

**EDITION
29**

u3a & AWAY

**JUNE
2023**

The AGM has been successfully carried out and we now have a new constitution & rules for the guidance of members, but more importantly we have a new committee!!

There are some new faces on the committee who will bring new enthusiasm and ideas with them. It will also be a larger committee than we have had for a long time. The names of the new committee members will be in the report on the AGM.

We must thank those members who have stepped down for all their hard work, in what has been a very trying time, over the last three years.

So many thanks to Michael Dufton, Patricia Fay and Jenny Stephens. Thank you for all your hard work and Contribution to our u3a.

A reminder to our members if you wish to take part in any of the events organised by our Events team you need to contact Barbara Morris as soon as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

FRIDAY 2ND JUNE: FISH AND CHIPS LUNCH: The KINGFISHER; CALDER GROVE

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE: 10.00AM: COMMITTEE MEETING.

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE: 10.00AM: COFFEE MORNING.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023

Held at Brook House, Barnsley Road, Wakefield

Present There were 43 members present and entitled to vote. Apologies were received from 18 members listed below.

Hilary Fowler opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Friday 20th May 2022 were accepted were agreed as a true record and signed. There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report. After a few difficult years, it feels as if things are returning to normal. We were very pleased and touched that many of you re-joined during lockdown, even if there was nothing going on! Though we were told by many that our zoom groups had been a lifesaver for many. Our membership recovered slightly after lockdown and we hope in September we will see an increase in our member numbers, which still are not back to pre-lockdown levels.

Our membership currently is 398, similar to the number last year (2021-2022). As you know, groups are the lifeblood of any u3A and I should like to express our appreciation to all the group leaders, without whom we would not exist. In Wakefield 36 groups are currently running, including three new groups this year. Val Carter has been running a successful group, now moved to Normanton town hall, on classical civilisations. Rex Emsley has just brought to Wakefield his fabulous singing group – Sing 'n Strum – and this year we have a new book group run by Carol Mann. Sadly, the leader of our family history group, John Wilson, has passed away. This year we also lost several long-standing members who, in the past, had contributed much to the running of our U3a.

We would be very pleased if someone with an interest in family history would come forward to run that group and we are also looking for someone to run the music appreciation group, which was popular in the past but is currently in abeyance. Please talk to a member of the committee if you are willing to have a go at running either of these groups. We are always looking for new groups and please, if you have an interest, do consider starting a group to pursue it. I'm sure you will find many keen takers and we will give you all the support you need to start your group.

On a related topic, we desperately need a new group organiser. I am currently filling this role, but I don't have time to do it justice. Please, if you feel you could do this, contact me for more information. You would be welcomed with open arms!

Ahead of the vote for new committee members, I would like to convey grateful thanks to the retiring committee: Michael Dufton, Jenny Stephens and Patricia Fay.

long-standing members who, in the past, had contributed much to the running of our u3a.

We think they are the longest surviving members of our u3a and I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to both of them. Jenny Stephens has been an energetic and effective secretary and I should like to welcome Jacqui Mackinnon who has agreed to be our new business secretary. Patricia Fay has faithfully taken our minutes for the past year, which has caused her some inconvenience. She has now decided to step down and I welcome Jan Wright as our new minutes secretary. Welcome also to Barbara Morris, our new vice-chair and Sue Leonard, our new webmaster, who is taking on preparation of our replacement website, input which is sorely needed. Also welcome back to Paul Scott. All dependent on their being elected of course.

Thank you to the two remaining members of the committee: Michael Manders, our treasurer and Val Carter. Thank you for staying.

Lastly, I would like to remind you about our small celebration here for our fortieth anniversary. We are inviting all our members to tea and cake on the afternoon of 16th June. We shall shortly be asking you to let us know if you plan to come to make sure we have enough cake!

Treasurer's Report. Good morning, everyone, my name is Michael Manders, the hon. Treasurer and it is my responsibility to present the annual accounts at the AGM. I give thanks to the committee for their support during the past year.

