

Barmouth U3A

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9 May 2012

Parlwr Mawr, Dragon Theatre, Barmouth

In the Chair: Evelyn Richardson, who welcomed all present in Welsh and English.

Present: 28 members

Apologies: Grace and Patrick Guthrie-Jones, Jack Richardson, Joan Terry.

Minutes:

The Chairman read out the minutes (attached) of the AGM held on 11 May 2011, which were accepted as a true record and signed, after the substitution of “independently inspected” for “audited” in the Treasurer’s report.

Chairman’s Report

Evelyn reminded members of the main objectives of the U3A constitution, particularly that the responsibility for achieving its objectives lies in the hands of all members, whether or not they hold office or serve on the Committee.

The year’s main event had been the successful hosting of the N. Wales Annual Study Day in October, when 180+ U3A members from all over N. Wales had packed the Dragon Theatre and, judging by the many compliments received afterwards, had enjoyed learning about Barmouth, its history and people, and had appreciated the smooth running of the day and the friendly welcome from the many Barmouth members who had helped make the day a success. Evelyn asked members to support the next Study Day, which will be held in October at Theatr Clwyd in Mold, hosted by Flintshire U3A. The charge will be £12 per head and the deadline for booking will be 7 September. Members interested should let Evelyn know by the end of August. Transport arrangements will be made when numbers are known.

Another great success is the Barmouth U3A Website, developed by Alan Vincent from the foundations laid by Peter Butterworth and John Percival. It is interesting, easily accessible and full of the latest information about various activities. Contributions are welcome from all members via Alan.

In 2011-2012 there were 97 paid-up members – slightly down on the previous year. Evelyn urged members to spread the word whenever and wherever possible, especially among newcomers to the area. More members might increase the range of interest groups to the benefit of all.

Two new groups – Needlecraft and a Discussion group have recently started and two – Family History and Art – have finished. Anyone with an interest in starting a new group should not be deterred by the prospect of very long term commitment, as groups with a time limit are perfectly feasible. The Committee will be very glad to help with practicalities, including accessing material produced by other branches and the Third Age Trust.

Evelyn thanked the Committee for its support during her term as Chairman. She invited members to consider volunteering for a term serving on the Committee – no previous

experience required – by contacting any Committee member, whose contact details appear in the monthly Diary and quarterly Newsletter.

The national Newsletter will in future be delivered direct to members' homes, the cost covered by the membership subscription.

All members have been asked to indicate if they are willing to offer lifts to meetings and events to other members reliant on erratic public transport. It is hoped a list will be available shortly.

Treasurer's Report

The annual report (attached), independently inspected by Denise Bott of Communities First, had been circulated with notice of this meeting. The report was accepted by a show of hands.

Election of Committee

Re-elected by a show of hands after terms of 3 years:

John Percival
Patricia Percival
Marie Thomas

Existing members willing to continue their terms of office:

Rachel Cleaver	(Re-elected 2011)
Christina Cook	(Elected 2011)
Bronwen Dorling	(Elected 2010)
Danny Jones	(Re-elected 2011)
Peter Leyden	(Elected 2010)
George Mandow	(Re-elected 2010)
Evelyn Richardson	(Re-elected 2010)
Norma Stockford	(Elected 2010)
Sylvia Vannelli	(Re-elected 2010)
Alan Vincent	(Elected 2011)

Election of Officers

The following were elected unopposed by a show a hands for a term of 3 years:

Chair:	Alan Vincent
Vice Chair:	Peter Leyden
Secretary:	Bronwen Dorling

The following had agreed to continue in office:

Groups Co-ordinator:	Sylvia Vannelli
Minutes Secretary:	Marie Thomas

Vote of Thanks

Rachel Cleaver presented Evelyn with a bouquet of flowers and expressed on behalf of all members their appreciation and thanks for the hard work and enthusiasm with which she had served as Chairman for the past 3 years. She added her own personal thanks for the pleasure and fun it had been working with her as Vice-Chairman.

The meeting closed at 2 p.m. and members adjourned to the Parlwr Bach to enjoy refreshments followed by a talk on bee-keeping at 2.30 p.m. by Paul Aslin from Arthog.