

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 31 October 2024 at 2.00 pm Huddersfield Mission

PRESENT

Dallas Cliff (chair), John Dixon (Treasurer), Jenny Eaglestone, Brian Farrand, Janet Forde, Moira Marshall, John May, Sue May, Alison Newbery, Mike Scholes, Diana Wilson and 23 members.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Barry Blackham, Chris Dawson, Paul Dean, Isabel Foster, Tracey Hellawell, Wendy Hewitt and Irene Stephenson.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2023/24 held on Wednesday 1 November 2023

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 reported on the successful 40th Anniversary events. These included the Performance Event organised by Mike Scholes, the Anniversary Walk organised by Diana Wilson, the Boules Competition organised by David Talboys, the Art and Craft Competitions both organised by Gilly Markham, the Poetry Competition organised by Trevor Fox, and the Photo Competition organised by John May, followed by the Anniversary Dinner organised by Isabel Foster at which the competition prizes were given out.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, we kept fees low and ran some courses at a loss as we attempted to recover our membership, and now have over 1,000 members although we have not recovered to the pre-pandemic 1,300. We cannot continue with this policy, as we have a deficit of £5387 on the financial year 2023/24. The committee has decided to raise our membership fee to £18 and our standard course fee to £20 per term. We think this still offers good value for money and is very much in line with the charges of our fellow U3As across the country.

A significant number of people have been lamenting the lapse of the Monday talks. As a result the Chair has organised a series of five anniversary talks to take place in the spring term, on Wednesdays at the Media Centre on Northumberland Street.

The chair thanked our administrative team Alison and Christopher Newbery, Jenny Eaglestone and Janet Forde, 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 has enabled us to fund raise for others rather than ourselves.

We would welcome volunteers to help in various areas, and particularly people to help with organising trips. Please let the office know if you can help.

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 £5,987. Net assets of £35,752 had decreased from £41,739 at the start of the year.

Questions from the floor on the financial report:

Q: Where did the IT and marketing money go last year?

A: The extra IT expenditure was for a major refurbishment of the website. The marketing money went mainly on adverts, for instance in HD Connect and Over 50 magazine.

There were suggestions from members on publicity, including producing flyers for members to distribute and posters for doctors' surgeries. It was pointed out that a flyers have been printed on the back page of the Anniversary leaflet this year, and on the back of the special summer newsletter in 2021 for members to distribute, and we have already tried sending information to doctors' surgeries.

The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

6 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John May, Sue May and Dallas Cliff were proposed, seconded and re-elected. The co-opted members Janet Forde and Mike Scholes were proposed, seconded and elected as full members of the committee.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Alpin had submitted in writing a proposal that the committee should establish a working party to consider whether Huddersfield and District U3A should become affiliated to the national U3A organisation and utilise Beacon, the national administrative system. He outlined some of the advantages, including the possibility for members to access and update their own records, and the administrative advantages of a system people could access from their own computers and tablets, at a time to suit them.

There was a discussion where worries were expressed from the floor about the cost implications (£4 per member plus £1 for the Beacon system) and the focus becoming less local. Also 8% of our members are without email addresses and might struggle with a web based system, and changes that might be required to our constitution. The chair advised

that he was in touch with the ex-chair of Sheffield U3A who was willing to come to talk about how membership of the national organisation had worked for them.

It was agreed to go ahead with the working group.

The meeting closed at 2.41.