

Annual General Meeting Minutes
15th May 2023 at 2.00pm – Rowlands Castle Parish Hall Links Lane

Welcome

Acting Chair of the Meeting, Shirley Varnish welcomed everyone to the Meeting in the Parish Hall.

Present

Committee – Shirley Varnish [acting Chair], June Halford, Rosemary Ridge, Carol Thomas, Roger Ironmonger

40 members were present [list available].

Apologies from Kevin Connell, Sandra Hodgetts, Val Mitchell, Prue Amner, Sue Leonard, Charlie Shawcross,

Minutes of the previous AGM 2022

These were agreed unanimously.

Chairman's report

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman had circulated his report to all prior to the meeting and it was presented to the meeting by acting Chair of the meeting.

Treasurer's report

Appendix 2 – Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had circulated the Examined Accounts and her report to all prior to the meeting and these were presented by acting Chair of the meeting. There were no questions. The Examined Accounts were accepted unanimously, and it was also agreed to continue to use Mark Dancey as the Examiner of Accounts.

Election of Committee

The following were elected unanimously:

Kevin Connell - Chair

Sandra Hodgetts - Treasurer

Ania Shawcross - Secretary [new committee member]

Other members; Prue Amner [website administrator], Rosemary Ridge [Speaker secretary], Charlie Shawcross [Groups Coordinator], Shirley Varnish, June Halford, Sue Leonard, Valerie Mitchell, Carol Thomas, Roger Ironmonger.

Proposed motions (if any notified)

None

AGM closed at 14.19

Appendix 1

u3a Chairman's Report 2023

We have finally emerged from the disruption due to covid which has meant that Rowlands Castle U3A has finally been able to maintain a programme of events and meetings in person. Our monthly talks have resumed in person and we have a full programme planned for the year. Our Christmas celebration included entertainment from Driftwood and the poetry group.

We are still working on trying to expand the number of Groups we run. We have introduced a Science and Technology group and would like to start a photography group. It is difficult to find members willing to organize groups. The organizer does not have to lead the group just get the members together. We are hoping more members come forward this year so that we can expand the number of groups. If you would like to start a group just let one of the committee know. The 2020 outing was scheduled to be Leeds Castle but we had to postpone this to 2021 while in lockdown. This too had to be cancelled. Finally in July 2022 we went ahead with this visit. Numbers were somewhat limited and we have decided to replace the annual visit by regular more local excursions

Numbers have held up well considering the restrictions on activities with membership for 2023-24 likely to be around 150

As well as local events Rowlands Castle U3A is part of the Hampshire South Central Network. Committee representatives have attended zoom meetings about speakers, U3A organization and web management where experiences are shared for the benefit of all. The SCN quiz was again cancelled again so after our victory at the SCN area championship held at Gosport in 2019 U3A the Rowlands Castle team remain the reigning champions. There is a proposal to reinstate the quiz some time this year

The website is up and running and is managed by Prue Amner. Details of all our activities can be found there. It has recently been substantially updated. <https://u3asites.org.uk/rowlands-castle/home> or [google Rowlands Castle U3A](#).

We have a generic email for information which is RowlandsCastleU3A @outlook.com

As in 2022 we are planning to have a stand at the Village Fair in July where non-members would be able to ask questions about our activities and hopefully sign up. We aim to have a new information leaflet ready for the event

Whilst in person meetings have resumed, one or two groups such as Spanish intermediate are still using zoom out of convenience. A full list of which groups are operating in person and which groups are on zoom is on the website and on the noticeboard (we have been allocated space on the Parish council's noticeboard near the bus shelter). Now that the programme is back to normal, membership fees have been returned to £20 per person (£38 per couple) which includes U3A insurance when on activities and copies of the Third Age magazine

Kevin Connell Chairman RCU3A May 2023

Appendix 2 - Treasurer's Report

INCOME

A balance of 4144.12 was carried forward, mainly due to the after effects of the pandemic, when our activities were curtailed. During that time the membership fees were reduced to £6.25, so as we began to resume, mainly by Zoom, it was decided a small increase was due so for this financial year fees were increased to £12.50, This plus Gift Aid provides our source of income.

EXPENDITURE

A sum of £1091.75 was paid to Third Age Trust, which includes the Fees per member, Beacon, the online database which we use and the cost of the quarterly magazine -Third Age Matters.

General expenses were made up of providing refreshments for the monthly meetings, plus refreshments for the Summer party., held at Valerie & David Mitchell's lovely garden, for which we thank them very much. Also includes purchase of stamps, Items of stationery, and miscellaneous costs.

Hall hire for the Parish Hall , & St Johns Church for our various gatherings is high due to rising costs.

Outings are meant to be self-funded. However, we were holding £719, a donation from a member, earmarked for an outing As the cost of the coach to Leeds Castle, was £850, It was agreed by the committee to make up any shortfall from general funds, which amounted to £91.90. In the end the visit was cancelled due to the intense heat, and was delayed until October which didn't suit many. And numbers were reduced.

Speaker's fees continue to rise , although less than the previous year.

After an absence due the pandemic, we were able to hold our annual Christmas party, which was enjoyed by members. The total of £729.41 includes food, drink, raffle prizes, and the fee for the entertainment.

Although it appears that we made a loss, the committee decided that we should utilise some of the funds held over, to be more generous to the members.

The balance of funds held amounted to £2046,21, and with Members renewing early prior to 1st April, means that we are in a healthy position for the coming year.

Especial thanks to Mark Dancey, an ex-colleague at Barclays Bank, who examined the accounts.