

Charity Registration No. 1050607

Serving Deal, Dover and Sandwich

<https://wcc.u3asite.uk/>

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Astor Theatre, Stanhope Rd, Deal at 14.00hrs.
on Wednesday 3 September 2025.**

1. Welcome and apologies.
 - a. Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. The meeting was quorate with 70 members and 4 guests attending.
 - c. Apologies were received from 30 members.
 - d. Sue explained that several experienced committee members had needed to stand down, due to personal reasons or because they had reached the maximum period of service allowed. She thanked WCC u3a members for their patience and kindness as new committee members have picked up roles that they are not familiar with.
 - e. Val Tierney, the outgoing Treasurer was thanked for her wonderful coaching of John McCoy, the Acting Treasurer.
 - f. Denise McCoy, the Acting Business Secretary, was thanked for taking over from Gill Ashford, who had needed to stand down.
 - g. Bill and Mary Venables were thanked for their many years of supporting the committee with their knowledge, wisdom and experience.
 - h. Paulin Meier was standing down after reaching the maximum period of service of three years and was thanked for managing the programme of interesting and stimulating talks and events, and for developing such a good relationship with staff and volunteers at The Astor.
 - i. Sue thanked all the volunteers and the committee for their support.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 18 September 2024.
 - a. Accepted as an accurate representation of the meeting.
3. Matters arising
 - a. There were no matters arising.
4. Chair's report.
 - a. The report had already been distributed. There were no questions, and the report was accepted.
 - b. A member requested that reports be distributed in pdf format going forward and this was agreed.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. The accounts and report had been distributed. Sue explained that some questions had been received in advance of the meeting regarding Gift Aid and the Reserves. She gave a brief overview of the questions and the responses. Details about the questions and the responses provided can be found [here](#). (Val brought documents to the meeting illustrating the impact of the move from accruals to cash accounting for members who were interested in seeing them.)
 - b. A member asked if those paying tax by PAYE can donate via Gift Aid. Jacqui Dodds replied that anyone who pays income tax, by whatever means, can do so.
 - c. The statement of accounts and Treasurer's report were accepted.

6. Membership Secretary's Report
 - a. The report had already been distributed. There were no questions, and the report was accepted.
7. Any Other Business.
 - a. Linda Pearce was thanked for bringing the WCC u3a quilt and setting it up.
8. Sue handed the meeting over to Jill Jones, the Returning Officer, who thanked the Committee for their continuing work. There were no contested posts, therefore Jill proposed that the nominees were elected en bloc. Proposed by Barry Matthews and seconded by Brian Brown.

Office	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Carol Fowler	Joy Visagie	Allan Smith
Vice Chair	Eleanor Brooks	Maureen Collins	Wendy Norley
Business Secretary	Denise McCoy	Jane Marguet	Ruth Harris-Small
Treasurer	John McCoy	Barry Matthews	Val Tierney
Membership Secretary	Ponda Thomas	Peter Edwards	Susan Edwards
Groups Co-ordinator	Heather Jackson	Denise McCoy	Sara Miller
Talks Co-ordinator	Sara Miller	Heather Jackson	Paulin Meier

Thanks were given to Jill for acting as Returning Officer.

9. The meeting was handed over to Carol as Chair and she asked Ellie to say a few words as Vice Chair. Ellie thanked Sue, who was standing down as Chair after reaching the maximum period of service, for the time and effort that she put into the role and the u3a overall. In particular, she has developed a strong team, spending time with committee members as individuals and as a group. Now there is to be a new Chair, who will bring new skills and talents. Sue was presented with a token of thanks.
10. The new Chair, Carol Fowler, said a few words.
 - a. She thanked Paulin for her hard work and commitment, especially for the amazing programme of talks at The Astor, which was varied and interesting. Paulin was presented with a token of thanks.
 - b. Val Tierney, the outgoing Treasurer, Gillian Ashford, the outgoing Business Secretary and Mary and Bill Venables, long-standing members of the committee, were thanked for their contributions and had also received tokens of thanks.
 - c. Carol thanked the membership for the opportunity to advance the WCC u3a and the committee. She thanked Sue for her leadership and commitment, wished her success and enjoyment in her new role as Chair of the u3a Kent Network and presented her with a personal token of thanks.
 - d. She thanked the old and new committee members for their work and dedication and is looking forward to aiding growth and opportunities to Learn, Laugh and Live.
 - e. Carol emphasised that feedback from members is encouraged.
 - f. She finished with a quote from John Cleese, 'He who laughs most, learns best'.

The meeting closed at 14.25 hrs.

Agreed as a true record...*Carol Fowler*.....Chair

Agreed as a true record...*Denise McCoy*.....Secretary

*Physically signed
document held in
u3a records*

Dated.....2 September 2026