



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

LLANDRINDOD WELLS & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012

Present: 101 Members

After welcoming all present to the meeting the Chairman, Mrs. Patsy Godfrey gave the following report:

"I am happy to say that our U3A is going from strength to strength, bringing our membership this last year up to 197 members with an increase of 36 Members. However, we do need to remember that our progress has, to a large extent, been due to the hard work and solid foundation of our previous Committees and their leaders, namely, *Robert Bevan, Hans Lichtenstein, Gareth Davies* and *Penny Everitt.*, but I must pay tribute to the excellent work of your Committee this year. It is a remarkable group:

Jane Malvern as Vice-Chair has added a professional finish with her screen presentations and technical support at our Learning and Lecture Programmes, introducing us to the brave new world of Information Technology and Computer Image Editing.

John Lewis very bravely took on the role of Treasurer and what a find he has been...never a penny escapes his eagle eye...all handled with such good humour.

Ann Parkhouse, as Meetings and Membership Secretary has a remarkable and highly efficient hold on the post....her organisation and attention to detail is superb. This involves a massive amount of work.

Mai Ellis has taken on the organising of the Lecture Programme with tact and flair. We look forward to her programme this coming year.

The Non-Officer Committee Members have also made an invaluable contribution:-

Fay Ramsden has organised several visits with care and diligence, picking up such difficult extra responsibilities as collecting monies from other U3As for our Key Lecture.

Ann Harvey has organised our Welcomers. A 'Thank You' to them all for their endeavours in making new members feel welcome.

Peter Dummer despite being incapacitated this year has, together with *Ann Morgan*, given so much valuable assistance with all our activities.

Our two Co-opted Members have made an outstanding contribution: *Margaret Mason*, our new Editor of 'Borderlines', has produced 3 beautiful editions with such technical skill, giving us extra, useful information on the town's provision. We now also have a fantastic website thanks to the Editorship of *Barbara Warner*. It is superb and regularly updated with full details of everything we do.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone. (The Chairman requested that the Committee stand up to be recognized).

I cannot complete these tributes without mentioning the central work of our Interest Group Leaders. The Groups are the backbone of our organisation and the amount of work put in by these Leaders is phenomenal. It is in the groups that solid friendships are forged, let alone the depth of learning and enjoyment that takes place. Our Group Leaders are responsible for the many outings and excursions that have taken place this last year:-

The Art History Group led by *Jill Mouncer* has been to Liverpool to the Walker Gallery, our favourite Lady Lever Gallery and to Cardiff Museum for the Impressionist paintings. They are soon to go to Salford for the Lowry Gallery. Also, I need to announce that we had a very valuable gift this year from Miss Joy Ashton of her entire collection of transparencies that will enhance the study of artists at our Group Meetings. We thank her most gratefully for her generous gift.

Robert Bevan has taken the *Church Visiting Group* to 25 beautiful Churches in Powys and Herefordshire, followed by the popular visits to medieval taverns nearby.

Fay Ramsden and *Jill Clay* - (*Garden Visiting Group*) have taken us, notably to Hergest Croft Gardens, the Westonburt Arboretum, Dewstow Gardens, the snowdrop spread at Chirk Castle and, not to be forgotten, Fay's lovely 4 day holiday break to Cornwall to the Eden Project, The Heligan Gardens, Treboth and Truro

Hans Lichtenstein has organised visits to Stratford....to a performance of 'Matilda' and recently to 'Taming of the Shrew' at the newly refurbished RSC Theatre. Six intrepid travellers went to London to see a performance of 'Dr. Faustus' at The Globe Theatre.

The History Group meticulously organised by *Mary Davies* has visited the Clywedog Silver Lead Mine, Rhondda Heritage Park and Cyfartha Castle followed by lovely lunches.

The Photography Group run by *Jane Malvern* is proving to be very popular and has made great strides in the new techniques of camera work. They have produced beautiful images to very high standards, many of which are in 'Borderlines' and on our website.

The Sunday Lunch Group run by *Fay Ramsden* has visited most local hotels and pubs monthly, for very enjoyable meals and good company.

Joan Annetts has led the *Walking Group* on dry, muddy, long and short walks from Nantgwyllt Church to the Lead Mines in the Elan Valley, Yardrow and to Llewelyn's Cave at Aberedw.

The Welsh Conversation Group led by Eirlys Hodges manned the U3A stand at the National Eisteddfod at Wrexham where they were visited by The National Assembly First Minister, Mr. Carwyn Jones.

We had a day in Oxford for a morning visit to the Ashmolean Museum followed by an afternoon at Christ Church, a guided tour of Oxford Cathedral followed by tea in the Great Hall under the superior gaze of 13 portraits of past British Prime Ministers.

Of course, top of the list of our visits was our first holiday abroad, organised by *Ann Parkhouse* to *Honfleur, Trouville, Monet's Gardens at Giverny and Rouen*. It was brilliant....lovely weather, lovely wine, lovely company and, with the exception of sheep's brains, lovely food

The other groups are doing well. – *Berwyn Woolnough* has begun a *Recorder Group* and he has also started a *Bridge Group for Beginners*

The *Book Circle* led by *Margaret Easteal* is full and thriving. Likewise the Music Appreciation Group led by *Jill Clay* and the *Unfinished Objects* led by *Jane Malvern*.

