

LLANDRINDOD WELLS & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2015 AT THE METROPOLE HOTEL

Apologies had been received from Karen Latham and Clive Barrett.

The Chairman, Mr Bob Atkins , welcomed the new members and visitors and hoped that they would find the morning of interest. He also thanked all the interest groups for their work in preparing presentations or stands. They demonstrated clearly how thriving the Llandrindod U3A was. A number of the interest groups were currently listed as full but he would not want any new members to be put off by that. There was a possibility of running parallel groups to the most popular groups and we were always looking for leaders for new groups.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 10 March 2014:

Robert Bevan and Tony Hodges proposed and seconded the adoption of the minutes and all agreed.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes: As last year, the All-Wales Conference of U3As was being held in Llandrindod Wells, this time on 8 April in the Pavilion from 9.30am to 4pm. Members were encouraged to support it as it would give them the opportunity to listen to the National Chairman, Barbara Lewis, as well as mixing with members of other U3A branches.

3. Chairman's Report for 2014/15:

It is a particular privilege and pleasure to have served as your Chairman for the past year.

At the last AGM there were a significant number of changes to the committee, and on your behalf I would wish to thank each and every one of them for all that they have done in promoting, organising and serving your U3A. The fact that we continue to go from strength to strength is no less than through their selfless efforts.

But, of course, this continuing success of our U3A is not least due to the tremendous support that you, the members, have given and continue to give.

Our current membership stands at around 220 and we hope that this is maintained or indeed increased in the future.

Following our AGM this year we are trying something new – from a suggestion made by a member, instead of the regular monthly speaker, each of our Interest Groups has been given the opportunity to display or to make a presentation about what they get up to! The Committee look forward to getting your feedback on this.

We now have 23 Interest Groups and we are indebted to the Group co-ordinators for their motivational skills in all that they do. This past year we have welcomed two new groups with interest in 'Computers' and 'Spanish beginners learning together'. Today's meeting is 'their day' to hopefully encourage more to join in, and, where existing groups are unable to expand due to logistical reasons, we can positively pursue the forming of dual groups.

This year has seen a wide range of subjects covered by our monthly speakers which have included Elli Targett's enthralling talk about her father's Norwegian exploits in World War 2, which in April was followed by 'Whatever happened to Trixie Skyrme' by Jen Green. In June Peter Lyons gave an interesting talk on Hearing for the Third Age, followed in July by Nick Burton explaining how Engine Oils meet the needs of today and tomorrow. In September Lona Mason spoke about Kyffin Williams and this was followed in October by a return visit from David White who discussed and illustrated Mozart's Messiah. One of our best attendances was for Eric Rees for an in depth talk about Mary Morgan of Presteigne. Equally well attended was the December meeting when Dr Colin Hughes spoke on the 'Changing Role of Women'. This year began with a talk by Chris Pegrum on Buddhism followed in February by Nick Marchmont intriguing us with an illustrated introduction to Sacred Geometry.

As you renew your membership for the year ahead you will not only receive details of your new Committee but also the programme of speakers for the next twelve months.

We again entered a team for the mid -Wales quiz, although they did not win they gave a very good account of themselves.

Some of our members supported a recording of the BBC's 'Any Questions' programme organised by Brecon U3A.

Last year we were invited to assist with the organising of the U3A All Wales Conference held in the Pavilion in March. A number of our members attended and appreciation was received from the organisers. We have again been invited to help with this year's event in April, once again a number of our members have responded.

We also supported the 'Christmas Tree' event held in Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod, in December with a suitably decorated tree.

Another very successful occasion was the Christmas Dinner held in the Metropole Hotel. We are very fortunate to have this prestigious venue for our monthly meetings, as for today; the staff have always been very helpful in dealing with our specific requests.

Finally, sincere thanks go to our hardworking non Committee members, including Barbara and Margaret, Website and Borderlines editors, and to Martha, our Interest Group Co-ordinator.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mary Russell thanked Martin Nosworthy for his work in auditing the accounts. She explained that the income received by the U3A came from a mixture of subscriptions and the gift aid received in respect of subscriptions where members elected to claim it. Members who were taxpayers were urged to opt for gift aid as it was a valuable source of income which cost members nothing. Gift aid comes in in April in theory but was late last year.

As for expenditure, about half our money is spent on hiring the Metropole and the expenses for speakers and much of the remainder goes on administration and the magazine.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2015/16:

Nomination forms have been received from the following all signed by a proposer and seconder.

- **Chairman** : *Bob Atkins*
- **Vice-Chairman**: *Berwyn Woolnough*
- **Membership/Committee Secretary**: *Karen Latham*
- **Treasurer**: *Mary Russell*
- **Programme Secretary**: *Helen Wyton*
- **Committee**: *Mary Davies, Clive Barrett and Penny Everett*

Fay Ramsden proposed and Jane Malvern seconded that these nominations be accepted. There were no objections.

6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts: Roy Palmer proposed and Barbara Warner seconded that Mr Martin Nosworthy be appointed to examine the 2014/15 accounts. All agreed

Any Other Business: None.