

## URGENT – FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

First of all, the good news – we have received enough nominations to be able to run a new committee, although there is still room for more.

### BUT

**Despite numerous appeals over the months, we have received no nominations for the essential roles of Chairman or Secretary. Without the appointment of these two Officers our committee will not be able to function, and without a committee there can be no u3a.**

Neither role is particularly onerous and there will be on-going support from the present incumbents and the rest of the committee. With over two hundred members there must be at least two people to take on these roles. One of these two people could be YOU – do not rely on somebody else volunteering.

The Chairman is not a particularly demanding role – the main responsibility is managing the committee. If speaking in public at our monthly meeting is off-putting – simply delegate, the task to somebody else. Part of the Chairman's role is good at delegating!

Similarly, the Secretary's role does not require a degree in business management – just a good Wi-Fi connection and basic keyboard skills. The outgoing secretary will be willing to guide and ease you into the role over a period of time if necessary.

As you are aware, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is being held in a couple of weeks' time. Ideally, nominations should be received before then for these two positions. You do not need any other member to nominate or second you – simply contact the Secretary and put yourself forward.

**Membership of our u3a has never been larger than it is today – it would be a great pity if present and future members lost our u3a through lack of volunteers.**

Now is the time for you to act – contact our Secretary, Howard Stanley either by email – [halstead&districtu3a@gmail.com](mailto:halstead&districtu3a@gmail.com) or by phone 07565 32603. Do it today!

Patricia Bouchier – Chairman  
Howard Stanley – Secretary  
on behalf of Halstead & District u3a Committee



# Twenty Third Annual General Meeting Tuesday 2nd April Halstead & District Queen's Hall Halstead

## Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th April 2023  
*see below*
- 3 Adoption of Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 2nd January 2024  
*see below*
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Trustees Reports  
Chairman  
Honorary Secretary
- 6 Treasurer's Report and examination accounts for 2023 financial year  
*see below*
- 7 Appointment of Officers and Trustees
- 8 Any Other Business

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023

### Officers/Trustees Present

Patricia Bouchier, Chairman, Valerie Lynn, Vice Chairman, Howard Stanley – Hon Secretary, Maggie Butcher, Hon Treasurer, Noreen Metson, Members Secretary, Anne Stewart, Minutes Secretary, Tony Hill, Group Secretary, Christine Thomas, Welfare Officer.

### Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Dave Carbon.

### Minutes of the AGM. of April 2022

The minutes of this meeting had been available to all members.

*Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by Maggie Butcher and seconded by Trevor Beal. This was carried by a majority show of hands.*

### Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

### Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that our u3a has had a successful year. This included the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic, our annual Quiz Night, the

u3a's 40th Anniversary Afternoon Tea and our Christmas Party. We also had entertaining and informative speakers over the year.

Patricia thanked the committee and helpers for their work during the year, particularly when she was out of action.

Thanks go to the Secretary for the regular editions of the Link, which keeps all the members informed of all our activities.

The Group Leaders contribute greatly to the aims of the u3a.

Malcolm and Maggie Swainsbury are stepping down from their role organising the trips and theatre bookings. However they have already arranged the speaker programme for next year.

Jean Wright and Ann Beard have stepped in to arrange outings. The first of these outings will be to the Sandringham Flower Show on July 26th.

Patrick Ashcroft and David Bazley were thanked for providing the audio/visual equipment and maintaining the website.

Valerie and Kathy were thanked for supplying the teas and coffees on arrival.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continued support and encouragement.

### Honorary Secretary's Report

The Hon.Sec spoke of the need for new committee members. Three positions on the committee remain vacant :- Honorary Secretary, Group Secretary and Speaker Secretary.

No nominations have been made for Honorary Secretary. There is a three year limit on the time that an honorary secretary can remain in the role. However, Howard is willing to continue in the position for a further year, after which he must stand down. Therefore, the committee wishes to table a resolution to extend his tenure for a further year, until the next AGM.

*Proposed by Maggie Ashcroft*

*Seconded by Celia Cowling*

*The motion was carried by a show of hands*

As no nominations have been received for Group Secretary and Speaker Secretary, the committee will discuss these vacancies at the next committee meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The membership fee will remain at £15, although an increase might be necessary next year. The Third Age Matters magazine will be £3.60, payable with the membership fee.

The Halstead & District u3a received a grant of £180 towards the Cream Tea and £200 towards the Christmas Party, from Holmes and Hills.

The charge for all social events will be £5 each for those attending, to go towards the cost of the venue.

Accounts are available for all members should they wish to see them.

*Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Viv Hamilton*

*Seconded by Christine Thomas.*

*The motion was carried by a show of hands*

### **Appointment of Independent Auditor.**

Malcolm Wayne will undertake the audit of the accounts.

*Proposed by Maggie Butcher*

*Seconded by Viv Hamilton.*

*The motion was carried by a show of hands.*

### **Election of Officers**

No additional nominations were received from members to join the committee, therefore all serving Officers and Trustees were nominated, seconded and unanimously voted by members.

