

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 1 November 2023 at 2.00 pm Huddersfield Mission

PRESENT

Dallas Cliff (chair), John Dixon (Treasurer), Jeff Carr, Jenny Eaglestone, Brian Farrand, Isabel Foster, Moira Marshall, John May, Sue May, Diana Wilson and 35 members.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Derek Cook and Alison Newbery.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2022/23 held on Wednesday 26 October 2022

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 next year it will be exactly forty years since the Huddersfield and District U3A was formed. It was the brainchild of Edith Bentley and soon became the largest U3A in the country with over 3000 members. The chair had been aware of the impact that the U3A had on the cultural life of the area and health and well being of those in their later years through a close friend, and when he himself retired in 2004 he joined the U3A only to be told by Ted Duggan and Philip Walton that they had their eye on him for the committee and as a future chair.

Times have changed with many people having to work well into their 70s and even 80s. The Covid epidemic has had a huge effect dampening down people's social activities. None-the-less, he is very pleased to be able to report that the progress we made last year has continued. Membership stands at 1040 and we have over 80 different classes, groups, and activities on offer in our prospectus. As the chair he is blessed at the moment with a particularly enthusiastic and hard working committee who are committed to keeping the U3A a vibrant and relevant organisation. He welcomed Diana Wilson to the committee.

Looking forward to our 40th anniversary year, we hope to not only celebrate our past achievements, but also to further publicise our activities with a view to recruiting more members, tutors, and group organisers. The working group has developed the idea of linking with other charities who will help us publicise our activities more widely whilst we will use our anniversary events to help them raise funds. Next week the chair and Sue and John May, our hard working publicity team, are meeting with fund raisers from the Kirkwood Hospice to work out how we might mutually assist each other.

The working party have at least two flagship events in mind now. One would be a performance-based event to showcase our many performance groups, bands and choirs. The other would be an anniversary dinner at which we would award prizes for the various competitions we hope to organise throughout the year. Ideas for competitions and other ideas for the anniversary would be very much appreciated.

Throughout the past year, we have continued to seek to improve our publicity thanks to the hard work of Sue and John May and the chair has also been active in giving talks on the U3A to community groups of all kinds. So, if you are in touch with any group that would like a speaker on the activities of the U3A please let them know that we would be happy to go along.

The chair thanked our administrative team Alison and Christopher Newbery, Jenny Eaglestone and Janet Ford, without whose hard work and commitment, he said the U3A would literally fall apart. He also thanked the members of our anniversary planning group for their hard work and our treasurer John Dixon for his careful stewardship of our finances which enables us to fund raise for others rather than ourselves.

Whilst we have a strong committee now we are 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 with knowledge and skills who would like to lead classes. Anyone willing to organise Monday Talks would also be welcome.

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

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Accounts and the independent examiner's report had been circulated in the Autumn newsletter. The Treasurer went through the notes to the accounts, also published in the Autumn Newsletter. The deficit had been £2,669, an increase from the previous year but still easily covered by our reserves. He was not recommending an increase in fees while membership is recovering.

The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

6 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jenny Eaglestone, Brian Farrand, Isabel Foster and Moira Marshall were proposed, seconded and elected.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.22