

# Warwick District U3A Management Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Present:** Clare Johnson (Chair), Ann Bailey, Mike Cronin, Sharon Hancock, Jen Hemming, Susan Meeks, Anne Powell, Sam Sexton

**Apologies:** None required

**Minutes of the November meeting:** These were approved.

### Matters arising not on the December Agenda:

- Travel insurance. **Action:** CJ to contact Maggie Watts and Jean Hardwick re travel insurance for trip to Wales.

### Reports

#### 1. Chairman's report

The Chairman had nothing to report but see under "Communications"

#### 2. Treasurer's report

- **Current Financial Position – as at 12 Dec 2023**

Activities Account	£7,865.24 (Oct meeting £6,188.41)
General Account:	£4,617.14 (Oct meeting £25,388.69)
Deposit Account	£21,500.00 (Oct meeting - )
<b>Total</b>	<b>£33,982.38 (Oct meeting £31,577.10)</b>

- **Activities Account**

*Transactions since last meeting:*

- Bridge Group (Receipts £266.50)
- Folk Dancing Group (Receipts £542.50, Payments £396.00-hall hire)
- Dressmaking & Sewing Group (Receipts £280.00, Payments £422.40-hall hire)
- Badminton (Receipts £252, Payments £192)
- Nat History (Receipts £15, Payments £80)
- Singing Group (Receipts £96, Payments £79.77, hall hire & printing)
- Pickleball (Receipts £11)
- Charterhouse (Receipts-£352.30, Payments £507-Coach hire, tickets)
- Ukelele (Receipts -£260, Payments £308-tickets)
- Brian Cox (Receipts £344)
- Lucy Worsley (Receipts £254)
- Hamilton (Receipts £98)
- Fisherman's Friends (Receipts £392.50)
- Other Payments -£19

- **Group Funds held in Activities A/c (£2,735.92):**

- Bridge - £383.75
- Badminton - £591.70
- Architecture - £27.39

- Ramblers - £421.25
- Nat History - £575.89
- History - £50.00
- Folk Dancing - £148.50
- Railway - £138.86
- Dressmaking & Sewing - £193.25
- Singing - £194.33
- Pickleball - £11.00

- **General Account**

- Receipts since last meeting:*

- Membership subscription income £1,796.00
    - Contribution to bank charges £12.90
    - Donations £1.30
    - Quiz receipts £33.00
    - Other £14.00

- **Costs since last meeting:**

- Oct/Nov OM hall hire £264.00
    - Oct MC refreshments £19.20
    - Oct & Nov OM speaker fees £228.20
    - Membership stamps £150.00
    - Refreshments (New members meet & quiz £23.55
    - Emmerson Press Dec/Jan Info £997.60
    - GL Forum refreshments & hall hire £368.80
    - Hill Close Hall hire Quiz £105.00
    - Banners etc printing £221.19
    - Other payments £33.69

- **Membership income 2023/24**

2023/24 Membership income to date is £16,077 (895 paying members).

- **Year end 2022/23**

William Clemmey has now completed his independent examination subject to seeing the final signed MC copy. The only significant point raised was his view that our reserves policy should be set at 6 months (rather than the current 3 months). MC is in agreement and recommends the change. If accepted, we should confirm at this meeting and amend the report as necessary.

The meeting agreed to amend the reserves policy to 6 months and to continue to review on an annual basis.

### 3. Groups

Pickleball has been advertised, and already has a waiting list and is due to start on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

JH had an interesting meeting with Juan de Scarfo who is a promoter and DJ for Argentine

Tango Music. We're hoping to arrange a Study Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March, Friday afternoon at Hill Close Gardens.

JH has attended one of his sessions and found it very interesting. He will go through the history of Tango Music and he plays extracts from old bands highlighting the development. He would also like to arrange a Milonga – an evening of tango music and dancing. He has invited JH plus one to attend such an event on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Action:** JH to book Hill Close Gardens to host this event.

Rupesh Chauhan of the British Red Cross has contacted JH. He is offering us free 1<sup>st</sup> Aid workshop. **Action:** JH to contact him in the New Year in order to facilitate it.

Maurice Hersoen is taking over the Global News Group and is keen to promote it.

We are advertising a Table Tennis Group and a Bolivia Group for Kenilworth u3a.

#### 4. ITT Team

It looks unlikely that Judith and William Little will be able to help with the database work, but Susan Meeks is happy to see what she can do, so she, Derek and Sam will be meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss this.

##### **Website**

It's been made public that Siteworks, the WordPress-based replacement for SiteBuilder, will be free for the first year and £50 pa thereafter, to cover the hosting costs.

##### **Zoom**

The good news is that Jackie Walker's Portuguese group has successfully migrated to our original account (wdu3a@webinfo) and Sam has therefore cancelled the other one (wdu3a.zoom). The other news is that the price for the remaining account has risen, but only by about £12 pa.

##### **LSBC**

The monitor issue reported in November has been corrected.

#### 5. Membership

AB reported that WDu3a currently has 914 members – 632 of whom are female and 282 male. There are 164 couples and 586 single members.

There have been 17 new members since the November meeting and a total of 132 this year. 82 members had been removed from the database since the last CM, but of these, one since rejoined.

48 have joined since the New Members' Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September and AB would like to hold another such meeting between the AGM (February 14<sup>th</sup>) and 10<sup>th</sup> March (prior to AB's and CJ's four weeks absence). The same venue and format as for previous meetings are proposed. **Action:** AB to contact John and Jean Morgan and St Mark's Church .

#### 6. Open Meetings

The Open Meeting held on 13 December in St Mark's Church was well-attended by over 100 members.

## 7. Publicity

Two roller banners and two sets of bunting for use next year and beyond have been purchased by the Publicity Group. A suggested text for use on an A5 information sheet has been forwarded to a member for suggestions, but they have not replied as yet .

**Action:** (1) To find suitable, cheerful photos to use on this A5 leaflet. (2) CJ to contact her brother (who is a graphic designer) for help with A5 leaflet, poster/flyer.

## 8. Communications

CJ distributed copies of her notes from a Wdu3a Newsletter Working Party meeting held on 10 November 2023. It is proposed that the number of issues of Info should be reduced, probably to 3 per annum. Information for members would be supplied by an A4 newsletter, created in Word on a monthly basis and emailed to all members with email or printed and posted the smaller number of members (ca. 35) who do not have access to email. (Members were made aware of this in the latest version of Info).

**Action:** CJ to create a Newsletter in February 2024 for issue prior to the AGM. A template is required and CJ/JH to contact Group Leaders in January 2024 to ask if they have any news or information they want to be included in Newsletter.

## 9. Fees for non-WDu3a members

AB mentioned that a couple were told they had to join WDu3a in order to join the Walking Group, although they are members of the Dene Valley u3a. They reported that they had been paying full subscriptions to both u3a's for years.

CJ clarified the ruling that they can be in a WD group as long as there is space in the group, and they are not taking up a place wanted by a WDu3a member. They would not be on any WDu3a mailing or membership lists, however. **Action:** JH to send a message in the New Year to clarify rules.

## 10. Content for the January Meeting

- Organisation of AGM
- Social Events
- Non-email users
- Newsletter and Info
- Helpers' lunch

## 11. AOB

The future of Cacophony is in doubt since John Morgan is no longer leading the band. A member of Cacophony could possibly take over John's role on a temporary basis as they want to keep it going. Engaging a replacement conductor could prove difficult and expensive. **Action:** SH to contact a member of the Current Affairs Group who plays the harp to ask if she could help.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

2.15 p.m., Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at The Fat Pug.

**Action:** MC to book The Fat Pug for meetings in 2024.