

West Wolds u3a Members Survey 2025 Results

We hold a survey of our members every 2 years. On 3rd February 2025 all members received a link via email to our on-line survey. This is how we can assess where we are doing well and where improvements are needed. It should only take 5 minutes and is invaluable for the committee. The survey was open for 2 weeks and closed on 17th February.

Over half our members completed the survey.

The Survey confirmed some things we knew or suspected, for example:

Age Range: 19% under 70, 54% 70-79;

Length of membership: 29% over 10 years; 72% 9 years and under; and the

Reason for joining: 21% friendship and 22% the groups on offer and 69% heard of the u3a via word of mouth.

It was gratifying to hear that 93% felt the organisation of our groups was excellent or good so Group Leaders should be very proud of their record. Equally, 80% felt the choice of Speakers was excellent or good, and a varied range of subjects suggested for the future has given Ginny some useful pointers for forthcoming bookings.

AGM

Thank you for your preferences for entertainment at the AGM, with Speakers coming out top closely followed by Quizzes. As the AGM is an opportunity for groups to show what they do, this will not be dropped completely, but we will alternate the entertainments in future.

NEWSLETTER

94% read the Newsletter, and it was interesting to see what members are interested in – the Speaker programme was high, along with Groups information and schedules. We asked for suggestions of what we could add to the Newsletter and Quizzes/Puzzles ranked at 19% followed by recipes and articles from outside agencies. We will take these ideas on board so please send in any submissions that could be included including from the Creative Writing group.

FESTIVAL HALL

Many commented that the heating and acoustics at the Festival Hall were an issue. The council have been trying to address the heating and we will keep our focus on them to push this forward.

However, the acoustics are a bigger problem we may never be able to solve. Having tried moving the speakers onto the stage, tweaking the settings and volume, it seems the lack of sound-absorbing materials in the hall are a major factor in this problem. Committee have looked at moving to another venue in the town with better accommodation and acoustics, but we cannot get everything we need in one place on one day.

Other requests included: starting the meeting earlier – refreshments are ready from 9.30am so members may come earlier if desired.

Having a second drink afterwards/extending the finish time – another drink would cost more but in any event the Hall is booked after us so this is not an option. Fortunately, members can carry on their socialising at other venues in the town after the meeting.

Group Leaders to be visible at the interest tables to offer information – yes we agree! A representative of a group or the leader could arrange to be by the tables occasionally and Nick our Groups Coordinator will encourage this.

Better coffee and/or a variety of drinks on offer - Rachel buys a quality instant coffee, typically L'or or similar. Ground coffee would mean an increase in the door fee by £1-2 which is unfair on tea drinkers. Squash and decaf coffee is always on offer – please suggest what alternatives you feel are achievable and it will be considered. Gluten Free biscuits are available – just ask, and help is always available to carry your drink to your seat – just ask!

Queuing at the entrance – We have asked Caroline and her Greeters to keep an eye on this and discourage members from congregating for a chat by the reception desk; this should help keep the queue flowing.

Group Interest tables – you feel there are too many or take up too much room. We had a visitor from Louth u3a Committee in March and she was extremely impressed by our tables and intends to adopt the idea at their meetings. We are fortunate to have so many groups aren't we? So we must advertise them and show visitors what a great offering we have. Suggestions on an alternative way of displaying them are welcome.

Visitors to the Meeting – we already had this in hand so it is nice that it is something members want, and we have representatives from the Council on scams, and Dementia UK coming in May. There are others in the pipeline so check the Newsletter for details.

NEW GROUPS

There were many suggestions of new groups our members would like to see added to our already comprehensive range, and at last month's meeting a list was put out for interest to be gauged. However, as always, we need a person or group of people to actually organise these groups. It will not happen unless you step forward.

It does not have to be one person, it can be shared; it does not have to be an 'expert' in that area just someone or some people who have an interest in the subject and are willing to learn about it together. We offer mentoring, help setting it up and a start up grant if required- it is not difficult.

Please talk to us if you think it's something you, or a few of you could do together and let's see what can be done.

If you would like any more information about the survey results, please get in touch. Thanks to all who took part in this exercise, we have plenty to think about.

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