NOTIFICATION

of

The Annual General Meeting of Causeway U3A

Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Thursday 25th April at 11am
(refreshments from 10.30am)

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Approval of Accounts
6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts
7. Election of new Committee Members
8. Any Other Business (at Chairperson’s discretion)

After the AGM there will be a light-hearted talk by Anita Robinson, journalist on “Changing Times”.
Summary of Minutes of 23rd Annual General Meeting held at the Lodge Hotel on 26th April 2018

The Chairperson, Keith Browne thanked everyone for their attendance.

Minutes
The minutes of the 22nd AGM, held on 29th April 2017 were proposed by David Johnson and seconded by Kay Ballentine.

Chairman’s Report: available in full at www.causewayu3a.co.uk
Treasurer’s Report: available in full at www.causewayu3a.co.uk

The report was accepted by attendees and proposed by Jerry Sayers and seconded by Mura Sayers.

The appointment of Rosemary Peters Gallagher as Examiner of Accounts was proposed by Edna Lockington and seconded by Maggie Browne.

Election
Joe Austin took the chair to conduct the election proceedings. After thanking the 2017 Committee all posts were declared vacant. All nominations were correctly processed and no ballot was required as none of the posts were contested.

Officers & Committee for 2018-9 Officers

(Details of 2018 nominations are available at www.causewayu3a.co.uk)

Venie Martin  (Chairperson)  Keith Browne
Ken Canavan (Vice Chairperson)  Sandra Cannon
Helen Jacobs (Treasurer)  Clare Carter
Audrey Henderson (Secretary)  Nigel Creighton
Eric Martin (Membership Secretary)  Clare Greenfield

Co-opted for special roles
Loretto Blackwood and Mike Jones

The newly elected Chairperson, Venie Martin, took over the meeting, concluded the AGM and introduced the speaker for the next part of the meeting.
A
other year has passed and Causeway U3A
continues to provide a wide range of social
and learning opportunities for the retired and semi-retired
community of the North Coast area. In line with the ethos of the
U3A movement, we do this under the mutual aid principle which
involves self-help and volunteering in all aspects of running the
organisation.

We are currently one of the largest U3As in Northern Ireland with
1206 members. We will always be grateful to the group of enthusiasts
with a vision for the future started Causeway U3A way back in 1995
and I’m happy to say several of these are still active members. This
supports the findings of recent research which shows that older
people who are active and involved in learning live longer and happier lives.

It is customary in the Chairperson’s Annual Report to
mention some of the achievements of the past year. There were so
many that I will have to be a little selective.

From my viewpoint the major achievement of the past year has
been the development of a strong link with the University of Ulster
in Coleraine. There were two driving forces behind this – supply
and demand. The University has developed a new strategic plan in
which it recognises the importance of its stronger role in the local
community. This was a perfect match for U3A as our organisation
originated in 1973 in France from a link between the University of
Toulouse and local seniors. The model has developed differently in
the UK and the University links are few here. However, there are
many advantages for us in linking with UU in terms of the use of
their facilities and expertise. We have been able to offer some very
exciting opportunities over the past year based on this partnership. These include – our
extensive use of the sports facilities, drama workshops in the
Riverside Theatre, taking part in the creation of new sculpture,
cooking for fun (a special course for us) and the latest “The Age Friendly University” project which has the potential to be huge. This initiative at UU welcomes our members to attend a range of their student lectures for no cost. Feedback to date from the University is enthusiastic as our members add their knowledge and life experience to class discussions. We hope to engage with UU in developing and expanding this initiative in the year ahead.

Our second major achievement has been the introduction of a range of short courses and seminars for members on topics related to keeping healthy and safe. These include first aid, CPR, defibrillator use, Email usage, training for walking group leaders and the very successful “Hearing Matters” seminar earlier this month. Most of these were provided at no cost to the participants. This was possible by subsidising the venues from our central funds and by developing partnerships with external agencies who are pleased to offer their expertise to assist us. These classes and seminars have been very well attended and this is a branch of our work that we hope to grow in the coming year.

Thirdly, we do not operate in isolation and during the past year we have been very active in participating in the Northern Ireland U3A’s activities. Examples of this include running a seminar for other NI U3A’s on Computing Systems for U3As, training for new U3As and a Bridge congress planned for May. Of course we availed of many of their events too and in particular we were very proud of our winning Quiz team. During the past year we have maintained links with our neighbouring U3As at Ballymoney, Dalriada and Glens and Foyle. Our exchanges of information have been very helpful. We also keep the Third Age Trust informed about our achievements and have had several items published in their magazines and Facebook page.

Many of the changes over the past year have been incremental improvements in our systems and processes, building on past achievements. I will list some of these.

- Extending the range of activities on offer.
- Adding more social / drop-in activities such as Cuppa & Chat and Table Quiz
- Extending the use of Beacon,
our Management system, for membership, communications and Activity Group management.

- Increasing the number of day trips.
- Extending the holiday opportunities by offering members a holiday abroad and/or a “staycation”.
- Extending awareness of the opportunities we offer, locally through The Chronicle and nationally through the Third Age Trust.
- Supporting members with mobility, health and social issues through U3A Plus.
- Planning an updated website which will be easier to navigate on newer mobile devices and easier to maintain.
- Moving our monthly meetings to the Lodge Hotel has been very positive and the extra space enables us to make the monthly meetings very social occasions.

As we enter into a new year, I must say we do face some difficulties. The major one is increasing the level of member involvement in running the organisation. Our success depends mainly on having a strong and active Committee and a team of dedicated Activity group leaders. Unfortunately we are facing a situation where the self help and mutual aid ethos of the U3A movement has been forgotten and insufficient newer members are coming forward to maintain the current level of service. I appealed in a recent e-mail to every member to consider volunteering a little of their time to the central running of Causeway U3A: it is a very fulfilling and rewarding opportunity. It would be a pity if we had to cut back on our provision because so many members take it for granted that someone else will do the work. We need as many members as possible to step up and help with all the background work required to keep the ship afloat.

Everything we have achieved over the past 28 years has been done by active and motivated teams of volunteers. They listen to you the members, come up with ideas and put many of them into action. I would therefore like to finish my report with a sincere thank you to:

- Our founding members and those who have served in central roles to date.
- The committee members from 2018-9 who are responsible for the achievements listed above.
• Above all, a sincere thank you to all our Activity Group leaders who keep the show on the road week after week. At a recent Trust seminar on running Activities, Group Leaders were referred to as the “life blood of U3As”.

It is very rewarding and gratifying to run an organisation which has such a positive impact on the Causeway Community. Thanks to you, the members for your support and appreciation. Let’s work together to make 2019-2020 an even more exciting year.

Venie Martin

Dr Venie Martin,
Chairperson, Causeway U3A 2018-9
We draw your attention to the nomination form for committee membership on the other side of this page.

If you would like to volunteer for any other role in Causeway U3A, please give details here:

If you have any other suggestions please state them here:

Your name:

Membership number:

See page 8 for details of how to submit this page to the committee.
# Causeway U3A

## Nomination for Committee Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of person nominated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post for which they are nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of proposer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of seconder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To be completed by the person nominated*

I agree to be nominated for the above post

Signed

Dated

When completed, this form should be given to any committee member or posted to:

Nominations for CU3A committee
26 Redwood Park
Coleraine
BT51 3GH