

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 21st
September 2021 at The Cut

Present: 34 Members, including committee members: Jan Athis, Malcolm Ballantine, Christine Billingham, Sharon Collins (minutes), Monica Edmonds (Chairwoman), Katherine Kirk and Nina Warwick.

1.	<u>WELCOMES AND OPENING REMARKS:</u>
	The Chairman welcomed those present and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
2.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>
	Apologies for absence were received from Christina Ballinger, Jill Daines, Joanna Dorey, Valerie Martin, Margo McLaren, Connie Topping and John Treadway.
3.	<u>MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING</u>
	The minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a true report and signed by the Chairwoman (copy in Minute Book). Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes,
4.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:</u>
	The Chairman's report had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). Monica highlighted key points as follows: • Activities: Our u3a was able to keep a number of its activities going throughout lockdown. The occasional newsletter became a monthly edition, thanks to the work undertaken by John Treadway who became newsletter editor in January. Well-attended monthly meetings were held on Zoom throughout the year and thanks are due to Martin Stevens for organising an interesting and varied programme of talks. • Membership: Largely as a result of the pandemic membership numbers fell significantly last year from the previous year's total of 240. However, so far 180 members had renewed for the coming year and it was hoped that this number would grow. • Interest groups: After a hiatus early on a number of our interest groups continued to meet on Zoom or outdoors when regulations allowed. Thanks

	in particular to group coordinators for keeping going through a very challenging time. • Website: Grateful thanks to Nick Amery who manages the website for us. Nick needs more content to improve the website further, so members were requested to submit photographs and written items whenever possible. • Thank you: Special thanks were given to Bill Roe, who was co-opted to the committee for part of the year, for his leadership and contribution to the Committee's thinking on refreshing our organisation and taking it forward. The Chairman's Report was unanimously accepted by those present.
5.	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u>
	The accounts for the year ending 31st July 2021 were circulated (copy in Minute Book). In presenting the accounts, Christine Billingham (Treasurer) commented that: • Spending during the year had been lower than usual as some activities were curtailed by the pandemic. However, expenditure on the monthly talks continued and funds were allocated for Zoom licences in to help groups keep going where possible. • As the accounts show, the bank balance was healthy. It was hoped that the funds accrued from this year's reduced expenditure would enable us to provide additional subsidised events for members in the coming months. A member asked what the 'U3A fees' item in the account covers, and Christine explained that this expenditure included our subscription to the 3rd Age Trust which paid for our public liability insurance and the cost of issuing the national u3a magazine Third Age Matters to members who request it. The Treasurer's report was accepted, and the Accounts were approved. The Chairwoman thanked David Gardam for examining the organisation's accounts and confirming their accuracy. The meeting approved his re-appointment as External Examiner for the forthcoming year.
6.	<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION</u>
	Written notice of the proposed amendments had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). The Secretary introduced the following proposals: • Proposal 1: That clause 14 be extended to allow general meetings to be held electronically or, where appropriate, to allow members to attend either in person or electronically. This was unanimously agreed. • Proposal 2: That clause 16(iv) be amended to reduce the quorum for general meetings from 15% to 10%. This was unanimously agreed.

7.	<u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20</u>
	Details of those nominated for election to the Executive Committee had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). The following were elected by members present, nem con: Jan Athis, Malcolm Ballantine, Christine Billingham, Sharon Collins, Jill Daines, Monica Edmonds, Katherine Kirk, John Treadway, and Nina Warwick. The Chairwoman 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.
8.	<u>NEWS FROM THE CUT</u>
	The Secretary gave a brief update of recent developments at The Cut and plans for the future: While the Centre was closed during lockdown, the Trustees and other volunteers took the opportunity to repaint and refurbish parts of the building, and thanks to an Arts Council grant, were also able to install an upgraded sound system and lighting rig. The building and the café are currently open between 10am and 2pm for tea and coffee and access to exhibitions. U3a groups who used to meet in the café are now welcome to do so again. The café hopes to reopen fully soon, but is having difficulty recruiting the experienced staff required. The programme is building up, with regular Wednesday film nights now reinstated and other events and performances already advertised. Many familiar events will be back this year, including the Herring Festival in November and the Grand Cut Bazaar in December. The Chairwoman added that during lockdown solar panels and swift nest boxes had also been installed.
9.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>
	There was no other business.
10.	<u>CLOSING REMARKS</u>
	The Chairwoman thanked those present for attending the AGM, and expressed her appreciation to committee members for their work on the organisation's behalf during the past difficult year. She extended her thanks to Martin Stevens in particular for organising a varied and stimulating series of open to all talks.

	Monica also reminded members that the next talk would be on the Women's Land Army on Tuesday 19th October at 2.30 at The Cut. As usual, the talk will be free to members, with a charge of £4 for friends and visitors.
	The AGM was followed by a talk by Lindy O'Hare on the development of the new theatre in Thorington Woods.

Signed.....

Date.....