### **Any Other Business**

None were raised or discussed

The meeting closed at 10.28 am.

## **Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024**

This meeting has been called by the committee to ask members to approve and adopt a new constitution for our u3a.

New rules and regulations have been instigated by the Charities Commission and all charities, registered or otherwise, are now expected to adopt

these as part of their constitution. Although our own u3a is not a registered charity, the u3a, as a movement, is. Therefore, our own u3a is expected to abide by these rules. This is why the update to our own constitution has been based on the u3a Model Constitution of February 2021.

### **Apologies for absence.**

None were received

### **Approval of the following amendment to be made to the u3a Model Constitution dated February 2021.**

Existing Clause 16[8] :- No-one may hold any specific officer position or be an ordinary[non-officer] trustee for a continuous period in excess of 3 years without an interval of at least one year between the periods of service.

To be replaced by:- 16[8] :- The following officers will serve the specified number of years and may not join the committee in any officer role without an interval of one year.

[a] Chairman – 3 years

[b] Secretary – 4 years

[c] Treasurer – 5 years

If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies for Officers, a majority decision can be taken by the Committee to ask the retiring officer[s] to remain in post until the next AGM for a maximum of one year.

This amendment has been submitted to and approved by the u3a Trust.

However, these are the maximum number of years a committee member can serve in these posts. An officer can give notice to retire from their position on the committee at any time, as stated in the new constitution, section 19, clause 4.

*Approval of this amendment was proposed by Maggie Butcher and seconded by Jane Stanley. This was carried by a show of hands.*

To approve and adopt a new constitution for Halstead and District u3a, dated 2nd January 2024.

This constitution is to replace the constitution of Halstead and District u3a, dated 3rd April 2018 and the additional amendment dated 6th April 2021.

*The adoption was proposed by Valerie Lynn and seconded by Pat Newton. This was carried by a show of hands.*

Meeting closed at 10.28am

# Halstead & District U3A

## Statement of Accounts: all accounts

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### Income & Expenditure, 1st January - 31st December

Start year Category	2023 In	Out
-Account Transfers	£3,558.19	£3,558.19
Bridge	£812.25	£797.74
Christmas lunch	£390.00	£390.00
Christmas Party	£475.58	£291.63
Christmas Party Raffle	£100.00	
Cinema & Theatre	£1,610.00	£1,579.00
Cream Tea	£265.00	£292.00
Cream Tea raffle	£82.10	
Donations	£10.00	
Family Research	£345.20	£100.00
Halstead Council grant X		£190.98
Hiking Holidays	£750.00	£750.00
Membership	£3,650.50	£115.00
Monthly Queens Hall hire		£551.56
Monthly Refreshments	£309.19	£223.21
Monthly Speakers		£795.00
Monthly Village draw	£237.00	
Monthly Visitors	£56.00	
Photography	£224.00	£150.00
Postage		£38.18
Prepayments	£479.13	£330.07
Printing & Stationery	£174.00	£505.55
Quiz Night	£245.00	£67.60
Quiz Night raffle	£114.10	£49.32
SumUp cost & chrgs		£51.49
Table Tennis	£566.90	£430.00
Travel Expenses		£73.60
Trips/Outings	£5,008.50	£4,509.50
u3a Beacon charge		£191.53
u3a CLA licence charge		£61.75
u3a Subscription charge X		£607.98
u3a TAM charge	£118.80	£245.30
Wine & Flowers		£20.00
Zoom monthly charges		£184.68
Sub-totals	£19,581.44	£17,150.86
Brought forward	£3,427.13	

Total £5,857.71

### Balance Sheet

Current	£5,857.71
Membership	
Total	£5,857.71 ✓

  
23/2/2024  
Diana Edwards



## April Meeting

The first part of our April Monthly Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting – details of which are included in this issue of [thelink](#).

**Remember – you can only vote at our AGM provided that you have renewed your annual membership subscription by Saturday 30th March.**

Once the business of the day has been completed there will be a short break and then we will welcome our guest speaker, Medium and Physic Judith Hood.

Judith knew for ten years that she was a Medium. Before that she just believed that lots of “spooky” things happened to her! She always had a good story to tell when meeting up with friends owing to strange occurrences happening to herself almost daily.

Judith enjoys speaking on this subject as there are many questions she is always asked as soon as anyone discovers that she is a Medium. She has a great interest in the Paranormal and have many tales to tell. There are plenty of practising Mediums but Judith is not sure that there are many that are willing to simply talk about what they are actually experiencing as they receive communication from those that have passed over.



In addition to her life as a Medium Judith has had a very interesting and varied career which has enabled her to talk with some passion about the pitfalls and joys of having your own business.

But most importantly, following dreadful failure and distress, the huge benefits in being able to get back up, brush oneself down and start again.

