

Minutes of the University of the Third Age in Carrick Annual General Meeting

9th April 2025 at the Perranwell Centre at 10.30am

1. The Chair, Lesley Parsons, welcomed the 81 members present and thanked them for attending; this made the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies:

Pat and Hilary Harrod, Ric and Helen Reilly, Tony Clark, John and Helen Wholmersley, Jenny and Bob Fulleylove, Heather McKay, Jan Ellery, Janet Anderson Kaye, Anne Skelton, June Caddy, Jill Aburrow, Terry Filmore.

3 Minutes of the AGM held on 10th April 2024:

The minutes were published in the March 2025 newsletter. Proposed by the Chair and agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising:

None

5. Report from the Chair:

Lesley Parsons reported on a very busy year, and commended the committee for their hard work in responding to members, raising the profile of u3a Carrick and maintaining a financially healthy organisation. The committee members identified themselves to members.

Lesley thanked the photography group for their photo shots at the start of proceedings and highlighted the various events and activities that had taken place over the year including quiz nights, coach trips and a garden party. She gave special mention to the Falmouth wellbeing event held earlier this year where useful contacts were established. As a result we may be able to access grants for a commemorative bench to celebrate our 35 years existence.

Lesley noted the success of the monthly meeting after the move from Truro because of costs. She thanked Richard Allen and the organising team for their hard work. It had proved such a success that had meant a change of venue to cater for the numbers attending.

The committee had attended an extra meeting for EDI training and recommended it for Group Leaders who could access it through the Third Age Trust. Welfare and safeguarding of members is important and Lesley encouraged members to bring any concerns to the committee.

Most recently u3a Carrick had won silver and bronze awards at the Falmouth Spring Flower Show and had a promotional stall which we hope has attracted new members.

A special thank you to the 60 plus Group leaders running over 100 monthly activities. These are all volunteers, as are the committee. Without these volunteers u3a Carrick would not exist. Lesley thanked Mark Breach, newsletter editor, the web team and Sue Hutt for the Facebook page and Argus.

As a final note Lesley was pleased to note all the current general committee members were re standing plus two extra volunteers. She emphasised that next year several officers would be standing down and asked members to seriously consider giving some of their time to shadow these roles with a view to taking over next year.

Finally Lesley wished all a happy new u3a year.

6. Membership Secretary's report:

Bob Williams introduced himself.

At present there are 687 members including 91 new members this year.

We pay a £4 subscription per member to the Third age trust included in the annual Carrick subscription.

New membership cards, when issued, will have the new website password active from 1st June.

Newsletters are free by email and on the members section of the website. At present 103 members request a printed copy which is posted, the postage cost will rise to £10.44 this year. Carrick Argus is only available by email or the website.

The cost of postage for Third Age Matters will rise this year to £4.

Bob emphasised the importance of letting him know of any change of communication details. He thanked Mark Breach and Jenny and Bob Fulleylove who collect and prepare newsletters for distribution, also the webteam of Angela, Keith and Malcolm.

A thankyou to Edith and Paul Lucas who had distributed newsletters and membership cards until very recently.

Bob said he would be standing down at the next AGM as he had fulfilled the post for 4 years.

7. Treasurer's Report:

The Accounts were presented by the Chair as the Treasurer was not able to be present.

Lesley thanked Jenny for her work over the year. The accounts had been examined and as there were no questions she proposed they be accepted. Seconded by Marilyn Witney and agreed unanimously.

8. Committee proposal to raise the subscription to £30 per annum:

Bob Williams presented the proposal in order to maintain the healthy state of finances. The cost of venues was increasing and it was felt small annual increases more acceptable to members than a large increase at a later stage. Seconded by Nick Parsons and agreed by all.

9. Funding review:

A summary of the findings had been in the April newsletter and the full review was on the website. Mike Rogers highlighted the main findings and what had been considered during the process. He thanked the team members who had been looking into it. As a result the recommendation was that we maintain an annual subscription but endeavour to use available data to be able to predict future costs in a better way. Proposed by the committee, seconded by Margaret Ingles. Majority in favour with 3 against.

10. Vote of Thanks:

As earlier.

11. Election of general committee members:

Nominations had been received :

Dee Cope, John Wallace, Ric Reilly, Mike Rogers, Patsy Ross, Lesley Vingoe

The nominees left the room whilst voting by show of hand took place. All were elected to serve for the year.

12. Allow the committee to appoint an independent examiner:

Proposed by Kate Gidman agreed unanimously .

The meeting closed at 11.05am

The chair opened the session to issues raised by members.

Shirley Tyack asked if membership cards were strictly necessary. Lesley explained that this had been discussed at various committee meetings. Not all group leaders or members had the facility to have their number available other than the cards. The committee was keen to try and distribute as many cards as possible through group meetings as identified on beacon.

Sheila James was concerned that future finances may not be sustainable. How were we to monitor the situation. Mike Rogers replied that one of the recommendations of the funding review was that a robust method for monitoring this should be put in place, whether it be a large group with small cost per head or a small group with a large cost per head. Sheila said that as a group leader she did not know what that cost was so was concerned that small groups may be penalised. Lesley replied that was not the intention. We would work with group leaders if it was felt that a group was not financially viable. As an example of the difficulty of monitoring venue cost it had been rumoured that one venue may have to close because no permanent chair had been elected. David Weaver explained that has been resolved. Lesley reiterated that it had been a rumour and the committee was aware of the resolution but it was an example of what could occur. We were not trying to be punitive.

Edith Lucas asked if there could be training in the use of defibrillators that were available in some venues. It was noted it had happened in the past. The committee would look into it

Richard Allen offered a vote of that to the committee on behalf of members.

The meeting closed