

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 20th
September 2022 at The Cut

Present: 38 Members, including committee members: Christine Billingham, Sharon Collins (minutes), Monica Edmonds (Chairwoman) Katherine Kirk and Martin Stevens. Approximately 13 guests were also in attendance.

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 Committee members Jan Athis, Malcolm Ballantine, Jill Daines, Melita Rouse-Clarke John Treadway and a number of members.
3.	<u>MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING</u>
	The minutes of the 2021 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>CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:</u>
	The Chairwoman's report had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). Monica highlighted key points as follows: • Membership: There had been a heartening rise in membership this year, with 44 new members joining since January and overall numbers reaching pre-pandemic levels. • Interest groups: Several new groups had been suggested and sign-up sheets were available in the café for interested members. • Involving members: The work started by the Committee in 2020 to refresh the organisation and encourage broader member involvement continued this year. Meetings for group coordinators and for all u3a members, plus a members' questionnaire, offered opportunities to gather opinions and ideas on how to improve and develop our u3a. In particular, members highlighted the need to improve and modernise our publicity and to make the process for starting new groups easier and less opaque. These issues will be considered in detail by the new committee,

	• Governance: A number of new policies and a Members' Code of Conduct had been developed this year and were now on the website. • "Thank you"s: Special thanks were given to those committee members who were standing down this year, including Christine Billinghamurst, our current Treasurer, and Malcolm Stevens, our former Chairman, who very ably organised our events programme for eight years. Monica also thanked Nina Warwick who was Secretary for some time and took on the New Members coffee mornings for a number of years, and Jan Athis who was a very effective Interest Groups Facilitator. The Chairman's Report was unanimously accepted by those present.
5.	<u>FEEDBACK FROM THE MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE</u>
	A paper summarising the results of the recent members' questionnaire had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). Katherine Kirk highlighted some of the key points made by respondents, including: • The u3a and its various activities are highly valued by its members, as are the opportunities it provides to learn, collaborate and meet each other. • Major areas of interest for our members are the outdoors and the natural world and the creative arts and crafts. More activities in these areas would be welcome. • Our membership includes people with an impressive range of talents and skills, and these could be shared and built on to enhance our activities. • People who are interested in starting new groups would value more help and support to do so, • Members would like to receive more regular information through a wider range of media. The committee is particularly interested in setting up a u3a Facebook page but needs a volunteer to help with this. Katherine thanked all those who had responded to the questionnaire and reminded members that we all have a part to play in making our u3a even better. She expressed the hope that by working together we can take forward some of the ideas that had been put forward.
6.	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u>
	The accounts for the year ending 31st July 2022 had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). In presenting the accounts, Christine Billinghamurst (Treasurer) commented that spending during the year had exceeded income and was considerably higher than in previous years. She explained that during the pandemic, we had built up a larger than usual balance, which had enabled us to spend more this year on subsidised outings and social events, and on upgrading and extending the u3a's range of equipment The bank balance at the year-end stood at £2,824.54.

	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.
7.	<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, explaining that they are designed to bring the terms of office for Chair and Secretary into line with that of the Treasurer, and to improve business continuity within the organisation: • Proposal 1: That clause 7 vi (a) be amended to extend the number of consecutive terms a committee member may serve from 6 to 8 • Proposal 2: That clause 7 vi (b) be amended to extend the number of terms that officers other than the Treasurer may serve from 4 to 6. (The Treasurer is already allowed to serve for 6 years.) • Proposal 3: That clause 7 vi (c) be deleted, and reference to the Treasurer be incorporated in the preceding clause. • Proposal 4. That clause 7 vi (d) be renumbered and specific reference to the Treasurer be removed. All four proposals were unanimously approved.
8.	<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: Sharon Collins, Jill Daines, Joanna Dorey, Monica Edmonds, Katherine Kirk, Karen Lewis, Melita Rouse-Clarke and John Treadway The Chairwoman explained that we can have up to 12 members on the Committee, so 4 places are available for co-options. Anyone interested in joining the Committee was asked to contact the Chairman or any other committee member.
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 year.

	The AGM was followed by a talk by David Wollweber on The buried treasure of the Blyth Valley.

Signed.....

Date.....