

WEST WILTS u3a

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 at 2.00 p.m. ST JAMES'S HALL, TROWBRIDGE and on ZOOM

PRESENT: Dennis Drewett (Chairman), Ken Foster (Treasurer), Alan Soldat, David King, Mike Holden, Dinah Starkey, Sheryl Jotcham, Lynda O'Connor, Julie Quartley, Barry Reeves, Kate Winfield (Minutes)

There were 101 members present in the Hall with 11 attending on Zoom.

- 1. Introduction and Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in the hall and on Zoom. He started the meeting with a few moments silence for absent friends.
- 2. Apologies** Pam Pepler, Pat Wheatley, Sue Miluk, Linda Gowen, Julie James, Pam & Bob Staples, Sarah Sandon, Shirley West, Gary Norris, Kathi Walker, Bob Farrimond, Ann Smales, Jenny Dennis, Alan Cooper, Dickon Povey, Andrew Newland, Jenny Payne, David Ross, Terry Evans, Penny Coleman, Sandra Tucker, Shirley Tombs, Rita Thomas, Howard and Sandra Kendall, Sue Crabtree, Linda Reeves, Pam Hemming.
- 3. Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 15 March 2023**
All members had been notified by email that all relevant documents for this AGM were available on the website.
- 4. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 15 March 2023**
There were no matters arising and therefore it was proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
- 5. Chairman's Annual Report**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the West Wilts u3a AGM for 2024.

This has been my second year as chairman of West Wilts u3a and I am pleased to be able to say that, despite that, our u3a is still doing well. We are getting back to the number of members we had prior to the pandemic. The number of different activity groups is also on the increase as you will have seen in the list printed in our quarterly magazine. I seem to hear nothing but good vibes from all the new groups and our existing ones.

Our monthly meetings have had increasing numbers of attendees and our speakers have all given us both entertainment and information.

I want to thank all your officers, committee, Group Leaders and all the other supporting volunteers that work behind and alongside our committee for their hard work and their commitment throughout this year. I want to stress that without the ongoing commitment and hard work of all the committee and committee support individuals our WWu3a would fail!

This year our West Wilts u3a will celebrate its 35th anniversary, so in June our monthly meeting will double up as a small celebration of that and our ongoing success.

Your committee has still been running a little under full strength with two positions unfilled, and I am sorry to have to say that our long serving secretary has decided that it is time for her to stand down from the role, I want to extend both our and my personal thanks to Pam Pepler for the support that she has given our u3a and me as Chairman over the years that she has been Secretary and the last two years supporting me.

So that crucial role along with the vacant committee/trustee posts we will need to focus on filling. As I have

said before I am sure that amongst our 650 members there are bound to be a few that have the time to spare, so please consider putting your name forward. We have, as you will see later in our proceedings, had some nominations for some new faces to our committee. But not for the secretary role and a couple of those have withdrawn. (John Marsden pointed out that we have nearly 700 members.)

I keep saying this and I really mean it, we have and enjoy our West Wilts u3a, we all see the benefits it brings by way of keeping people busy and involved, supporting people's wellbeing and helping to reduce isolation. So please talk about us to friends and family, spread the word and help to let others take advantage of what we have to offer!!

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 have been approved by Joyce Sutterby, as the independent examiner at no charge.

The attached financial statement, one page directly printed from our Beacon system, covers all transaction categories within the 4 Beacon ledgers. Three of these directly reconcile to our bank accounts, whilst the fourth is effectively a default control ledger for membership.

Account Transfers are amounts transferred within Beacon ledgers, the bulk of which were reconciled membership payments, automatically recorded in the 'current' ledger, and moved to General. (in line with recorded bank transactions).

Donations include £912 from Gift Aid* for 2022. The higher figure shown in the prior year included the Wiltshire Council grant and 2 years' worth of Gift Aid claims.

(* If you are a taxpayer, we can claim an additional contribution from HMRC, at no additional cost to yourselves. Please review your status at renewal time if you have not already 'ticked' the appropriate box.)

WW U3A Magazine has seen increased costs primarily due to postal charge increases.

In terms of the **Balance Sheet**, the prior year figure of £45 within 'Current' reflected 3 memberships, uncleared in bank at EOY.

Otherwise, the balances on the 3 bank accounts are shown, with a direct comparison to the previous year. We remain in a very good position, effectively operating on a break-even basis.

Also attached, is a detailed breakdown of the individual group balances.

Summary

The standard membership fee of £15 has been roughly used as follows.

- Capitation Fee to TAT £4.00
- Beacon software licence £1.00
- TAM magazine £3.60
- West Wilts magazine £5.20
- General costs £1.20

The Treasurer went on to give a short presentation about Beacon, and explaining how beneficial it was for group leaders to keep track of their finances, and their members.

He thanked David King and Frances Hopgood for their work on the new WWu3a website.

He also urged members to sign up to 'u3a friends' on the National u3a website which would give them up to date information about what was happening nationally.

David Feather asked the Treasurer if there was any thought of opening a savings account. The Treasurer replied that the Third Age Trust are investing in a Charitable Trust. Whether we invest in this is to be considered by the trustees.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for West Wilts u3a Accounts

Joyce Sutterby was appointed Independent Examiner for the West Wilts accounts last year and has agreed to do it for this coming financial year. Majority of members present approved.

8. Election of Chair

Dennis Drewett was nominated for Chair and unanimously elected.

9. Election of Deputy Chair

There were no nominations for Deputy Chair and no proposals from the floor.

10. Election of Treasurer

Ken Foster was nominated for Treasurer and elected unopposed.

11. Election of Secretary

There were no nominations for Secretary and no proposals from the floor.

12. Election of Committee Members

All nominations below were approved and elected unopposed. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Name	Role	Proposed By	Seconded By
Dennis Drewett	Chair	Ken Foster	Gill Lee
Vacant	Deputy Chair		
Ken Foster	Treasurer	John Marsden	Dawn Wylie
Vacant	Secretary		
Alan Soldat	Groups' Coordinator	Ken Foster	David King
David King	Web Master	Michael Payne	Lesley Dawe
Dinah Starkey	Speaker's Secretary	Malcolm Taylor	John Beech
Lynda O'Connor	Speaker's Secretary (dep)	Gill Laing	Mary Mathews
Barry Reeves	Committee Member	Linda Reeves	Deborah Orchard
Simon Welch	Committee Member	Sheryl Jotcham	Joan Johnson
Dawn Wylie	Committee Member	Ken Foster	John Marsden
Will Stallard	Committee Member	Dennis Drewett	Alan Soldat

The Chairman thanked the 2 members standing down for their support and help as trustees:
Sheryl Jotcham and Julie Quartley.

13. Any Other Business

- David Feather urged more women to come forward as committee members as there seems to be a surplus of men.
Lynda O'Connor countered that with "never underestimate the power of a woman"!

There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:40

Date of Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 19th March 2025

Signed:

Dated: