

STOCKPORT U3A

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held at Hazel Grove Methodist Church Wednesday 6th March 2024

Present: Mrs J Davies (Chairman) Mr. A. Drysdale. (Vice Chairman) Mrs. G. Cameon. (Treasurer) Mrs. M. Gillespie (Secretary). Ms. P. Hadfield (Membership Secretary) Mr. K Jones (Webmaster) Mrs. R. Faulkner, (Newsletter Editor) Mrs. M. Minns (Committee) Mr. R. Higginbotham (Committee)

Apologies: Jayne and Rob Whittaker, Beryl and Ron Emerson, Barbara Marriott (Committee) Leslie Williams, Bob and Chris Wain., Mike Stoney.

Minutes of last meeting 1st March 2023 were presented, proposed by Isabella Collinson and Seconded by Ann Daniels as a true record.

Chairmans report. – Mrs. Davies

“Once again, I am pleased to say that we have had a very successful year. Our membership is steady and Gill will let us know the total in her report.

The number of members attending our open meeting have been rising steadily. This is in response to some really interesting speakers. Thanks to Milly.

The number of interest groups are healthy and well attended, indeed some of our groups are full and have had to open a fourth book club.

I would like to thank all the group coordinators without them we would not have a u3a. After the AGM they will have an opportunity to tell you more about their groups.

Your committee meets regularly; indeed, we are having a committee meeting tomorrow to go over any points raised by this AGM. I would also like to thank the members of the committee, for their hard work, many members of which wear more than one hat.

I have been attending the committee meeting of the North East Cheshire Chairs. Some of whom operate groups open to members of other u3a's and I will soon have a list of these. The percentage attendance at our open meetings exceeds any of the other groups. I have suggestions to put to our committee tomorrow of the events to bring us all together more often.

We have had very enjoyable outings this year with the History Group, the Amblers and Strollers and both the Long and Short Walking Groups. The Film Group, A little Bit of Culture and we have visited the Theatre with the Play Reading Group and enjoyed a lovely holiday with the Travel Group. Many thanks to those who have organized these events.

Look around at your committee, we are not getting any younger and the next time we have a vacancy it will be advertised and is open to all including new members.

I must thank the kitchen elves who provide a wonderful service each open meeting and those too who serve us at the group meetings.

It has been a privilege serving as your Chairman, Thank You “

Chairmans Report – approved by members, proposed by Joyce Goodwin and seconded by Kay Jones

Treasurers Report – Mrs G Cameron

In 2023 we made a surplus of just over £2,000 and there have been many reasons for this.

There was £600 of invoices not received by the year end. More members have been attending both the Open meetings and the groups in the last twelve months. This is good news, but it would have been difficult to predict this when we increased the entrance fees last year.

The increase in the entrance fee at the open meetings has helped to cover the cost of speakers which was over £600 last year and is increasing each year.

As expected, all the venues that are hired for the meetings have increased their rental charges, mainly because of the energy costs. The two main ones have only brought in the increase charges in October, although we understood this would be much earlier in the year. Therefore, we have had the benefit of not paying extra for nine months of the year.

The History Group Co-ordinator was very concerned about the take up for trips as the coach costs have increased significantly. In fact, there was strong support, and this had led to a surplus in the History account.

I was able to claim gift aid of £343, a big thank you to all members who are willing and able to subscribe to this.

I would like to thank Margaret Morrall for examining the accounts, also, the Committee and Group Leaders for all their hard work and support.

Treasurers report – approved by the members, proposed by Ann Daniels and seconded by Ruth Faulkner

Although Margaret Morrell was not at the meeting Gill reported Margaret would continue to audit the Accounts for 2024

Election of Officers

Mrs Margaret Minns was re-elected onto the committee. Proposed by Sheila Dysdale and Seconded by Jean Hanley.

No other business

Meeting closed at 15:14 pm