*As usual members are asked not to enter the hall until 10am in order for the committee to prepare the hall ready for the meeting and to put the kettle on!*

## News from the u3a Trust



### u3a goes Boom!

We are thrilled to announce that we will be running an advertising campaign with Boom Radio, which has over half a million listeners over the age of 55. The three month campaign will start in April, alongside a u3a social media campaign, and will feature three u3a members sharing their stories about what u3a means to them. If you have fond memories of listening to Radio Caroline, “Wonderful” Radio London or Radio Luxembourg “your station of the stars”, then Boom Radio plays the music of “our generation” You can listen to Boom Radio on DAB radio, smart speaker (Alexa play Boom Radio) or on line and let us the u3a Trust know what you think by emailing [communications@u3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk).

## New Look Magazine

Members who have signed up to receive copies of TAM (Third Age Matters) at the time of renewing their membership for the coming year will soon be receiving a new-look redesigned magazine with its new title, **u3a matters**.

The u3a Trust thanks everyone who gave them your views and ideas about what this should include. The magazine looks amazing and we hope you will enjoy it when it lands on your doorsteps soon.

## Board and Table Games Group

We are a group of nine members at present and meet at the Fox and Herb cafe. Our main aim is to introduce some of the best 21st century games to show the huge advances in modern game design.



When board games are mentioned, Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit usually come to mind and are bought because they are the only ones people have heard of.

The games we play are quite easy to learn but require a lot of thought. They cannot be played as a background to informal conversation. With that in mind they are enjoyable to play because they engage you fully in the game itself.

No one is eliminated during the game and every move may have multiple choices with several ways to win. Even when it is not your turn there is a lot to think about between your turns.

In many games there is a lot to do in too little time, so efficiency is vital. If you enjoy friendly rivalry and a challenge, modern board games deliver the goods.

**Tony Hill.**

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## u3a Travel Club



Our coach trip to Wisley Gardens on May 1st is almost fully booked, at the time of writing there are only 6 places left. Thank you to everyone for supporting us. The u3a meeting on April 2nd is the last time we are able to take payment for prior bookings or new bookings.

Our next exciting coach trip is to Chartwell house, grounds and studio, near Westerham, Kent on Thursday 18 July. This year marks 150 years since Sir Winston Churchill's birth so we thought it fitting to visit the place he called home.

Chartwell has been arranged and decorated as it was the 1930s; make your way through rooms that look as if the family have just left them and see the personal possessions that they kept here.

Explore the largest collection of Churchill's paintings and the gardens and grounds that inspired him.

The gardens are varied and beautiful, from Clementine's Rose Garden to the Kitchen Garden, water features and an orchard. Please note that as this is a hillside location, the garden is partly accessible with steep slopes and steps in places. Seating is available throughout the garden. A virtual tour of the house is available from the Visitor Centre and House.

To complete the day, stop at the Landemare Café for a selection of hot lunches or a lighter choice, while the shop at Chartwell is one of the largest in the National Trust offering a memento of your visit,

seasonal NT ranges, plants and local products.

The cost will be confirmed at the time of booking and National Trust Members have free entrance; please show your membership card when booking and please take it with you on the day. Payment should be made at the time of booking, but the latest date is 25 June please. Cash, or cheques payable to Halstead and District U3A, payment by debit or credit card is possible but please enquire with Ann or Jean on the day.

The coach leaves Butler Road, Halstead at 9.00, arriving at around approx. 11.00am, allowing free time to explore the grounds, Studio and have lunch before entrance to the House timed at 2.00, 2.10 and 2.20 pm. We will leave at around 4.30 with the coach arriving back in Halstead between 6.30 and 7.00pm.

**Ann Beard**  
**Jean Wright**

### Essex Wildlife Trust Braintree Group



#### 'Nightjar Ecology and Migration' An illustrated talk by Greg Conway from the British Trust for Ornithology



**Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**Please arrive from 7:15pm**

**St Andrews Church Hall, Halstead, CO9 2LD**

**£3 donation payable on the day**

**Non-members welcome**

**Please contact Tracey Kay for more details:**  
**Email: [kay.tracey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kay.tracey@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Please check <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/events> for latest information**

**Protecting Wildlife for the Future and for the People of Essex**

Registered charity 210065 2024

[www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk)

## Swan Lake Live at The Empire

Ballet lovers are in for a treat with a live screening of "Swan Lake" performed by the Royal Ballet on Wednesday 24th April 6.30 for 7.15pm with tickets costing £16.50\* (Discount may be available)

Tchaikovsky's classic ballet will be performed by The Royal Ballet. Out hunting, Prince Siegfried chances upon a flock of swans. One among them transforms into the beautiful human Odette and he is immediately enamoured. But Odette is bound by a spell which keeps her captive as a swan during the day. Can Siegfried free her?

Tchaikovsky's sensational score combines with the evocative imagination of choreographer Liam Scarlett and designer John Macfarlane to heighten the dramatic pathos of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's quintessential ballet classic.

If you would like to see this performance please let me know by 2nd April or sign up at the monthly meeting.

Please note that once tickets have been ordered it is not possible to obtain a refund.

**Malcolm Swainsbury**  
[m.swainsbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.swainsbury@hotmail.co.uk)