

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COTSWOLD LINK  
**held at Salwarpe Village Hall, Droitwich, WR9 0AH**  
**on Thursday 22 March 2018**

**Delegates were welcomed by Les Hazlewood, Chairman, Droitwich U3A.**

**Present:** Jane Flynn (Chairman), Lynn Glaze (Treasurer), Jane Mason (acting Secretary) Rosemary Wall (Committee Member), Sue Arkell (Committee Member), Roger Marston (PA) Jill Nicholls (Trustee, South-West Region), Auriol Ainley (Trustee, West Midlands Region); and representatives from 21 U3As: Bishop's Cleeve, Bromsgrove, Bromyard, Cheltenham, Churchdown, Cirencester, Droitwich, Evesham, Fairford, Gloucester, Ledbury, Leominster, Malvern, Newent, North Cotswold, Northleach, Pershore, Ross and District, Thornbury, Winchcombe and Worcester. Pam Jones (Chairman 3AT) and Sophie Wellings (3AT). Guest: Anne Foster (Research Ambassador, W.Mids Region)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Jeremy Furtado (Committee Member), David Barrett (Link Webmaster), Stroud & District U3A and Bourton & District U3A.

**The Minutes** of the last Annual General Meeting, held at Moreton in Marsh on Friday 24 March 2017 were signed by Jane Flynn, Chairman, as a true record.

There were no **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

**Chairman's Remarks**

To begin with I'd like to thank Droitwich Spa U3A for hosting the AGM this year.

A welcome to the National Chairman Pam Jones and Sophie Wellings, Advice and Volunteer Manager at National Office.

Also joining us today are the two new regional trustees – for the West Midlands Auriol Ainley, who needs no introduction to Link members and Jill Nicholls for the South West.

It is a year since my election and it has been a busy year. At the end of the summer Ann Williams, the experienced secretary of the committee had to resign as ill health prevented her from continuing. The lack of a secretary meant I had to be both chairman and secretary. Rosemary Wall from Cheltenham has been co-opted on the committee and Jane Mason has recently been nominated to take on the role of secretary. My thanks go to all the committee - all volunteers in the spirit of the U3A and without whom we would not be here today.

Thank you to Eileen Gilder who is taking a step back from her many years of work for the Cotswold Link.

Thanks also to our website manager, David Barrett. David is not here today but he is always pleased to put information on the Cotswold Link website as a useful way to advertise any particular activities.

Three new U3A's have joined the Link this year – Churchdown, Thornbury and Winchcombe and I'm delighted that they have all sent representatives to today's meeting.

The Link held a very successful **music interest day** in July. It was enjoyed by all those that attended and featured different aspects of making music from advertising jingles to a talk on orchestral music by the leader of the Orchestra of the Swan. A harpist brought her very large harp, on which she performed beautifully after giving an explanation on how to play such a complicated instrument.

Thanks to Auriol Ainley for organising this and to Pershore U3A for providing the venue and catering.

As Link chairman I had the pleasure of attending Bishop's Cleeve U3A's tenth anniversary celebrations and joining Gloucester U3A the following week to celebrate their 30th.

I also attended a successful joint choirs day for Link U3A groups held in Worcester in May. I am hoping to join them again this year at their event in Malvern.

I am involved in the West Midlands region as a **volunteer to the trustee**. As chairman of the Cotswold Link I have represented this group at a meeting of the **South West region networks**. I was unable to attend the initial meeting of the National Links meeting held in London in November, but Alan Green went on my behalf and reported back to the executive committee. This involvement has made me very aware of the emphasis that is being placed on networks, links and other groupings within the Third Age Trust. I know our national chairman will expand further on what this means for us in the Cotswold Link following the Extraordinary General Meeting held in Birmingham yesterday.

I have had a request for a Beacon training day and Alan Stansfield (Gloucester U3A) is happy to run a workshop for us. Please let me know whether you are interested and if you would like Alan to explain what using Beacon actually involves as well as the mechanics of the system. My thanks to Alan for being the Beacon spokesman within the Cotswold Link.

My thanks to the committee members without which none of the above would have happened. Our treasurer Lynn Glaze is due to step down at next year's AGM and if you have a retired treasurer within your group that might be happy to keep their hand in and to take on the role for the Link please encourage them to stand. It is far less onerous than being treasurer of some U3As with large memberships. Please let Lynn or me know.

I know we have some guest U3A members here today and I hope they will take the plunge and formally join the Cotswold Link. Next year's AGM will take place courtesy of Bromyard U3A and I am waiting for them to confirm the date.

Finally thank you again to the committee members whose assistance enables me to stand here and report on a successful year.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Lynn Glaze presented a balance sheet for the year that showed the Link to be in a comfortable position financially, with a surplus in the funds at the start of the year of £1928.82.

Thanks, she said, to the efforts of the Link's U3A contacts, as well as the individual U3As' treasurers, all members were fully paid up for 2018, which ensured that the bank balance was even healthier.

It was considered important by the committee to keep up a reasonable surplus: the annual Special Interest Day was increasing in stature, and as the day is funded at the Link's expense, money was needed to maintain the high standard of speakers. The balance at the close of 2017 has increased to £2136.69.

The report was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

## **Election of Officers**

Current officers were re-elected unanimously: **Chairman: Jane Flynn (Worcester), Treasurer: Lynn Glaze (Pershore), Members: Sue Arkell and Jeremy Furtado Secretary: Jane Mason (Evesham)** To serve on the Committee: **Rosemary Wall** (Cheltenham) were nominated, and with no further nominations were elected by a show of hands.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.05am.

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

## **Date and venue of 2019 Annual General Meeting**

The date and venue for next year's AGM is scheduled to be held in Bromyard in March and details will be circulated nearer the time.