



Charity Registration no 1159091

DRAFT NORTH WEST REGION of u3as
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, 4th July, 2023, at 2.50 p.m.

1. Welcome - Gill Russell welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies for absence were received from the following u3as:
David Sewart – Poynton, Ian Hall, Cockermouth, Sue Steele - Crewe & Nantwich, Liz Carter – Tarporley & District, Anne Furlong – West Pennine Villages, Anne Bayliss – West Cheshire Rural, Ailsa Benson – Skiddaw, Neil Stevenson – NW Regional Trustee, Maggy Simms – Research and Shared Learning Project Co-ordinator, Janice Hayes – Warrington.
3. Minutes from the AGM held on 15th June 2022
 - 3.1 The minutes of the AGM held on 15th June 2022 were approved by majority online and at the AGM. At the event Beth Turton from Up Holland proposed and Liz Owen from Halewood seconded the approval of the Minutes from the 2022 AGM. 19 voted for and none against.
 - 3.2 Matters arising from the Minutes.
There were no questions or other matters raised either online or at the AGM.
4. Reports from Officers
 - 4.1 Chair's Report 4th July 2023 (by Gill Russell, chair): additional to the Trustee report for the Charity Commission.

33 u3as are represented here today. Thank you for coming and supporting our NW Conference and AGM.

Our elected Chair, Mary Waters, retired in March due to ill health and Gill Russell, as Vice Chair, became interim chair.

We wish Mary well and thank her for her valuable contribution to the NW Regional Committee in various ways over a number of years.

We have several small networks around the NW region with the Bay, North Cumbria, Merseyside, Deeside & Wirral, Greater Manchester, N.E. Cheshire, South Cheshire, Mid Cheshire, Clitheroe Cluster and

Pennine Link. A new one has now been formed in South Lancashire. Networking has proved to be an effective way of communicating and sharing ideas with other u3as and I would encourage you to be involved.

A new u3a has been opened in Upper Eden. They are making great progress in recruiting members and developing activities.

We have regional contact volunteers who use Beacon to keep in touch with small groups of u3as. The NW also has Trust volunteers who help with national workshops, Beacon support, website migration, subject advice, Zoom training, Research and Shared Learning.

The National Research and Shared Learning Co-ordinator, Maggy Simms is a member of the NW and organised a regional workshop in August 2022 in Preston which was well attended.

We organised a Big Sing in May which was attended by almost 70 members from 24 u3as from around the region. We have had requests to hold it again in 2024.

The Trust organized a workshop on Influencing and Social Change for the North West Region. Some members felt that the title was off-putting but the workshop was brilliant. There is a second workshop later this month. Face to face workshops will be held next year and some of the Trust workshops are excellent. We may also have some online workshops. We are also planning on more peer to peer workshops as in the past.

The NW Summer School was very successful last year and is going to run again in Carlisle in August this year. It is proving popular with members from around the UK. Many thanks to those who organise and contribute to its success.

We are starting to create our newsletters again and would welcome items from u3a members about their activities and plans. We would also welcome your suggestions for future events both face to face or on Zoom.

Our regional committee is a small group and we have room for more members. Please let one of us know if you would like more information.

The chair's report, including the Trustees Report to CC, and last year's minutes were accepted by a clear majority online and unanimously at the meeting.

4.2a North West of England Region Annual Report 2022-2023 (by Neil Stevenson, delivered by Gill Russell).

My apologies for being unable to join you at our North West Region AGM, unfortunately I have been called for jury service.

The North West Region comprises 99 u3as and approximately 40,000 Members. This year we added one new u3a, Upper Eden u3a in

Cumbria. Most of the u3as are members of one of the Region's ten Networks. These provide a valuable link to u3as in their local areas. The Regional Committee, which is a registered charity, has members who are trained Trust Volunteers and also Regional Support Volunteers. Throughout the year they have maintained contact with their allocated u3as. They gave information and offered support and help as requested. We aim to arrange an event for members most months. Among the many activities organised by the Regional Team during the year were:

- North West Regional Conference and AGM
- Recruitment and Retention Workshop
- Festive Moments Christmas Zoom Meeting - Beacon for Group Leaders Workshop - Ukulele Groups Gathering.

In addition, a Regional Summer School was held at the University of Cumbria in Carlisle. This was our first post Covid summer school and was attended by members from across the UK. Members in the Region actively participated in many National events, including u3a Day. A research project with Manchester Metropolitan University to look at improving the design of hand-held remote control devices was well supported by members.

