

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2013

**Present:** 101 plus 5 new Members

The Chairman, Mrs. Jane Malvern, welcomed all present.

**1. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 12 March 2012.** Fay Ramsden proposed and Ann Harvey seconded that these be adopted. All agreed.

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

**3. Chairman's Report for 2012/13:**

"As Llandrindod Wells U3A enters its eighth year, I am delighted to be able to report that the past twelve months have once again been very successful.

At the end of 2011-2012, there were about 210 subscribed members. At the end of the 2012-2013 year, we had not only made up for the few members who had not renewed their subscriptions, but increased the membership to over 220. Attendance at monthly meetings usually about 140 - and growing! Our venue here at The Metropole works very well, and the staff are very helpful – especially with providing extra chairs.

During the past year, we have once again enjoyed an excellent series of monthly Lectures, on a variety of subjects:

The year started in April with a talk on Sir Winston Churchill given by one of his former secretaries, Lady Jane Williams, who is one of our members; and in May another member, Dr Jane Page, spoke on "Jane Austen – the gilder of every pleasure"

We had "Fuel Cells Explained" by Dr Sara Burton in June, and a story of "A Passage to India" told by Reverend Eldon Phillips in July.

The first lecture of the autumn season was given in September by another member, Dr Colin Hughes, on the subject of "The Cattle Drovers in Mid-Wales" and in October John Watkins, a violin maker from South Wales spoke on "The Secrets of Stradivari".

Our November lecturer was Nicola Morby, from Tate Britain, who gave us an excellent lecture on "Turner and Penry Williams", and at the December meeting, local falconer Layla Bennett spoke about her work and brought two of her birds – a Harris Hawk and a Barn Owl - who flew the length of the Metropole's Ballroom – and landed on one member's head!

Since the start of the year, we have enjoyed a talk on the Llandrindod Museum, and followed every step of our members' Ann Harman and Vic Everill's walk from Lands' End to John O'Groats. The final lecture of the 2012-2013 season will be on the "Walton Basin" and will be given by Ann Goodwin.

The other main constituent of the U3A organisation – the Interest Groups – have also flourished during the past year. The topics they have studied during the past year are too numerous to mention here, but I can inform you that since the last AGM, several new Groups have been formed and are proving popular. We now have a second Book Group, a Virtual Travel Group, a Classical Mythology Group and

a French Conversation Group up and running, and there are others in the pipeline. Our thanks must go to all the Group Co-ordinators for their hard work and enthusiasm which keep the Groups popular.

We have also taken part in activities outside our own U3A. Besides a number of theatre and other visits, a small group attended Brecon U3A's Rosemary Maling Lecture Day and, last month, we were invited to a BBC programmers' training session, held here at The Metropole, when our views on several of their programmes were sought. The Recorder Group has performed "Under the Canopy" in Rock Park and in Holy Trinity Church, and we entered a decorated tree into the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity.

Once again the "Mid-Wales Quiz", organised by Patsy Godfrey, was very successful, but this time newcomer Crickhowell was the winner, although our two teams weren't far behind.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee, for their outstanding hard work during the past year, as well as other non-Committee members who have contributed to the running of our U3A. As every year, some Committee members will be retiring after this meeting and new ones will take their places and will, I am sure, become just as much a part of the team very quickly. I realise that I have been very lucky to have such a conscientious bunch. Every one of them has made their contribution, but I will single out just one person, who isn't actually on the Committee, Barbara Warner, whose work on the website has been outstanding. I've been looking at a number of other U3A websites recently, and I think ours is definitely among the best. Thank you, Barbara.

I'm now going to ask the outgoing Committee – and Barbara - to stand up so that you will all know who has been doing the work!

Our programme for the forthcoming year looks very interesting, and I hope you will enjoy it. We plan to have another Keynote Lecture this summer but so far nothing is fixed.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support during the past year – after all, without any members, there wouldn't be a U3A in Llandrindod!"

**4. Treasurer's Report:** The written statements prepared by the Treasurer, Mr. John Lewis, were displayed on screen. Mr. John Lewis then gave a verbal report on the year's finances explaining the items displayed in detail and confirmed that the accounts had been audited by Mr. Martin Nosworthy.

Mr. John Walker asked for an explanation of the payment amount of £843.00 to the U3A Trust on which Mr. John Lewis gave details. Mr. Walker also queried the function of the U3A Trust to which Mrs. Patsy Godfrey, former Trustee for Wales, gave an answer on the Treasurer's behalf

The Chairman thanked Mr. John Lewis for all his work and presentation of the accounts.

## **5. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2013/14:**

### **a) Chairman:**

As the Chairman had a vested interest in the election of this position and the result by ballot, the meeting was handed over to Vice-Chairman, Mr. Peter Dummer, who then announced the results of the voting for the two candidates, Mrs. Jane Malvern and Mr. Bob Atkins as follows:- Mrs. Jane Malvern 65 and Mr. Bob Atkins – 35. By majority, Mrs. Jane Malvern is to hold the position of Chairman for the forthcoming membership year 2013/14.

### **b) Vice-Chairman:**

As no nominations had been received for this position and in accordance with the Constitution, the Chairman appealed to the members present for permission to ask whether anyone present was willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate. Mr. Wynne Evans proposed and Dr. Karyn Evans seconded that this motion be accepted. All unanimously agreed.

Mr. Bob Atkins made it known that he wished to be considered for this position, Mr. Tony Hodges proposed and Mr. Robert Bevan seconded that he be accepted. All agreed.

**c) Treasurer:**

Again as no nominations had been received for this position before the deadline date, and in accordance with the Constitution, the Chairman appealed to the members present for permission to ask whether anyone present was willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate. All agreed. Mr. David Gambles was willing to take on this position. Mr. John Lewis proposed and Mr. Berwyn Woolnough seconded that he be accepted. All agreed.

As Mr. Gareth Davies had previously been registered to claim Gift Aid, permission was sought from the members present that this role be transferred to Mr. David Gambles. Mrs. Fay Ramsden proposed and Mrs. Margaret Mason seconded that Mr. David Gambles be registered to claim Gift Aid. All agreed.

**d) Meetings Secretary:**

Ann Parkhouse, proposed and seconded at nomination, is returned unopposed.

**e) Programme Secretary:**

Mai Ellis, proposed and seconded at nomination, is returned unopposed.

**f) Committee Members:**

Five candidates were presented for election for three committee places. Those elected by majority are Ann Morgan, Fay Ramsden and Berwyn Woolnough.

**6. Appointment of Auditor.**

Mr. Alwyn Batley proposed and Mr. Bob Atkins seconded that Mr. Martin Nosworthy be appointed to examine the 2013/2014 accounts.

**7. Any other business: None.**

In addition to acknowledging the work done by the retiring Treasurer, Mr. John Lewis, thanks was also given to the retiring Vice-chairman, Mr. Peter Dummer, for his support and work during his terms in office. Also, to the retiring committee member, Margaret Mason, who although retiring from the committee, will continue in her role as editor of 'Borderlines'.