

## U3a History Group AGM 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

1. **Welcome:** Val Monaghan welcomed those present and led the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Elizabeth and Roger Eustace, Octavia Sheppard, Isabel Brant, Alison Tinkler, Rob and Scylla Cumbes, Ruth and Alun Jenkins.
3. **Minutes of previous AGM:** Circulated prior to meeting. There were no amendments or matters arising. Gavin Davies proposed acceptance and was unanimously seconded.
4. **Talks report:** Val gave a brief account of the talks during the past year, and also the trip to St. Donats Castle led by Martin Blamey. She thanked Jean Carter for booking speakers and others who have provided suggestions for topics and/or contacts. A proposed trip to Berkley Castle was cancelled due to lack of numbers. (See Finance report below)
5. **Finance report:** Treasurer Hywel Davies gave a detailed account of finances over the past year. He noted that the number of members (and therefore subscriptions) and visitors was slightly lower than at the previous AGM. The cost of speakers was higher as there had been fewer 'in house' and more external speakers this year

**Summary:** Opening balance: £968

Income: Subscriptions £620  
visitors: £54  
Post Office compensation £10

Total £684

Expenditure: Rent £420,  
Speakers(£270) £670  
Refreshments Xmas social: £21.70  
\* U3a trip deposit 20025 £200

Total £891.70

Closing balance: £760.40

\*to be reimbursed following proposed trip in Sept 2026.

**Report accepted:** *Proposed Frances Rees, seconded Gwerfyl Gardner and others.*

6. **Subscriptions:** Hywel proposed maintaining membership subs at £10.  
Accepted unanimously.
7. **Group organisation:** Hywel Davies stepped down as Treasurer, replaced by John Matheson (proposed: Gavin Davies, seconded: Norma Roberts and others).

8. **The (informal) committee running the group for 2026/27 are:-**

John Matheson - Treasurer & webpage contact

Jean Carter – Talks' Co-ordinator

Mary Mary Pugh - monthly E-mail reminder to Members

Alison Tinkler - Publicity

Val Monaghan - Hall bookings, front meetings occasionally

Rob

Rob Cumbes - assist with IT setting-up

Gwerfyl Gardner, Norma Roberts and Val Jasinski - front occasional meetings.

(Note:Graham Couchman u3a website administrator willing to upload items to webpage)

9. **Thanks.** Gavin Davies observed that the current arrangement appears to work well.  
*Members present agreed.*

10. **Group Leader.** It was agreed that in the long term it would be preferable to have a designated Group Leader/Chair. No-one volunteered to step up to the role.

11. **Trip(s):** Last year's proposed trip to Berkeley castle was cancelled due to a lack of numbers. (Initial interest had been such that Val had booked a coach, paying a deposit of £200 from group funds.) The Coach company has retained the £200 deposit subject to a new booking this year. Following consultations with committee and group members, it is proposed to arrange a visit to Lacock Abbey and Village in September at an estimated cost of £30 plus individual Nat Trust admission to the Abbey. *Action: Val will investigate further arrangements but stressed that payment (including the cost of the coach deposit - to be put back into group funds) will be upfront and non-returnable.*

12. **A.O.B.** John Matheson suggested adding the u3a website address to notices of meetings. *Agreed*

*The meeting was followed by two short talks: Norma Roberts spoke about how a passing reference in a book by the travel writer Bill Bryson led her to discover an ancestor with a distinguished war-time career and later a significant peacetime career including the development of Heathrow Airport and the Blue Circle Cement Co. Keith Morgan gave a fascinating account of a railway journey across Europe from Cardiff to Moscow in 2012, a route that is no longer available.*