

Minutes of Chepstow u3a Annual General Meeting Held at the Drill Hall 3rd March 2026

Stephen Dance welcomed members to the meeting and explained that the number of votes in the Hall would be added to the number of proxy votes received by the Secretary.

The Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Nicky Lee and seconded by Carol Jethwa. They were unanimously approved by 185 votes to 0.

Co-Chairs Report for 2025/26

Stephen reported that their first nine months in post had been both challenging and rewarding. Having taken on the role without prior committee experience, they expressed sincere thanks to Secretary Derek Shottin for his extensive guidance on governance and compliance matters, and to the whole committee for their support, experience and encouragement throughout the transition.

Since the last AGM, membership has increased from 1,092 to 1,165. Chepstow u3a remains the second largest u3a in Wales, which is a notable achievement for a town of Chepstow's size. Several new groups have been established: Italian Conversation, Gardening 2, Chair Pilates, Maths for Mature Minds, Rummikub, Memoir Writing and Dog Walking 2. There is also interest in launching a Beginner's Tai Chi group, subject to finding a tutor.

Efforts to encourage further growth include increased activity on Facebook and other social media, advertising in local magazines, and the development of new promotional materials. While recruitment remains important, priority is being given to retaining existing members and enhancing their experience.

Regular activities continue to thrive. Tuesday Live has provided a varied programme of talks and entertainment, with thanks recorded to Cathy Lewis for organising the programme. Saturday coffee mornings at the Chepstow Club remain popular, and a successful skittles evening was also held there. The summer party at the Bandstand featured music from Wyld Bird Seed and was well attended. The Christmas party at the Drill Hall was highly successful, though capacity limits required advance booking. The recent quiz evening attracted 21 teams, with the Badminton Group winning and Away Days as runners-up.

He emphasised that the strength of Chepstow u3a lies in its volunteers, particularly Group Leaders, whose contribution creates opportunities for learning, friendship and belonging. Appreciation was also expressed to the Technical Team, Welcome Team and Tea Duty Groups for their essential support at meetings and events.

The organisation faces ongoing challenges, including the need for new volunteers and fresh ideas, but these are viewed with confidence given the strong community spirit. Members were encouraged to contribute their ideas and energy to ensure continued growth and vibrancy.

Thanks were extended to former Chairs Nicky and Shelagh for their leadership and support during the handover. Jenny and Angela were thanked for their long service on the committee and wished well on stepping down.

His report concluded with optimism about the future and confidence in the continued strength and unity of Chepstow u3a.

Helen then summarised the transfer of the website to u3a SiteWorks because the current one was hosted by a single individual (not viable long-term). It was completed by a team of 14 people and the site is more sustainable for the future.

Special thanks are due to Derek, Bruce, Ingrid, Ray, Tony and Hugh. The project highlights the strength of our u3a community, working together.

The Annual Accounts for 2025

Were presented by the Treasurer Rob Davies. Acceptance of the Accounts were proposed by Bob Lock and seconded by Barbara Walters. They were unanimously approved by 185 votes to 0.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2026/27

The following were elected by 174 votes to 0 with 11 abstentions:

Position	Name	Responsibilities
Co-Chair	Stephen Dance	
Co-Chair	Helen Kirkcaldy	
Secretary	Derek Shottin	
Treasurer	Rob Davies	Group funds

Vice Treasurer	Brian Marshall	Main Account
	Kay Hillier	Membership
	Pam Harrison	Membership
	Rose Parkhouse	Group Support
	Sue Harkins	Group Support
	Cathy Lewis	Programme Organiser and Zoom Bookings
	Tony Wilson	Beacon and Website Manager

Appointment of the Independent Examiner of Accounts

The appointment of Stuart Ash was proposed by Jenny Channing and seconded by Jenny Purvis. He was unanimously appointed by 185 votes to 0.

Closing Remarks

Stephen closed the meeting at 2.25pm by thanking all those who had attended the AGM and invited members to partake of the refreshments served by Gardening Group 2 including Welsh Cakes in honour of St. David's day.

After a short break Cathy Lewis introduced Peter Gill who entertained members with songs and words from the Jerry Lee Lewis Story.