

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT u3a
Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 17th October
2023 at The Cut

Present: 58 Members, including committee members: Malcolm Ballantine, Sharon Collins (minutes), Monica Edmonds (Chairwoman) Katherine Kirk, Karen Lewis and Melita Rouse-Skeet. Approximately 12 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 Jill Daines, Jo Dorey, John Treadway and a number of members.
3.	<u>MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING</u>
	The minutes of the 2022 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 has been a significant rise in membership this year, with overall numbers now reaching over 390. The growth in membership has been due in part to improved publicity and leafletting campaigns on some of the new housing developments locally. Both the learning and social aspects of the u3a's activities were proving popular with new members. • Halesworth 800: The recent 800 celebrations and heritage weekend history walks gave us a good opportunity to showcase some of our work and to connect with our wider community. • Involving members: The 2022 members' meeting and questionnaire generated a number of ideas on how to improve and develop our u3a, including the need to improve and modernise our publicity and to update our methods of communication. Among other initiatives we have now introduced a Facebook page and members are encouraged to take a look at it. This year we have also widened the scope of coffee mornings to give

	new members the opportunity to meet existing members in an informal setting. • Volunteers: The STAR group set up last year continues to help with “Small Tasks As Required” and is highly valued. More volunteers would be welcome. We also need volunteers to help to develop new groups and support those that are oversubscribed. • Administration: Developments this year have included fully embedding internet banking arrangements and introducing a computerised membership management system. • Interest groups and activities: We now have 38 interest groups including new groups on Photography, Celebrating Wildlife and Days Out. Two coach trips and a full programme of monthly talks were also organised during the year. • Governance: The growth in our membership means that we are likely reach the threshold where we must apply for Registered Charity status, and the committee will be working on this in the coming year. While this may require us to operate in a slightly more formal way, we will do our best to make sure that doesn’t interfere with the things that are working well for our groups and members. • Thanks: Special thanks were given to committee members and others who help to make the organisation a success, including: Nick Amery, our website manager, David Gardam, our external examiner, and all our Group Coordinators.
6.	<u>ACCOUNTS & APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINER</u>
	Karen Lewis, who became Treasurer following last year’s AGM, introduced herself and explained that her role includes being responsible for making sure that the organisation handles its finances appropriately. The accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023 had been circulated (copy in Minute Book) and were unanimously approved by those present. 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.
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: Malcolm Ballantine, Sharon Collins, Jill Daines, Joanna Dorey, Monica Edmonds, Michael Fleming, Katherine Kirk, Karen Lewis, Lorraine Morgan, Melita Rouse-Skeet and John Treadway
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 Christine Gardam thanked the committee members for their work on the organisation's behalf during the past year.
	The AGM was followed by a talk by Gail Sprake on the work of the Rare Breeds Trust.

Signed *Monica Edmonds* (Chairwoman)

Date ,,, 17.10.2024