

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held by post, email and Zoom between 12th November and 15th December 2020.

Participating: 51 Members, including committee members: Jan Athis, Malcolm Ballantine, Christine Billingham, Sharon Collins (minutes), Monica Edmonds, Martin Stevens (Chair), John Treadway and Nina Warwick.

1.	<u>WELCOMES AND OPENING REMARKS:</u>
	The Chairman welcomed those present and explained that in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, government restrictions and the safety of all concerned, this year's AGM has been conducted via email, post and Zoom, rather than in a face to face meeting of members. He confirmed that participation in the AGM process had exceeded the numbers needed for a quorum. Voting had taken place in advance of today's Zoom meeting, no queries had been raised in the course of the process and no items of Any Other Business had been requested for discussion.
2.	<u>MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING</u>
	The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2019 had been circulated and were unanimously confirmed by members who voted as a true report (copy in Minute Book). Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes,
3.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:</u>
	The Chairman's report had been circulated. Martin highlighted key points as follows: • Activities: Many of the u3a's activities this year have had to be cancelled or curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic. We look forward to next year when we hope that we will not only be able to organise our usual programme of events, but also some additional outings and social activities. • Interest Groups: Despite continuing difficulties, around half our interest groups have found safe ways to continue to live, laugh and learn, often through the use of technology. We are grateful to our group coordinators for their work and ingenuity in facilitating this.

	• Monthly meetings: After a gap of several months, we are now using Zoom as a way of restarting our programme of monthly meetings. There have been two talks so far and plans are in hand to offer more on a monthly basis until we can return to the Cut. • Thanks and acknowledgements: Martin thanked the Committee, Group Coordinators and everyone who has helped maintain the strength and resilience of the organisation and to keep members in touch with each other. He expressed particular thanks to: - Nick Amery for managing the website and keeping it up to date; - Monica Edmonds for her work as membership secretary and especially for developing such an interesting and engaging newsletter; - Eileen English and Florence Kernohan who have decided not to stand again as Committee members but who have contributed such a lot during their terms of office, including always providing a very warm welcome to members attending u3a events. The Chairman's Report was unanimously accepted by voting members
4.	<u>TRIBUTE TO OUR OUTGOING CHAIRMAN</u>
	Malcolm Ballantine paid tribute to Martin Stevens who has served a 4 year term as Chairman and, in line with our constitution, will now be stepping down. Malcolm thanked Martin for his work during his term of office and for the excellent contribution he has made to the development of the organisation. He drew particular attention to two of Martin's key achievements - the development and strengthening of the u3a's important relationship with the Cut, and the impetus he has provided in the last few months to keep the organisation moving forward in what has been a very difficult time. He thanked Martin for these and the many other contributions he has made as Chairman and welcomed the fact that he has agreed to remain on the Executive Committee in the coming year.
5.	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u>
	The Treasurer's Report and accounts for the 11 months ending 31st July 2020 were circulated in advance (copies in Minute Book). Key points in the report include: • The accounts cover an 11 month period due to the change of year end from 31st August to 31st July, as agreed at last year's AGM. • The bank balance at 31st July was £5006.83: much higher than usual due to reduced spending on activities during the pandemic. The committee has decided that additional subsidised outings and get-togethers will be arranged when circumstances allow. The Treasurers report was accepted, and the Accounts were approved, unanimously by voting members.

6.	<u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20</u>
	Details of the 9 members nominated for election to the Executive Committee had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). The following were elected by voting members, nem con: Jan Athis, Malcolm Ballantine, Christine Billinghamurst, Sharon Collins, Monica Edmonds, Bill Roe, Martin Stevens, John Treadway, and Nina Warwick. Martin Stevens explained that we can have up to 12 members on the Committee, so 3 places are available for co-options. Anyone interested in joining the Committee was asked to contact the Chairman or any other committee member.
	The AGM was followed by a talk by Dean Parkin entitled The Easternmost Poet.

Signed.....

Date.....