

**MINUTES OF HALF YEARLY MEETING OF THE COTSWOLD  
LINK  
HELD AT SALWARPE VILLAGE HALL  
22 MARCH 2018**

The **Minutes** of the half yearly meeting held at Northleach on 28 September 2017 were accepted as a true record by a show of hands.

**Matters arising** – none

**Chairman’s remarks**

I have little to add to my earlier AGM report.

I apologise that there was a glitch in communications within the Link when we were without a secretary. This should return to normal with a new Link secretary in place. Information is being sent out to the groups but appears to not be disseminated through to the membership. Information on the next Special Interest Day will be sent again to members as soon as possible.

I am grateful to those U3As that send us copies of their newsletters as it is always good to see what is happening within our movement in this area. A common theme within our U3A members seems to be getting new volunteers for the committee and to lead interest groups I do believe we have to stress more often at all our meetings that the whole organisation is composed of volunteers, that’s how it operates, and we do not provide a service you are the members of the service.

On July 3rd this year our special interest day is on ‘The Great Outdoors’. It is taking place in the Cheltenham Pavilion and is open to all members of the Cotswold Link. Details have been circulated to all your U3As, please encourage your members to attend as there will be four very different contributors.

I am also hoping to arrange a study day for the Cotswold Link on ‘**keeping your U3A legal**’ later this year.

The next half yearly meeting will be held on **October 4 2018** in the Farmers Club, Gloucester, details will be circulated in due course.

The meeting closed at 11.35am

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

## **Regional Trustees Reports**

**Jill Nicholls – SW Region.** This is my first year as a trustee and my first realisation was what a huge area the SW region. My aim is to get to as many U3As as possible and of course links such as the Cotswold Link helps to make these contacts easier. I attended the first Link held in Exeter, I've attended study days, the National Conference, presented Winchester with their certificate and hope to visit Dorset's link meeting soon. It seems to be a common feeling among the groups I've met that information from National office is not being disseminated to the wider membership – it appears to be kept within the committee. A new webmaster for the SW has been appointed. I, like Jane, enjoy the newsletters.

### **Auriol Ainley – West Midlands Region.**

I am the regional representative on the National Executive Committee where a revision of the constitution has been discussed agreement being reached on 21st March 2018.

Last year 5 new trustees were appointed.

I am also on the International Committee.

In the West Midlands: - volunteers to the trustee have received training on:

- mentoring & trouble shooting.
- running a U3A
- forming a link network

I have made visits to U3As in Solihull, Kings Norton, 5 U3As in Shropshire.

In my 3year plan I want to organise a series of work-shops and would like suggestions from you all on which subjects.

Role of Trustees – as representatives of the U3A in the region, logistics of the U3A trust and to ensure that the Constitution complies with the demands of the charity commission.

### **Website -**

1000 hits so far. Please inform David Barrett for inclusion of items.

**Special Interest Day – The Great Outdoors** to be held on July3rd 2018 in the Pavilion, Cheltenham. Information circulated and on the website.

**Half-yearly Meeting** – to be held on October 4th in The Farmers Club, Gloucester.

Information will be circulated as soon as the details are finalised.

**Airing & Sharing** – Alan Stansfield (Gloucester) had attended the Leeds session on legal matters. The subject of insurance came up particularly in reference to outings and holidays that could not be described as educational. Carla Auger (Evesham) brought up the perennial problem of non- members attending and insurance. A discussion followed and it became clear that a workshop/study day would be useful on legal matters. Sophie Wellings suggested that members can email her at National Office and she can advise on the legal position but each U3A should have it clear in their own constitutions their individual position. She is in the process of producing a handbook called U3A+ which will deal with legal matters and risk assessments.

Winchcombe U3A took the opportunity to mention their Music and Arts festival in May. Liz Dancer (Cirencester) asked if other U3As were taking advantage of Riviera Travel donations; they donate money to their U3A as part of their community support – this has meant they can have a very small membership fee. She asked the position on gift aid – suggested that she contacts the local HMRC office for advice. Riviera Travel is reviewing their charity donations so this money may soon be no longer available. In the general discussion that followed it was clear there is a huge variation in annual fees being paid.

**Pam Jones** – National chairman

To begin with Pam Jones told us how she became chairman from chairing Witney U3A to vice chairman on the NEC to chairman. This is her last year and she urged the audience to think hard about joining the NEC. During her tenure she has spent time consulting the membership, reviewing and revising the 2012 constitution to bring it into line with the Charity Commission's requirements. They have looked at governance, finance, development of education, international U3As, legislation and data protection, temporary members, regional sizes and communications with network links. They have reduced the number of vice chairman to one. Ian McCannah has set up workshops; Beacon has been introduced.

For the future: a profile change, a look at financial reserves. Recruitment to the NEC.

**Anne Foster** – Research opportunities for the Third Age Trust

Anne opened her talk on how to tackle research by asking yourself the following questions: What? Why? When? Where? Who? and How?

Use the Third Age Trust websites and research guide.

Jane Flynn thanked our speakers and the delegates.

The meeting closed at 15.45pm