

LLANDRINDOD WELLS & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14th MARCH -2016

AT THE METROPOLE HOTEL 10.30

Introduction

The Chairman, Mr Bob Atkins, welcomed the new members and visitors and hoped that they would find the morning of interest.

No Apologies had been received

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 9th March 2015:

Fay Ramsden and Tony Hodges proposed and seconded the adoption of the minutes and all agreed.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes: No matters arising

3. Chairman's Report for 2015/16: Mr Bob Atkins

It is once again a special privilege and pleasure to have served as your Chairman for another year.

As you will recall, last year there was just one change to the Committee from the previous time. This led to both a strong and dedicated Committee willing to build on the established firm foundation.

Today I would wish to commend each and every one of them for the commitment that they have given that leads us to where we are today at this encouraging and exciting time in our U3A journey.

As I have said before, the continuing success of our U3A is due to the loyal support that you, the members give, and continue to give.

Our current membership is being declared at 260, a year ago it was 220 - the word is getting around!

We now have 25 Interest Groups and we again are indebted to the Group Coordinators for all their organisational skills. In the past year we have welcomed three new Interest Groups - Art, Calligraphy, and Genealogy.

When a particular Interest Group is indicating 'full' there is no reason why we cannot set up a parallel group. It would only take a few people to get it off the ground.

As regards the last year's monthly meeting topics, we began in the April with John Davies giving us an exciting insight into the History of Abbey Cwm Hir. This was followed in May with Peter Coleridge who took us on a personal journey with his United Nations and Oxfam experiences. This was followed in June with Dr Fred Slater who engaged us all with the Changing Natural History of Radnorshire.

In July John Deacon gave us a very clear picture of how Planning and Emergency Services evolves. With no meeting in August we continued in September with Mark Baldwin talking about the quite complex world of Ciphers and Codes, this was then followed in October with Andrew Wooderson both illustrating and demonstrating the Historical Harpsichord. In November we shared the Camino De Santiago, a long distance Pilgrims footpath, with Ann Harman and Vic Everill. December saw a quite energetic Christine Stockton enthraling us with her colourful detailed displays of Flamenco Dancing.

The new year began with a very structured and detailed talk on 'Driving - a Skill for Life' by Geoff Smith. This was followed in February by Richard Davies, no stranger to us, giving us an amusing and entertaining account of his many years of experiences in the Banking world

Initially it was not planned to have a Guest Speaker at the AGM. However a change of plan, and it will be my pleasure to welcome and introduce Fran Sandham a little later.

As has been our normal practice, when you renew your membership you will not only receive details of the new Committee but also the Programme of Speakers for the next year.

Back tracking to our December Meeting there was a complete departure from our normal set up.

I am referring of course to the 'in house' production of an extremely amusing Pantomime entitled 'What Cinderella Did Next'. Costumed 'actors' (some perhaps more recognisable than others!) plus appropriate ever changing scenery, again produced 'in house'. Interest Groups had an input as well - all in all a most enjoyable and entertaining time was had by all. 'What Did Cinderella Do Next'? - well she joined the U3A!. There was much encouraging and positive feedback from the 'audience'.

Congratulations to everyone responsible in any way for this most successful event.

You will recall that the Pantomime was followed by the Annual Christmas Lunch, served in the wonderful ambience of the Metropole Hotel. Our sincerest thanks are due to those who organised this festive occasion and to those who arranged the 'Table Quiz'.

We once again entered teams for the Mid-Wales Quiz, although they gave a good account of themselves, unfortunately they did not win.

Some of our Members attended a Keynote Lecture on 'The Raising of the Mary Rose' organised by Brecon U3A.

Last year we were invited and in fact assisted with the U3A All Wales Conference held here in Llandrindod. As you will be aware this venue is currently closed, although there are hopefully signs that it will re open soon. Although a suitable venue for the All Wales Conference the organisers have had to look for an alternative. They have decided to arrange this year's Conference in Aberystwth in May at which Members of our U3A will be represented. At this event there will be displays on view of activities of all Welsh U3A's of which we shall have an input.