There was a deficit of £946.86. The cost of venue hire was £9,500, Speakers Fees £555, Capitation u3a fees £3,436 and Beacon u3a fees £183. Other expenses amounted to £2,386.21 making a total cost for the year of £14,263.21. Income received consisted of Members Subscriptions of £4,804.50, contributions for room hire £7,465, other miscellaneous income of £1,046.85 making a total income of £13,316.35. Cost of room hire was more than contributions. I would like a letter of thanks be sent to the auditor. I recommend these accounts be approved by the meeting.

Resolution 1. To approve the new constitution together with rules for the guidance of members. The resolution was proposed by Paul Scott, seconded by Sue Proctor, and passed by those present

Resolution 2. To approve subscriptions and rent contributions for the coming year 2023-24. The proposals are:
Individual subscriptions unchanged at £12 per annum
Enhanced subscription to be raised to £15 per annum
Rent contribution to be raised to £12 per ten-week term.
The resolution was proposed by Sue Leonard, seconded by Alison Bennett, and carried by 35 votes.

Election of Officers and Committee. Chair to be Hilary Fowler, Vice Chair Barbara Morris, Business Secretary Jacquie Mackinnon and Treasurer Michael Manders. Committee members to be Paul Scott, Sue Leonard, and Val Carter. They were all elected or re-elected as trustees on the committee.

Vote of thanks. Hilary Fowler thanked those retiring from the committee – Michael Dufton, Jenny Stephens and Patricia Fay. This was proposed by Elaine Mitchell, seconded by Roz Scott. Val Carter proposed, and Sue Leonard seconded that a vote of thanks be sent to the Hon. Auditor for his examination of accounts.

The meeting finished at 11.00 am.

Apologies had been received from Carol Hope, Joan Field, Hilary Elstone, Sue Gaynor, Jan and Nick Hunter, Elspeth Robshaw, Carol and Martin Smith, Geoff Glew, Joan and Richard Potts, Ann Brook, Joan Fidgeon, Eileen Phillips, Pauline Turney, Margaret Nichol and Nigel Smith.

ANSWERS TO APRILS QUIZ.

1. Wigan Warriors.
2. 11 spin off programmes.
3. Arnaud Jerald 367.5ft.
4. Ferrari.
5. Keeps tools tethered to an aircraft so the mechanic does not lose any.
6. Its parboiled.
7. Richard Chamberlin.
8. Martin Handford.
9. 8 bottles.
10. Pink.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS.



Thursday morning Craft & Chat

This group is continuing to go from strength to strength. We welcomed two new members at the end of the Spring term and the group is now full.

The members of the group are all crafting their own projects - knitting, crochet, patchwork & watercolour painting. There is a lot of chatting & laughter. We all get on well and have made some strong friendships. I, for one, find the group to be supportive & inclusive, helping towards both physical & mental wellbeing.

Roz Scott (group leader)

Monday garden group

At the end of last month, we visited the Circles Garden at Midgley. This is an interesting half-acre garden, designed by the owner, Joan Gaunt, when she moved in twenty or so years ago. Some of us found the sloping uneven ground a bit difficult to negotiate, but it was a delightful garden, with a lot of unusual plants, including many hellebores bred by Joan herself. Joan told us that her house was one of a number built on the site of a wood originally owned by the Earnshaw's. She had inherited several mature trees, which gave the garden a long-established feel. Despite an unhelpful weather forecast it turned out to be warm and dry and we were able to sit comfortably on the terrace to have our delicious cake and drink. Our next visit is a return trip on 29 May to the Skelmanthorpe allotments, which we went to in July last year.

Hilary Fowler
Group Leader

After completing our trip with an afternoon tea, we all agreed that it had been a most interesting visit. Although you are not able to do the guided tour as individuals, we all agreed that the nursery was a great destination for garden lovers. There are all the garden accessories you would expect, along with a café and a large selection of quality indoor and outdoor plants. There is also a large outdoor playground, which was just nearing completion. Thank you, Paul, for facilitating this visit.

Jane Bradley

into the private sector.

