

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BATTLE AND DISTRICT U3A**
held at THE EMMANUEL CENTRE, HARRIER LANE, BATTLE TN33 0FL
ON MONDAY 6th March at 10.20am

Officers Present

Diane Wilson, Chair. Peter Aubrey, Vice Chair. David Hughes, Treasurer, Sally Dickinson, Secretary.

Members present in addition to officers, 101.

1. Apologies for absence

Valerie Bailey, Jan Calderwood, Francesca Delescluse, Jill McManus, Lyndsey Mill, Angela Reid, Jane Stevens, Amanda Tuckey.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 7th February 2022

The minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2022 were agreed and signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Chair's Report

The Chairman presented her report of the year which is recorded in full.

The difficulties of 2020 and 2021 extended into the beginning of 2022 with the arrival of the Omicron variant, so it was with relief and some trepidation that we were able to meet once again at the Emmanuel Centre for David Hatherell's talk on "Commonwealth War Graves' in February. There has been no looking back since then, and we have enjoyed talks including the 'Legends of the Myah', 'Beyond the Saucy Postcard', 'A strange thing happened at the airport' and David Clarke's exploration of our town of Battle. In addition to the face-to-face talks, via zoom we had opportunity to explore the hidden treasures of London, the death of Alexander Litvinenko and to find out about the work of the charity 'Dogs for Good'.

We welcomed the addition of Sally Dickinson, John Loveridge Joy Newland and Christine Pelissier, to the Committee and experienced the sad loss of Michael Betts, who took the

lead for SUN. I extend our grateful thanks to our hard-working volunteers on the Committee.

Our interest group co-ordinators have provided members with many hours of learning and enjoyment across a wide range of activities. We have had a steady inflow of new members and our membership now stands at 263. It has been inspiring to see how proactive some recently joined members have been in coming forward to start groups such as 'Wine Appreciation', 'Current Affairs' (2) 'Film Group', 'Book Group' (3) and soon to commence 'Art Group'. Increasingly groups are sharing roles and hosting activities.

Social events in 2022 included the picnic in Battle to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a walk and afternoon tea at Ashburnham to celebrate national U3A day; as well as events that many of us look forward to each year, such as the Beetle Drive.

2022 was a year of political turmoil and in September, we experienced the very sad loss of our dear Queen Elizabeth II aged 96.

The calendar year culminated with Christmas lunch at Highwoods Golf Course. In picturesque surroundings, amongst beautiful decorations enjoying excellent food, 75 of us celebrated the end of our U3A year. Popular demand will see a repeat of the lunch on December 4th this year.

2023 commenced with a fascinating talk by Colin Bostock Smith about his life in comedy, followed at the Memorial Hall by a BFI film on walking and last month David Allen enthralled us with his talk on the 'Weird and Wonderful World of the Law'. We have much to look forward to this year with highly recommended talks, interesting social events and the many and varied interest groups enough to satisfy the interests of us all.

The East Sussex East cluster of U3As which currently includes Heathfield, Hailsham, Hastings & Rother, Mayfield, Eastbourne & Wealden, Eastbourne Meads will likely soon extend to include Rye and Eastbourne Central. It is anticipated that together, we will be able to provide more opportunities to share and work together to benefit us all.

Finally, I would like once again to thank our committee members, interest group coordinators and all of you, our members who make our U3A an environment in which we can learn, laugh and live together.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2022. The accounts showed a modest surplus of £330 due to an increase in membership and prudent financial management on the part of the committee.

It was agreed to accept the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

5. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

The Treasurer advised that he had hoped to propose that John Reid should continue as independent financial examiner, but had heard that he was moving away from the area. It was agreed that the committee be authorised to appoint an Independent Financial Examiner for the year to 31st March 2024.

6. Election of Officers

It was noted that the 2020 constitution required nominations for officers and committee members to be submitted not less than 14 days before the AGM. Although this rule had not been complied with the meeting agreed to accept the candidates put forward for election.

The following officers were elected:

Chair: Diane Wilson. Proposed by Francesca Delescluse, Seconded by Christine Pelissier.

Vice Chair: Peter Aubrey. Proposed by Joy Newland, Seconded by Christine Pelissier.

Secretary: Sally Dickinson. Proposed by Pam Vandenburg, Seconded by John Cherrington.

Treasurer: David Hughes. Proposed by Diane Wilson, Seconded by Francesca Delescluse.

7. Election of Committee Members

The following committee members were elected:

Graham Davies, Proposed by Shirley Westwood, Seconded by Richard Dymond.

John Loveridge, Proposed by Francesca Delescluse, Seconded by David Hughes

Christine Pelissier, Proposed by Joy Newland, Seconded by Ray Williams.

Joy Newland, Proposed by Peter Aubrey, Seconded by Christine Pelissier.

8. Any Other Business

As there was no further business the Chair announced the closure of the AGM at 10.35am.

SIGNED _____

DATED _____