

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COTSWOLD LINK

held at Sapey Golf Club, Upper Sapey. WR6 XI

on Tuesday 19 March 2019

Present: : Jane Flynn (Chairman), Lynn Glaze(Treasurer), Jane Mason (Secretary) Jeremy Furtado (committee member)Jill Nicholls (Trustee, South-West Region), Auriol Ainley (Trustee, West Midlands Region); and representatives from the following U3As: Bishop's Cleeve, Bourton & District, Bromyard, Cam & Dursley, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Droitwich, Evesham, Fairford, Gloucester, Ledbury, Malvern, Newent, North Cotswold, Ross and District, Stroud, Thornbury, Winchcombe and Worcester. Fran Walton (National Office) and Alan Russell (Worcester)

Apologies received from Rosemary Wall (committee) and Bromsgrove & Pershore U3As

Delegates were welcomed by Carol Cooper, Chairman of Bromyard U3A

- 1. Minutes** of AGM 2018 as an accurate account. Agreement proposed by Dennis Chamberlain and Jane Price and signed by the chairman.
- 2. Matters Arising** – a request that the minutes could be numbered in the future.
- 3. Chairman's Remarks** - Thank you to Bromyard U3A for hosting this meeting and good to see everyone today.

On a personal level this has been a hectic year for me and I find it hard to believe it is a year since I was standing here before you, suffering from concussion following an accident the day before. I think this year it is with confusion that I stand here and I apologise for the errors I made in the original paperwork sent out for today, and thank you to the secretary for her help in re-sending the correct paperwork out. I regret that the last few months I have been somewhat overwhelmed with domestic issues.

I would like to thank the Cotswold Link committee as a whole for the support they have given during the year. As I reported last October, unfortunately Sue Arkell, who has been involved with the Cotswold Link for many years and served on the committee in various roles, had to resign due to ill health. I miss her and her background knowledge. At this AGM the treasurer, Lynn Glaze is retiring after five years' service and I want to thank Lynn for her work in this role. As chairman it is always good to know that someone reliable is looking after the finances, so thank you very much Lynn for all your work over the years. We are having elections shortly and I am pleased to report that Dennis Chamberlain has volunteered and been nominated to stand as treasurer.

However, we are a very small committee and it would be really good if someone else could be co-opted onto it so that we can share out the limited amount of work to run the Cotswold Link. If you think you might be interested, please have a word with me.

Thanks, also, to the website manager, David Bennett, who is always happy to publicise your group's activities on the website. It was with great pleasure that I asked David to highlight

the achievement of John Merrick, conductor of Gloucester U3A's choir, who won the 2018 BBC Radio 3 carol competition with his setting of music to Carol Ann Duffy's poem "The Bee Carol". You can hear the beautiful winning result on our website.

As also reported last October, I am pleased to report that Bromsgrove U3A joined the Cotswold Link after last year's AGM although unfortunately they were unable to join us today as the date clashed with their own AGM.

Last July we held a special interest day at Cheltenham on "The Great Outdoors" which was very successful. I believe everyone who attended enjoyed the variety of speakers offered, although it was held on one of the very hot summer's days. The venue at Cheltenham, The Pavilion, proved popular and we are planning another special interest day on 11 July at The Pavilion, more details later.

The Cotswold Link choirs again joined together for an enjoyable day of singing organised last year by Malvern U3A, and I was pleased to join them in the afternoon when they performed their pieces.

I have represented the Cotswold Link at meetings of the South West Region and West Midlands Region, whose trustees Auriol and Jill are with us today. Although they operate differently, both regions are full of ideas and happy to arrange suitable training days. I will refer again to this later.

I represented the Cotswold Link at the national meeting of Network Link in London last October for all the networks and links within U3A. There are a large number throughout the country and it was, as usual when different groups get together, a very useful meeting to hear what is happening around the country. The next meeting is in May when I hope to get to London again.

Thank you again to my committee members who enable all our activities to happen.

Next year's AGM will be courtesy of Cirencester AGM.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** cash balance at close of 2018 £1770.39. report accepted by a show of hands. Details attached to minutes.

- 5. Nomination of Officers:** Proposed and seconded: Jane Flynn (chairman) Jane Mason (secretary) Dennis Chamberlain (Treasurer) Rosemary Wall and Jeremy Furtado (co-opted). All were elected on a show of hands.

- 6. The meeting closed at 11.40 am.**

7. Reginal Trustees Reports:

Jill Nicholls, SW Region - Life in the South West continues to be very active and varied and I've only tapped into a small part of events. This is no criticism, but I would still like to know when I'm going to have to pay the bill!!

In the period since my last report I have attended Board meetings, network meetings and joined some groups for special celebrations. There have been two new U3As in Wilton and Chudleigh.

We continue to add new U3As to our numbers - I think we're up to 135, but am prepared to be challenged on that. I was delighted to attend Penzance's first AGM as it was wound up as not viable 2 years ago! Now it's thriving.

Wilton, near Salisbury, had its inaugural meeting and I am aware of other new groups in the offing: Tetbury, Stithians Worle and Teignmouth.

I've been seeking new volunteers to help out in the region (BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW HUGE IT IS!) and to this end we had a meeting with Sophie Wellings in January. I am holding a follow up to this in April where recent recruits will have the opportunity to meet experienced volunteers and perhaps take the step towards training further. There's room for more.

'Start ups', 'Induction', 'Running your U3A' and 'Trouble shooting are but a few of the workshops on offer.

There are gaps throughout the region where a U3A would be an asset, and to this end I've been in touch with social prescribers with a view to both raising our profile and helping lessen the load on NHS. I would like to hear of any examples you may know of in this area.

My project will be less dramatic than originally planned (using my bus pass) because it is well nigh impossible to get around the region by bus and certainly not possible to get to meetings on time!

With my U3APlus hat on I've had contact with social prescribers and BRACE a charity supporting research into Alzheimer's disease - this will be ongoing and mutually supportive.

'We the Curious' will be offering a day again in September. Notice on the website. In the meantime thank you all for the good work you do, I look forward to seeing you again at the next meeting.

Auriol Ainley

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17..