024. The Treasurer's report is on our website.

### **Change to the Ealing u3a Constitution**

- 5.3 Liz explained to members that the Constitution referred to 'audit' rather than independent examination. However, these parts of the Constitution pre-dated 1 March 1992, when the term 'audit,' could be taken to mean the requirement for some form of independent scrutiny, which meant that an independent examination could be chosen. However, now an audit had a more specialised meaning and had to be carried out by someone with a particular qualification. The size of our annual income was such that the Charity Commission did not require us to have an audit, or even an independent examination. Nevertheless an independent examination was good practice. So Liz recommended that in the Constitution, paragraph 5.1(iv) be replaced by 'appointing an independent examiner of the accounts.' and in paragraphs 6.3 and 6.6. the word 'audited' be replaced by the words 'independently examined.'

*Proposer: Jenny Sturt*

*Secunder: Rosemary Hart*

The Treasurer's report, the accounts and Treasurer's recommendations were agreed unanimously with no abstentions

**Appointment of Independent Examiner for the financial year 2025**

- 5.4 The Treasurer recommended the appointment of Colin Easton as Independent Examiner of the accounts for the financial year.

*Proposer: Phil Hart*

*Seconder: Barbara Kinn*

The recommendation of the Independent Examiner was accepted unanimously.

6. **Election of Committee for period March 2025-March 2026**

George Martin chaired the meeting for this item. Seven members were standing for seven elected places on the committee, and he asked if there were any objections to these members being elected. Each had been nominated and seconded. There were no objections, so the committee will be as follows:

**Nominees**

Derek Atkinson  
Phil Broomsgrove  
Liz Major  
Sue Peach  
Jill Stern  
Sylvia Stirling  
Jenny Sturt

**Proposer**

Rita Jordan  
Derek Atkinson  
Sue Peach  
Lyn Duffus  
Derek Atkinson  
Juliet Edwards  
Dorothy Lepper

**Seconder**

Penny Booth  
Sue Peach  
Margaret Proctor  
Liz Major  
Sue Peach  
Lyn Duffus  
Marie-Therese Stragier

7. **Any Other business**

There was no other business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00 a.m.

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Following the meeting Georgine Carter gave a talk entitled, 'Sexual Diversity the Biological Truth.'