In the past year I have attended the National U3A Conference in Nottingham and also a meeting of the South Wales Network in Porthcawl. It has been interesting to meet with hitherto complete strangers who enthusiastically support the U3A ethos.

On your behalf, there are four hardworking non committee members who I would like to give sincere thanks to - to Margaret for producing excellent quality editions of Borderlines, to Martha who has been our Interest Group Co ordinator, and has represented us at Regional meetings, to Barbara, who has, for personal reasons, stood down from being our most efficient Website Wizard. Our warmest best wishes go to her.

Finally, to Nick Talbot, our Computer Group Leader, who has kindly agreed to be responsible for our Website. Nick has spent quite a lot of time recently updating our Website and we very much appreciate his in depth work in achieving this.

Almost finally, as you are aware, we will be celebrating an important milestone in the life of our U3A. I am of course referring to our very own 10th Birthday. An excellent poster has been produced giving details of this prestigious event. Our Keynote Speaker is Rami Seth MBE, FRCS, to be followed by Afternoon Tea, all in the Metropole Hotel on Monday 25th April. Our Welsh Trustee Hilary Jones and her husband will be joining us.

Now finally, three of your Committee are standing down this year.

As your Chairman, on your behalf, it is with much pleasure that I thank most sincerely both Mary Davies and Clive Barrett for all that they have done in serving on your committee for the past two years. However that is just two of the three standing down, the third?, well that is myself. I have decided, for a variety of reasons, to relinquish the Chairmanship of this U3A having completed two of the three years permitted by the National Constitution.

From a personal perspective I feel that I have gained an immeasurable depth of experience in leading this U3A for the past two years. What I can share with you today is the immense feeling of pride that I have in handing on to my successor a U3A fit for purpose.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mrs Mary Russell

Copies of the accounts had been given out to the members

Approximately £6,000 is taken in subscriptions with a further approximately £800 being claimed back from HMRC Revenue and Customs in the form of gift aid. As the previous year's submission had not been paid in the last financial year two lots of gift aid were showing in this year's accounts.

As for expenditure, about half our money is spent on hiring the Metropole (circa £3,000) a further £1,000 on the Third Age Matters and National U3A fees. Expenses for speakers and much of the remainder goes on administration and the magazine.

The "kitty" stands at just under £10,000 which means that although all our costs are rising annually there will be no need to raise the subscription for membership for the foreseeable future.

Mary gave notice that both she and the secretary would be standing down next year and invited any interested member to shadow these committee posts in the next year.

The Chairman thanked Mary for all her work and the clean audit and asked for the accounts to be accepted. Mr John Walker proposed and Duncan Thomas seconded.

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.

Due to the resigning committee members there is no need for elections for the next year's committee which will comprise

- **Chairman** : *Berwyn Woolnough*
- **Vice-Chairman**: *Penny Everett*
- **Membership/Committee Secretary**: *Karen Latham*
- **Treasurer**: *Mary Russell*
- **Programme Secretary**: *Helen Wyton*
- **Committee**: *Ann Harvey, Sue Havard, Denise Krusche (who were asked to stand and introduce themselves to the membership)*

Phylis May proposed and Kathryn Hunt seconded that these nominations be accepted. There were no objections.

6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts:

Mary Russell gave a vote of thanks to Martin Nosworthy for his work in auditing the 2015 -2016 accounts. Martin has agreed to audit the accounts next year for which the committee and membership are grateful.

Martin Nosworthy is appointed auditor for the 2016/17 accounts. All agreed

Any Other Business: There being no other business.

The retiring Chairman Bob Atkins handed over to the new Chairman Berwyn Woolnough who introduced the speaker for the AGM meeting Fran Sanders speaking on "Doctor Livingstone I Presume"