Nationally I have been involved with a wide variety of activities. As well as being a Director of the Third Age Trust I am also a Director of Third Age Trust Trading Limited (TATTL). I chair the Merchandise and Woodland Committee and am a member of the Communications and External Affairs Committee (CEAC), the Development Committee and the Beacon Co-ordination Team. More recently I have been participating in the formation of the Pilot Council. This is an important development for the u3a movement. It has been clear for some time that our u3as and members need a better communication channel for their voices to be heard nationally. We are testing out various structures to best achieve this. If the Pilot Council can be shown to deliver, then it is possible that will be a resolution for approval by u3as at the 2024 Trust AGM.

Finally, my three-year term of office as the Trustee for the North West of England ends at the Third Age Trust AGM in October this year. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with the Regional Team and our Networks, u3as and Members.

4.3a Treasurer's Report (Delivered by Alan Hough)

The North West region held £11954 in the bank at 31st March 2023, £3324 lower than the balance of £15278 as at 31st March 2022.

This decrease in funds was due primarily to a deficit on the receipt and expenditure account for the year, and the need to use the summer

school contingency fund to reduce the operating loss on the 2022 summer school.

The deficit in the year on the receipt and expenditure account of £1783 compared to a surplus in 2021/2022 of £1219, the latter being due to a receipt of funds from Longton U3A of £1377.

The deficit was due to the costs of the annual AGM at Preston, costs of holding face to face committee meetings at Preston, and a loss on the 2022 summer school at Carlisle. The latter loss of £211 was reduced from a loss of £1776 due to utilising the contingency fund of £1565 held at the beginning of the year.

The loss at the summer school was driven by late cancellations by enrolees and a tutor due to illness, albeit the level of enrolees was also lower still driven by covid fears. The school was however widely appreciated by those who did attend.

Looking to 2023/2024 overall reserves are still healthy at £10774 at the start of the year. £5000 is held in general reserve and £5774 in accumulated revenue reserves.

The 2023 Summer School is planned to be run in August 2023 at the University of Cumbria in Carlisle. Enrolment has been taking place since the end of January, and is now fully booked with a number of reserve applicants. It is expected therefore that this year's school will realize a surplus in funds.

- 4.3b The treasurer's report and the examiner's approval were accepted by clear majority online and unanimously at the meeting.
Proposed by Sue Wilcock – Wigan and Seconded by Liz Booth – Wallasey.
Carried by 19 votes. No votes against.

5. Approval of Examiner of Accounts for 2023-2024

The appointment of Gerald Smith as the examiner for the Accounts 2023/24 was approved by majority online and unanimously at the AGM. Proposed by Anne Hales and seconded by Beth Turton from Up Holland. Carried by 20 votes, no votes against.

6. Election of Committee Members

- 6.1. Chair: Gill Russell, Heswall u3a, was elected unanimously online and at the AGM as the chair. Proposed by Liz Stewardson, Seconded by Alison Adlard, Heswall. Carried by 20 people.

6.2 Vice Chair: Tony Cheetham, Preston & District u3a, was elected unanimously online and at the AGM as the Vice Chair. Proposed by Janet Nixon, Seconded by Susan Holder, Preston. Carried unanimously (20 votes).

6.3 Secretary: Hilary Scarratt, West Cheshire Rural u3a was elected unanimously online and at the AGM as Secretary. Proposed by Kathleen Dowson, Seconded by Anne Bayliss. Carried unanimously (20 votes).

6.4 General: Anne Hales, Northwich - Proposed by Geoff Wales, Seconded by Janice Jackson, Northwich (20 votes)
Christine Garrity, Mawdesley Villages - Proposed by Roger Darling, Seconded by Linda Heaton, Mawdesley Villages (20 votes).
Alan Hough, Up Holland - Proposed by Beth Turton, Seconded by Kevin Griffin, Up Holland. (20 votes)
The committee members received a unanimous vote both online and at the meeting.

6.5 Voting Information

All reports were circulated to the voting delegates prior to the AGM to enable on-line delegates to vote and ask questions.

45 u3as had voting representatives.

25 voted in advance – nominations to committee were approved by everyone - total 25

One group did not approve on any of the documents - total 24

20 people voted on the day

All items were approved by a clear majority.

34 u3as were represented on the day. 55 people attended.

The financial Report was circulated to all u3as and delegates prior to the AGM. No finance questions were raised at the AGM.

The AGM was closed at 3.10pm.

Hilary Scarratt
NW Region Secretary
4th July, 2023