

Registered Charity No 516502

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
Aspin House, Block B, Station Road, Huddersfield HD2 1UT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 2.00 pm Huddersfield Mission

PRESENT

Dallas Cliff (Chair), Derek Cook, John Dixon (Hon Treasurer), Jenny Eaglestone (Minutes), Isabel Foster, Moira Marshall, John May, Sue May, Alison Newbery, Shirley Pearson, and 42 members.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jean Parkinson, Dr Jeff Carr, Alan Taylor, Caroline Taylor, Michael Leech, Anne Leech and Jean Kirby.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2021/22 held on Wednesday 23 March 2021

These had been published in the Autumn Newsletter and were accepted as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

The chair remarked that after a challenging few years for the U3A, thanks to the hard work of the committee we are well on the road to recovery. Membership is steadily climbing back to the numbers we had prior to the pandemic. Our new 2022 - 2023 prospectus contained 83 classes covering the whole gamut of activities from languages to tai chi by way of cryptography.

We have lost several literature classes as tutors have retired so members are asked to encourage anyone they know with expertise in that area to come forward. The music section is, however, thriving with the Ladies' Choir, the Mixed Choir, two guitar groups, two mixed bands and the ukulele group. Additionally, we have some exciting new ventures on the horizon with a criminology class, a Welsh class, and a rock choir in preparation.

At the 2020 - 2021 AGM there was discussion of the need for publicity to accompany our relaunch. Sue and John May joined the committee with a brief to take the lead on publicity and they have done a magnificent job. Two of our local MPs organised very well attended fairs aimed at promoting services for older people and we had a display at each of these. The one at Briar Court was particularly well attended and led to several new memberships.

Last year we appealed for ideas for an exhibition to replace the Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Trevor Fox came up with a proposal to mount an exhibition with performances in one of the empty shops in the piazza. This happened in September and was very successful. We are looking at how we might repeat this success with something similar in the future but are mindful that the footfall in the piazza was lower than we expected. With our 40th

anniversary coming up in 2024 we would welcome ideas and offers of help for future exhibitions.

The chair reported his pleasure that our programme of day trips was able to resume thanks to Derek Cook, who organised outings to Cleethorpes, Bettws-y-Coed, and Whitby and Helmsley, with positive feedback from those who went. We hope to mount a similar programme next year. The annual Carol Service was held in December and raised £220 for Rudi's Retreat a local charity providing holidays for the families of children suffering from cancer. Thanks again to Lesley Baxter who organises this event.

Along with many organisations we are increasingly reliant on our website. As it was becoming out of date, our developers have been working on an updated version. We hope to swap over to the new site shortly and members should see a marked improvement,

The chair thanked the administrative team Alison and Christopher Newbery and Jenny Eaglestone, helped at busy times by Janet Kilburn and our treasurer John Dixon for his oversight of our finances. Also thanked were everyone who helped with the two fairs and the pop-up piazza display.

On the committee, he reported his sadness that Dr Jeff Carr has stepped down as Vice Chair and Shirley Pearson has stepped down from membership. He thanked them both for their outstanding efforts over the years. The committee is always open to new members. We would particularly welcome anyone prepared to come forward and take a lead on the organisation of events and exhibitions. As always, we are looking for enthusiastic Tutors to lead classes.

Finally, he thanked all present for coming to the meeting and for their support for the U3A.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Accounts had been circulated in the Autumn newsletter. The Independent Examiner's Report was available at the meeting although it was too late for publication in the newsletter. The Treasurer outlined the slow return to normal and was pleased to point out a deficit of only £1,775, which was lower than could have been expected. He was not recommending an increase in fees while membership is recovering, as we still have reserves. The committee had taken the decision to let classes run at a loss if necessary with low numbers while we are getting back on an even keel. Venue rents are increasing. There was a question about letting tutors know the cost of their venue. The treasurer responded that these costs are regularly reviewed by the committee.

The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

6 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Dixon and Alison Newbery were proposed, seconded and elected.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.17