

Church Stretton u3a
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 24 May 2023
2:00 pm
AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes from AGM of May 2022
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chair Report for 2022/23
5. Financial Report for 2022/23
6. Appointment of examiner for the accounts

7. Elections to the Committee:

4 Honorary Officers required:

Chair	Vacant
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Malcolm Szortowski
Business Secretary	Jenny O'Shea

Additional Committee Members required:

at least one and no more than six members, with roles to be agreed

All serving members of the committee are standing for re-election:

Lesley Brown, Sylvia Davidson, Lesley Dench, Jenny O'Shea, Sally Serpell
and Malcolm Szortowski

8. Any other business

Nominations to the Committee (including self-nominations) for any of the above posts to be sent to the Chair.

Any other business to be sent in advance to the Chair.

Email: Imdench@googlemail.com or Tel: 01694 724663

Please turn over ----->

CS u3a CHAIR'S REPORT

AGM 24th May 2023

First of all I have to congratulate you on what has continued to be a very successful year. All our original 12 groups continue to grow and prosper. I think it is safe to say that as people leave others arrive, so we have a very changing active scene. As a result of our 'past, present and future meeting' 18 months ago 7 groups were set up but unfortunately the History of Plants and Gardens only survived for a few months but others have exceeded expectations and the Poetry Appreciation Group is at full capacity. The French Group amazed us at the October 22 meeting with their presentation and New Experiences seem to be going from strength to strength with a wide mixture of events from orienteering, cruising down Llangollen canal to Zip Lining in North Wales. But all groups in their own ways fulfill a service in the Church Stretton Community, many we never hear of, but are important to the participants. So far this year at our General Meetings we have enjoyed a presentation from Sheila Davies, Deputy Mayor of Church Stretton Town Council and Pete Johnson who talked about "A life in (&on) the wireless".

I have always felt that the u3a in Church Stretton fills in the gaps. In many communities the u3a is the dominant provider of leisure and social activities and they have large numbers and many different groups but in Church Stretton there were already many established groups before the u3a was started about 12 years ago. What we do is fill the gaps or do something differently from what is being offered elsewhere.

There are presently nearly 250 members of CS u3a with a vibrant committee who enjoy regular meetings during the year. Over the last 12 months, we have been very encouraged by an increasing number of members who volunteer to help with various tasks at General Meetings including setting up the room, helping with the IT equipment, teas/cakes, and clearing up at the end. We appreciate their support and they play a vital role in running these meetings.

However, as you will all appreciate, all u3a branches are part of a much larger organisation which operates both locally, regionally and nationally and there are many advantages to that, both as an individual or as an organisation and it is really up to us how much we use it. But as part of this wider organisation there are rules within which we must abide. We must have a committee and like most committees, it must be made up of various components, there must be a chair and a treasurer and other roles include membership secretary, minutes secretary, an information and IT person and someone coordinating the groups. I will come on to the gaps in our Committee, as we follow the meeting agenda but to give you time to think about it I must put in a plea for a new Chair as I am no longer able to do the role. The reality is that we cannot proceed without one and the u3a in Church Stretton will fold and I'm sure that you don't want that. I will be on hand to support anyone who will take on the role.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped me over the past few years, they know who they are; I am proud and grateful that I have had such support and it has been fun. So thank you again.

In addition to all the group leaders and committee members I would like to give a particular thank you to Margaret Sinden who is stepping down from the Singing for Pleasure Group. Margaret will be sorely missed for the humour if not for the singing but Ru Trew has very kindly taken over.

Lesley Dench