(The Chairman requested that the Group Leaders stand up to be recognized for their exceptional work)).

Our Annual Key Lecture once again attended by our fellow Welsh U3As was a very successful Lecture by Welsh Historian, Dr. John Davies on 'Victorian Wales'. This Lecture was supported by a wonderful Exhibition organised by Barbara Warner with contributions from our Members of photographs of their Victorian families.

We have forged links with our neighbouring U3As – Newtown, Brecon, Llandovery Aberystwyth, Welshpool, Machynlleth and Crickhowell in our Mid-Wales Quiz afternoon here at Llandrindod, a Quiz which one of our teams won. Incidentally, when I step down, I will continue my role with Mid-Wales U3As.

We are also proud to maintain our connections with our High School by inviting their Sixth Formers to our 'academic lectures' and by awarding an Annual Prize to their most improved pupil in the school.

So as you can see, we have had a very full and interesting year but none of this could have happened without the support of YOU, our Membership. Our grateful thanks to you.

Finally, we have endeavoured to encourage the main aims of our U3A movement by maintaining learning, keeping abreast with modern technology and keeping as physically active as possible in this our 3rd Age.

It is interesting to compare this with Shakespeare's summing up of the 'Seven Ages of Man'...of the older man..."sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". He, perhaps, should be encouraged to join his nearest U3A.

I now have pleasure in handing over to our new Chair Jane Malvern".

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1. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 14 March, 2011: Fay Ramsden proposed and Ann Morgan seconded that these be adopted, All agreed.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes: No matters arising.

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3. Treasurer's Report: The written statements prepared by the Treasurer, John Lewis, were displayed on screen as John Lewis gave a verbal report on the year's finances explaining the items displayed in detail and confirmed that the accounts had been audited. There were no questions on the Treasurer's report and all agreed that it be accepted.

Election of Officers and Committee members for 2012/13: The following nominations had been received

(a) *Chairman:* Jane Malvern

(b) *Vice-Chairman:* Peter Dummer

(c) *Treasurer:* John Lewis

(d) *Membership/Committee Secretary:* Ann Parkhouse

(e) *Programme Secretary* Mai Ellis

(f) *Committee Members:* Ann Morgan, Catherine Clarke, Berwyn Woolnough

Jane Malvern announced that there would be 2 co-options to the Committee namely, Margaret Mason, Editor of 'Borderlines' and Fay Ramsden. Barbara Warner will continue managing the website.

Gareth Davies requested that those nominated be put to the meeting for approval,

Fay Ramsden proposed that the Officers and the three Committee Members named be accepted.

Seconded by Sue Margrave-Jones. There were no objections.

(5) Appointment of Examiner of Accounts: It was agreed that Mr. Martin Nosworthy be appointed to examine the accounts.

(6) Any other business: None

LLANDRINDOD WELLS & DISTRICT U3A

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 12st MARCH

TREASURER'S REPORT.

There is a slight deficit shown in the accounts this year of £188.62, and as this is less than three per cent of the total money collected in receipts I think we have nearly achieved the ultimate aim of spending exactly what is collected, mainly in subscription fees.

As the overall assets, at the end of this financial year, are within three per cent of what they were in the previous year, the committee unanimously decided that it was not necessary to seek an increase of the annual subscription fee, as we already have a substantial deposit in the Charities Official Investment Fund. (COIF)

The Metropolitan Hotel has increased the room hire charge by five per cent for this current year, but we can easily absorb this cost, as our membership has increased by about twenty five per cent. The money paid to the Metropole accounts for about fifty per cent of our subscriptions.

The most significant expense for this financial year was the computer and the ancillaries which go with it, namely the software to run it, also the case, mouse and cables, without which it will not function. Other costs involved with the computer are of course the Web Site registration for our online activities, and the All Risks insurance policy, which we have, in case of unforeseen eventualities. Our computer, and the projector bought in the previous financial year, are assets, which are essential for the talks and lectures given each month.

The Events Account, disregarding receipts in advance, showed a slight deficit this financial year of about £50.00, but this figure is a combination of gains and a small loss for one event. The Quiz Event and the Oxford Trip showed a slight gain, while the John Davies Lecture showed a slight loss. I think the organisers of these events are to be congratulated for their abilities to calculate the costs so accurately, and obtain such very good value for money.

The report presented shows a true account of the Receipts and Payments made during the last financial year, and leaves our U3A Branch with a balance of £6,641.58 to carry forward into the forthcoming financial year.

John Lewis.

12th March 2012.

(Hon Treasurer.)

Independent examiner's report to the Llandrindod Wells U3A

I report on the accounts of the LIW U3A for the year ended 31st January 2012 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's qualified statement

The Treasurer has maintained proper receipts and payments accounts for the year in question for the main activities of the Llandrindod Wells U3A.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Martin Nosworthy

Address: Nethway, Victoria Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AP

Date: 7th March 2012

