

# **MARKET DRAYTON u3a**

## **Minutes of AGM 19th September 2024**

Held at 2:30pm at the Festival Drayton Centre.

### **Committee present:**

Alan Cartwright, Phil Glover, Andy Shearer, Kevin Read-Jones, Jacqui Wright, Sue Walker, Jill Glover.

### **Members present:** Total 59.

Apologies: A number of apologies were received and noted by the Secretary

### **Welcome and Introduction.**

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

### **Minutes of AGM 2023.**

The Secretary read out the minutes which were accepted.

### **Matters arising from the minutes.**

None

### **Chair's Report.**

Thank you for attending this year's AGM, it's important everyone has the chance to have their say in the running and development of Market Drayton u3a and I wish more of our members appreciated that.

Over the last twelve months we've gained **3** new members going to a total of 207 from 204. Whilst 32 former members elected not to continue their memberships, 35 newcomers arrived.

At the start of the year our Mediumship group was suspended due to the small number of people attending it and our two Art Appreciation groups were combined for the same reason under Phil Glover's careful management.

All our other special interest groups are continuing however and, hopefully, they are doing well.

For quite a while during the year though there were fears for the future of the Gardening group after Beryl Edwards had indicated she would be stepping down from running it. Thankfully Trish Dawson offered to keep it going and we wish her all the best for the future as its new convenor.

At the moment it looks as though we will have a new Beginners Bridge group in the near future as Lyn Jackson has offered to get it underway, subject, of course, to there being sufficient interest as I am sure there will be.

I believe we've had a good line up of speakers for most if not all our monthly meetings at the Festival Drayton Centre including the one in July about the history of the band, the Shadows, which replaced the social event we had originally announced. Unfortunately **the numbers of members** attending the talks have been somewhat low and it would be good to see them back to where they were a few years ago.

There was an improvement in our finances in 2023-24 following the difficult steps we'd had to take in relation to annual subscriptions and magazines the year before and diligent work by Andy Shearer. An interim statement of accounts was forwarded to everyone in mid-August along with a copy of the agenda for today's AGM and last year's minutes. Our

latest bank statement received a few weeks ago showed that no changes had taken place in relation to the figures recorded on the statement prior to the end of August, when the last financial year ended.

Last autumn Jill Glover took over the reins as our new representative at the Shropshire u3a Network, combining that role with all the other work she undertakes in relation to our website and publicity.

There was one major disappointment last year though. It was the almost total lack of any responses to our appeals for members to consider taking on key roles of Chair or Secretary as well as Treasurer or become committee members. In addition to the regular calls for new committee members there was a lot of concern behind the appeals made in our magazine in April and at monthly meetings over the year that the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were all being forced to step down at the AGM, today's meeting, and the posts would be vacant. That was either because of a rule in our constitution that restricts maximum length of service to three years or family circumstances. I should add that all u3a groups are required to have the three officers by the Third Age Trust to which we are affiliated. In the absence of anyone being prepared to put themselves forward it has been difficult to see how we will go on. It is hoped today's meeting will help to clarify a way forward but, if not, there have to be questions about the viability and continuation of the Group.

Sadly, as many of you know, one of our members, Helen Smith, passed away a few months ago. Our condolences go to her husband David as well as all their family and friends.

In concluding my third annual report as Chair I would like to thank everyone on the Committee together with all the Group's convenors and other volunteers for all their hard work and commitment.

## **Drayton u3a Committee Members 2023-24**

|                       |                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Alan Cartwright       | Chair                                   |
| Phillip Glover        | Secretary. Vice Chair                   |
| Andy Shearer          | Treasurer                               |
| Judy Cowdale          | Membership Secretary                    |
| John and Viv McVittie | Magazine Editor                         |
| Kevin Read-Jones      | Programme Secretary                     |
| Sue Walker            | Committee Member                        |
| Jacqui Wright         | Committee Member                        |
| Jill Glover           | Website Administrator. Network Liaison. |

## Treasurer's Report.

Market Drayton u3a

Treasurer's statement of accounts

31 August 2024

| 2022-2023 |                                     | 2023-2024 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| E         | Income                              |           |
| 2423.00   | Membership subscriptions            | 3252.00   |
| -         | TAM subscriptions                   | 32.40     |
| -         | Donations                           | 127.50    |
| 16.00     | Visitor payments                    |           |
| 780.00    | 25th Anniversary celebration        |           |
| -         | Refund from TAM from previous year* | 378.00    |
| -         | Grant from MDTC                     | 500.00    |
| 3219.00   | Total income                        | 4289.90   |

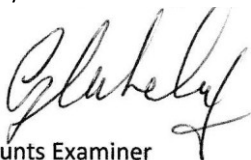
### Expenditure

|          |                                            |         |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1544.96  | Third Age Trust capitation & Magazines     |         |
|          | Third Age Trust capitation fees            | 796.00  |
|          | Magazine (TAM) subs*                       | 41.80   |
| 819.00   | Speaker fees and expenses                  | 660.00  |
| 789.55   | Room hire inc refreshments                 | 953.00  |
| 937.13   | Stationery, printing and postage           | 39.19   |
| 28.98    | Sundries/General                           | 35.00   |
| 10.00    | u3a Shropshire Network (2022-23 & 2023-24) | 25.00   |
| 40.00    | Gifts                                      |         |
| 169.00   | Convenors' tea party                       |         |
| -        | Convenors meeting                          | 28.05   |
| 873.00   | 25th Anniversary Celebration               |         |
| 10.00    | Accounts examinations (2021-22 & 2023-24)  | 10.00   |
| 5,221.62 | Total expenditure                          | 2588.04 |

### Balance sheet

|          |                                    |         |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------|
| 3395.56  | Bank balance brought forward       | 1392.94 |
| -2002.62 | Income over expenditure            | 1701.86 |
| 1392.94  | Balance in NatWest Current Account | 3094.80 |

I certify that I have checked the above accounts and to the best of my knowledge they are correct.



Accounts Examiner

Date 11/9/24

\*Refund to bank E336.20 (being E378.00 - E41.80)

**Election of Committee Members.**

Nominations accepted.

**AOB>**

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:55 hrs. The next meeting will be 18/09/25.

Signed ..... Date .....