



## North London U3A

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 8 November at 10.30 am at St Paul's Church, Finchley

**Present:** 47 members, including:

Edmond Cohen – Chair  
Michael Johns – Business Secretary  
Henrietta Cohen – Groups Organiser  
Ruth Silver – Membership Secretary  
Marion Fitzpatrick – Events Organiser  
Michael Lewin – PR  
Susan Watt – Editor

Apologies for absence received from:

Roy Seger  
Gillian Caplin  
Jenny Clark  
Maureen Keetch  
Gilliam Marston  
Claus Newman  
Melvyn Rees  
Kathryn Salomon  
Jo Velleman

**Edmond** opened the meeting, welcomed members and explained that we did not get enough interest to make the proposed AGM on 11 October quorate. Under the constitution, we had to postpone the AGM for over 21 days so it seemed most sensible to combine it with an interesting talk to maximise attendance. Under the rules, whatever number of members we had after half an hour of the start time constituted a sufficient quorum.

**John Hajdu** introduced Lester Hillman who delivered a very interesting talk on the Battle of Barnet.

**Edmond** then commenced the formal business of the AGM by introducing **John Bent, London Regional Trustee**. John explained that there were 43 U3As in the London Region and that these groups had kept going very well during the lockdowns, whereas rural U3As had suffered badly. North London U3A was a shining example and had kept within official advice. He stated that Regional Trustees represent U3As on various bodies including the London Age Friendly Forum and confirmed that London will

become an age-friendly city. He also pressed to maintain the Freedom Pass, which the Mayor of London also supports.

**Michael Johns** explained that the committee had acted as proposers and seconders for most of the main items.

### **1. Minutes of previous AGM held on 12 October 2020**

The minutes were sent out prior to the meeting and no requests for amendments were received. **Michael Johns** called for vote to take place by a show of hands.

Proposer: Michael Johns	Secunder: Roy Seger	
<b>Result: Unanimous approval</b>	<b>0 Against</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>

### **2. Chairman's report**

The report was sent out prior to the meeting. **Edmond** apologised for an incorrect date and an incorrect surname for Marion Fitzpatrick. He also paid tribute to Gill Caplin for her contribution to the committee during the year.

There were no questions on the report.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

The written report and accounts were sent out prior to the meeting. **Michael Johns** confirmed he was standing in for **Roy Seger**, who had an unavoidable medical appointment, and he confirmed that the examiner had approved the accounts.

There were no questions on the accounts.

#### **Proposal to accept the accounts:**

Proposer: Michael Johns	Secunder: Jim Sweeney	
<b>Result: Unanimous approval</b>	<b>0 Against</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>

#### **Proposal to re-elect Brian Solomon as Accounts Examiner**

Proposer: Michael Johns	Secunder: Angela Filmer	
<b>Result: Unanimous approval</b>	<b>0 Against</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>

### **4. Committee Elections for 2021-2022**

**Roy Seger – Edmond** paid tribute to all the work done by Roy in difficult circumstances and whilst seriously unwell, including much-needed analysis of income and expenditure to enable the committee to plan ahead. He confirmed there was money in reserve and that, as trustees, the committee is responsible to the Charities Commission for effective management of funds.

Proposer: Michael Johns	Secunder: Marion Fitzpatrick	
<b>Result: Unanimous approval</b>	<b>0 Against</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>



then decided to look again at the whole constitution. He thanked Ann Dugdale, Judith Barnes and Frank Kelsall for their help in examining the options.

A draft was issued to members with an explanation of the differences and, hopefully, all questions raised have already been answered. No further questions were raised.

The new constitution allows the committee to make rules separately to cover proxy votes, membership fees, etc. These would be published and could be voted down at the next AGM if necessary.

Proposer: Michael Johns

Secunder: Marion Fitzpatrick

**Result: Unanimous approval**

**0 Against**

**0 Abstentions**

## **7. Any other business**

**Edmond** paid tribute to **Mike Christie** for all his work behind the scenes over many years. Originally a member of the committee, he had to step down but was always available to answer questions. Three or four years ago, he decided NLU3A needed a new website so he set it up and continues to maintain it.

**Edmond** presented Mike with a certificate for Honorary Life Membership of NLU3A.

**Edmond** then paid tribute to **Ruth Silver** who had been on the committee as Events Organiser when Edmond joined. She then took on the role of Membership Secretary as well. Whatever she has been asked to do, she has done meticulously.

**Edmond** presented Ruth with a certificate for Honorary Life Membership of NLU3A in recognition of past and hopefully future work.

## **8. Members' Open Forum**

**Ruth Mendick asked:** What about people who don't use computers? She never received the information on the AGM and had not received printed copies of TNL, which she had paid for. Lack of information due to not having online access was also raised by **Rosalind Park** and **Carmen Stevens**.

**Ruth Silver answered:** Everything was sent out to those registered as wanting paper copies, but she will check again.

**Follow-up answer:** **Ruth Silver** has informed Rosalind and Carmen how and why communications were sent to them.

**Carmen Stevens asked:** Why are they not allowed to use the tables at group meetings held at St Paul's? **Frank Fisher** agreed that it did not make sense not to be able to use tables

**Marion Fitzpatrick answered:** Agreed to follow up and find out why tables could not be used.

**Follow-up answer:** St Paul's confirmed that no such instruction has been given by them. They always allow people to use the tables and chairs in meetings at the hall.

**Stella Sherratt** confirmed she receives everything by post. She has signed up for posted mail and pays to receive a printed copy of TNL.

**Edmond** then thanked **Frank Kelsall** and **Frank Fisher** for their help in setting up the hall.

**Edmond** thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that, barring re-occurrence of restrictions, **the next AGM** would be held face to face again next year.

**Edmond** confirmed that the festive lunch would not be held this year because many members, including the Catering Manager, were uncomfortable about meeting up in that way at the moment. The next event would be the Monthly Meeting in January.

**Edmond** then closed the meeting.