

u3a History Group AGM 2025
Lesser Hall, Cowbridge 21st February 2025

Minutes

1. Welcome. Norma Roberts, Acting Chair, welcomed attendees (approx. 25-28present).

2. Apologies There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM Previous minutes Feb 2024, circulated prior to the meeting.
Accepted with no amendments.

4. Talks and trips 2024 The Chair gave a brief report on group activities and talks during the past year, including an account of a successful trip to Chavenage House in the Cotswolds, with some free time in Tetbury plus an excellent afternoon tea on our arrival. The manor house has remained virtually unchanged for 400 years - the current owner provided an entertaining and informative tour of the house and grounds. Thanks to Val Monaghan who organised the trip.

5. Accounts.

5.1 Hywel Davies (Treasurer) produced a full financial report. There are currently approx. 50 paid-up group members. Hywel noted income was boosted this year by a number of visitors to meetings in addition to group members. Also, speakers' costs were relatively low over the year, thanks to the number of speakers who are current u3a members.

Summary:-

Opening balance	£805.00
Income for the year (March 2024 – Feb 2025)	£731.00
Expenditure (including rent @ £35pm)	£568.
Closing balance	£968

The accounts were accepted.

5.2 There had been a suggestion that the group move from the present venue (Lesser Hall) to the United Free Church hall. Enquiries have shown that the rent would be virtually the same (£12.50per hr) with no provision to have chairs/tables put out and cleared away as is currently done for us. Parking is also more limited close to the United Free church.

It was therefore agreed that we remain in the current venue.

5.3 Hywel also proposed that membership of the group remain at £10 for the year 2025/26.

Unanimously accepted.

5.4 Hywel will remain as Treasurer for one more year but will be stepping down in February 2026.

He will be happy to mentor a successor during the coming year.

Hywel noted that new signatories are also needed for the bank account.

Volunteer needed at next AGM to take over role of Treasurer

6. Group organisation.

The group is currently run by a number of members who stepped up to assist following the sudden death of Steve Monaghan in October 2023:-

Norma Roberts (Acting Chair at this meeting),

Hywel Davies (Treasurer),

John Matheson (website contact),

Jean Carter (speakers),

Mary Pugh (monthly reminders),

John Andrew (room bookings),

*Rob Cumbes (IT set-up),
Alison Tinkler (publicity),
plus Val Monaghan, Gwerfyl Gardner, Val Jasinski and Thelma Jeeves who have all fronted meetings, helped on the door and presented talks at monthly meetings..
Thanks were also noted to Graham Couchman who runs the u3a website.*

The group has worked well in the interim, but now needs a formal Group Leader and team of helpers/committee. While recognising that Steve's leadership was exceptional and is unlikely to be matched, Norma noted the need to move forward with a new Chair. She stressed that any volunteer would have help from the group listed above. Gavin Davies noted that there was a caveat within the group's original organisation that a Chair should not hold the post for more than 3 years.

Future organisation :- 1. *New Group Leader/Chair*

2. *New Treasurer from AGM Feb 2026*

3. *New signatories for bank account*

4. *Confirmation of helpers (committee?) to run the group*

7. Possible trips for 2025

Suggestions included a guided tour of St. Donats Castle, Sudeley Castle (nr. Cheltenham) or Berkeley Castle (Gloucestershire).

Group member Martin Blamey gave a talk in January on the early history of St Donats and will follow this with a second talk, in September, on the more recent history of the castle during the late C19th and C20th.

Val Monaghan had made enquiries about guided tours of St. Donats Castle, in advance of the second talk. Tours of the castle are bookable at a cost of £15 per head for 15 – 20 people, with the option of afternoon tea at a cost of £32.95 (inclusive of the tour).

It would be impractical to book a coach for such a local trip but car-shares could be arranged. *There was some interest from those present – Action: Val to find more details.*

Interest was also shown in a coach trip to either Berkeley Castle (Gloucestershire) or to Sudeley Castle (Winchcombe, nr. Cheltenham) – *Action: Val to explore costs.*

8. A.O.B.

Jean Carter made a request for any potential speakers for 2026 to let her know. A number of those present volunteered. *Action: Jean to contact volunteers re. topics and provisional dates.*

The meeting ended at 10.25am, to be followed by a Show and Tell by Val Monaghan titled “ A Tale of two Grandfathers” .