

Report on the Third Age Trust AGM held on Weds 16 October 2024

Agenda

11.15: Welcome to the AGM

Resolution 1: To receive and approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM

Resolution 2: To appoint the Auditors

Resolution 3: Special Resolution

Chair of Third Age Trust Trading Limited Report

Chair of Third Age Trust Report

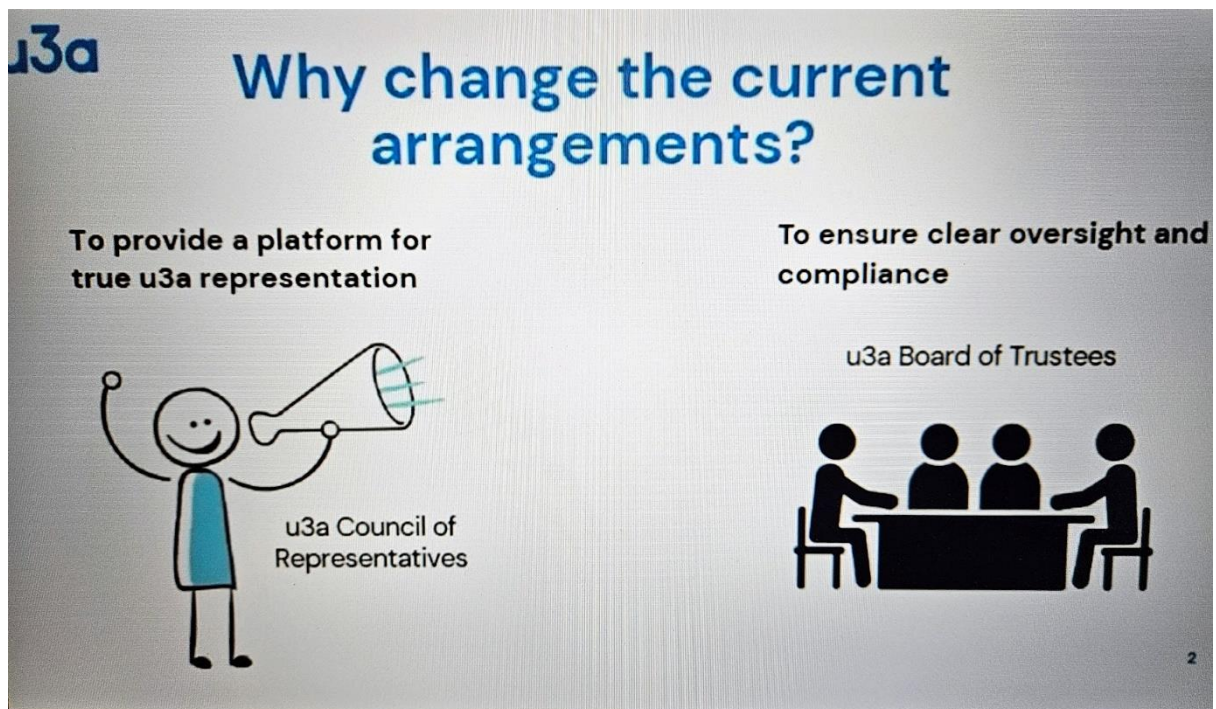
Chief Executive's final statement

Chair to close the meeting

- I attended this AGM by zoom, representing Bishop's Stortford u3a in the Resolution votes, for which we are entitled to 3 votes due to our membership numbers (>500 & <1000).
- The AGM was held in Milton Keynes with members in the room & over 500 online. The incoming new Chair, Allan Wallmsley presided (outgoing chair, Liz Thackeray is ill).
- It began with a **short film** about the 40th Anniversary Woodland – an area of previously unused land in the Black Mountains planted for woodland over the 2021/2 winter with over 8.5K native species trees. It will mature into woodland in 5 years' time & is already resulting in natural regeneration of fauna and flora. Visitors will be admissible from 2025 onwards.
- 375 u3a's participating online, with 227 proxied votes to the Company secretary (of which 1 proxied to another u3a)= 896 votes in total.
- **Resolution 1:** Approval of last year's Minutes. For-871, Ag-9, Abst-65
- **Resolution 500k:** Seeking to increase nationwide membership to 500,000 by end 2025. Currently there are 403,094 u3a members nationwide. This resolution was passed at the previous AGM. Supported by Friends Extra, u3a Friends & a social media campaign, press & PR, & BOOM Radio.
- **The u3a Treasurer's Annual Report (Derek Harwood):** both income (£1,698k) & expenditure (£1,797k) lower than forecast; TATTL income £1,571k, expend £1,386k. Group income £3,268k Exp £3,183k. Reserves have increased by £86k so there is no need for a hike in membership fees. Details given of TAT's assets, targets and future forecast & breakdown of where the £4 subscription fee goes.

Expecting expenditure to exceed income in coming years. Changing merchandising partner to provide better shop window. Biggest expenditure is member Support Service, then cost of producing magazine, then Beacon/Siteworks. Note grants available to support u3a's. 19 members of staff.

- **Short film** on Members' first ever Festival in York this summer. The next proposed Members' Festival is scheduled for 1-3 July 2026.
- **Update on HMRC Enquiry into Gift Aid claims:** about 12 rejected over past 2 years. Gift Aid Policy rules are on website.
- **Resolution 2: appointment of auditors**– Goodman Jones appointment carried.
- **Video:** Southport Flower show.
- **Elections of Officers:** have been conducted online. Treasurer uncontested & remains Derek Harwood; also London Region Chair uncontested. 3 candidates for chair: Allan Wallmsley (Kings Norton) elected. Margaret Fiddes (Sherborn) elected vice-Chair; Jenny Wilson (Croydon) elected London Region Chair. Thanks given to all committee members in all u3as.
- **Lists shown of all u3a's celebrating anniversaries this year:** 2 new u3as, & those celebrating 10, 20, 30 & 40 year anniversaries. 8 in latter, including Saffron Walden.



- **Resolution 3: Special Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association: (needed a 75% vote in favour to pass).** This replaces the existing AofA, establishing a new Board and Council so that ordinary Board members are devolved from legal and company director-type responsibility. Been sorely needed since 2016 but little appetite to change, now urgent. Addresses a conflict of duty issue which the formation of a new council overcomes. Also makes recruiting less problematic as difficult to find people willing to shoulder burden previously. Heard speeches for (current Chair Liz Thackeray & Dame Pauline

Green) & one against. 1073 votes cast: 24 abst, 144 against, 905 in favour. **Vote carried.**

- **Short film** on Chichester Science group
- **Address by Clive Grace, Chair of TATTL (Trading arm of TAT):** new merchandise supplier- Synergy. Development of Business Partnerships, eg like Riviera, **HX Hurtigruten.**
- **Chair's Report, Liz Thackeray** (pre-recorded video): been visiting other Michael Young (one of u3a founders) organisations eg Open University, Consumer Association. Spoke about Research report 'Learn to Live'.
- **CEO Report, Sam Mauger:** detailed development of TAT from 2016 (6 staff)
- **Final video by Liz Thackeray, outgoing Chair**
- **Address by new incoming CEO, Iain Cassidy:** wants to get out & about so invite him to special events!

AGM concluded at 1.45pm