

Annual General Meeting 2023

17th October, 2.30pm

Bridges Community Centre

1. **Present:** 64 members.
2. **Apologies for absence:** David Hoyle, Valerie Baker, Joyce Hagan, Marion Allen, Judith Rossiter, Averil MacDonald, Phil Chadwick, Paul Sanders, Grace Walsh, Tony O'Hare, Tony Nechvatel, Tina Atkins, Richard Martyn, Sue Miles, Pamela Manfield, Pam Hudson, Frances Chamberlain, Jim Newcomb, Jacqueline Newton, Gillian Rose, Ann Stirrup, Barbara Reed, Simon Hickmott, Sheila Woodward, Estelle Stevenson, Susan Saunders
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM:** Agreed
4. **Chair's report:** The chair (Dan Jones) presented his report for the previous year (see appendix below). The chair informed the meeting that he was stepping down but was confident that management of the u3a was being left in capable hands.
5. **Treasurer's report:** The treasurer (Sue Cobourne) reported that a change in accountant had been necessary and that our new accountant, Neil Mounter, had just completed his audit with his report having been received the previous day showing that the accounts were correct.

She told the meeting that copies of the report were available for any member who wanted to inspect them, but the report would also be available on the website shortly for download and inspection.

The treasurer highlighted key figures from the report and explained how funds were divided across a number of accounts.

She highlighted that committee funds (those funds not owned by specific monmouth u3a groups) were £1657.50 lower than 12 months ago, due to a general increase in costs – particularly, increase in u3a fees, beacon costs, monmouth u3a website costs, room hire and food, and proposed therefore made the following proposal:

The annual membership fee should be increased to £12.00 per year from 1st October 2024.

This proposal was accepted by the meeting by a show of hands.

6. **Election of officers:** The following members were nominated, seconded and elected:

- Chair: Averil MacDonald
- Vice chair: Cherry Lewis
- Treasurer: Sue Cobourne
- Secretary: Frank Birch

7. **Election of the committee:** The following members were nominated, seconded and elected:

- Sheila Rowland
- Sheila Woodward
- Simon Durrant
- Estelle Stevenson
- Jim Newcomb
- Oliver Young

8. **Any other business:** The chair thanked the committee for all their work, particularly those members leaving the committee this year.

APPENDIX – Chair’s report covering the preceding 12 months

Monmouth u3a is growing fast. One hundred new members joined in the year to last October and 118 new members have joined by this AGM. New members meetings reveal a very impressive spread of experience and talent retiring to our area, looking to meet new friends, to do things together and to learn new things by joining in our forty different meetings, socials, walks, talks, outings, classes and interest groups.

Many more came to our monthly Members meetings and to the Coffee and Chat sessions every Monday morning at the Estero Lounge and are finding their way to the recently launched Thirsty Thursday Pub Club every Thursday evening at the Queens Head. Outings visited the Westonbirt Arboretum, the Royal Mint, Nantgarew Chinaworks and Eastnor Castle. The Theatre Group went to Sleeping Beauty at the Bristol Hippodrome, Roman Holiday at the Theatre Royal in Bath, Blood Brothers at the Bristol Hippodrome and the Pirates of Penzance at the Savoy in Monmouth.

In February we launched a completely new web site giving us a much better way to communicate with new and existing members. Our challenge now is to keep it updated with everything that is going on! Any help with this would be much appreciated!

The Committee is there to enable these activities to happen and to meet this growing demand. Quite a challenge. At our last AGM we adopted the new model constitution and we have been updating our policies and role descriptions using templates drawn up by our national body, the Third Age Trust. We now have a full set of safeguarding documents plus a safeguarding section on website including a means for sending an alert to two nominated committee members.

In March we met with Group Convenors to review how we support them in running their groups, such as managing group finances, carrying out risk assessments, complying with data protection laws, accessing wellbeing support, and updating the web site and the monthly Newsletter. New groups this year included Badminton, Strength Training, Country Dancing, Photography, Film Club and Pickleball and the Thirsty Thursday Pub Club.

In June we developed a common pathway for getting new groups off the ground. This is the spring board for a concerted effort to encourage members to start lots of new groups. So if you have a passion you want to share with others let us know.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for all their work this year - Cherry Lewis, Frank Birch, Sue Cobourne, Simon Durant, Heather Elliott, David Hoyle, Ros Parkinson, Sheila Woodward, Sheila Rowland, Pauline Sanders, Mel Hughes, Averil McDonald, Diana Wilkinson and those who left us during the year - Sandy Scovall, Adele Glenn and Kiara White. I wish the new Committee well and am confident Monmouth u3a has a great future ahead of it.

Daniel Jones, Chair