The tour started at the far end of the west green house,

SKELMANTHORPE ALLOTMENT VISIT

Michael Spinoza kindly opened his allotment to a visit from members of our gardening groups. Michael's allotment is one of 40 managed by the local parish council. The allotment is an example of how much you can grow yourself. Michael and his wife Diane are self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables for the year. So much produce is produced that they are able to supple some to a local food bank. Michael grows everything from cabbages to grape vines and Hollyhocks! We were treated to tea and cake at the end of a very interesting visit.

grown on a 3-year cycle before being moved on to their destination. They are providing the young trees for



Michael and Diane Spinoza

area of work.



HISTORY GROUP AT BURGHLEY HOUSE

Wakefield and district u3a joined with Barnsley u3a to go on a trip to Burghley House near Stamford. We had a brilliant day. The house and gardens are magnificent, well worth the effort. But I think what made it for me was the friendliness of the guides in each room. They were keen to tell us little stories about the various occupants of the home. Our own Michael O Donnell was a star, he even arranged a welcome coffee on our arrival. A very good day

Beth Rudkin

"Living on Fresh Air"

25 members attended a performance of a new play - Living on Fresh Air, written by and starring John Godber at the Theatre Royal, Wakefield on Wednesday 3 May.

The play focuses on newly retired couple Caroline and Dave who have a nice house, a hot tub, a few savings, and a smart meter. But with Covid and the cost-of-living crisis things are changing. Their son has moved back home from London, their money is disappearing, the hot tub's gone, and the smart meter is stressful. They find a new, free hobby - walking.

With rising bills, climate change and the family home full, there's only so much you can do when you're living on fresh air.....

Full of typical John Godber social comment and Yorkshire humour a good time was had by all. Let's hope the future isn't as bleak as he predicts.

Barbara Morris

A Right Laugh
Coffee Morning 21st April

I thought I was at Edenborough Fringe

Margaret Parkin's talk Failure can be Funny had me in stitches.

Management trainer /consultant to stand-up comedian.
An interesting career progression.

Using poetry, music and chat, Margaret entertained us with her original stories of lifetime failures.

Margaret entertained us with her stories of her adventures in the gym, progression to now redundant home gym equipment, to computer confusion, , learning or rather not learning t to play the harp, to baking disasters, her unique stories had us entrance and us and had us laughing our socks off.

A real treat on a gloomy, rainy Friday morning.

Thank you for the humour, Margaret.

Jean Hales.

JUNE'S QUIZ

1. How many car brands are there in the VW group?
2. Who is currently the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons?
3. Which was the longest battle in the First World War?
4. A Ryoba saw comes from which country?
5. Where was the "Enterprise" in the original "Star Trek" built?
6. Who holds the most women's swimming world records?
7. Which cathedral has the highest spire in Yorkshire?
8. Who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1983?
9. Whose sneakers were the most expensive in the world?
10. What can we break but never hold?

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR JUNE

Check plants daily in this hot weather. Any newly planted fruit trees, shrubs and flowers may need extra watering till they are established. Water at the root's early morning or late evening.

Harden off the last of any plants ready for planting.

Use shading in the greenhouse to prevent overheating. Wet the floor of the greenhouse to provide humidity for your plants.

FLOWER GARDEN:

The last frost should be passed, place outside your hanging baskets. Remember to water daily and feed twice a week with a tomato fertilizer.

Thin out drifts of hardy annuals if they are overcrowded.

Lift and divide snowdrops and bluebells and any other bulbs and tubers.

Use rainwater for your watering where possible.

Pinch out tips of Fuchsias to encourage a bushy habit and more flowers.

Pick Sweet Peas as soon as they flower. This will encourage more flowers.

Deadhead Roses to keep them flowering.

Stake tall perennials.

Tie in new shoots of climbers like Honeysuckle and Clematis.

Prune out overcrowded stems of evergreen Clematis.

Cut back hardy Geraniums at the end of June.

VEG GARDEN:

Continue to earth up potatoes. Keep container grown potatoes moist but not wet.

Pinch out side shoots of cordon tomatoes. Start to feed when the first truss of tomatoes is set.

Harvest first salad crops and re-plant every two weeks.

When onion and garlic leaves turn yellow they are ready to harvest.