

**SOAR VALLEY u3a**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 21st November 2023**  
**2.00pm at Normanton on Soar Village Hall**

**The Chairman, Chris Bowerman**, introduced himself and opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to it and pointing out fire exits with Ian Lloyd and Gill Howdle as fire stewards for the afternoon.

1. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were available on the notice board.
2. **Matters arising:** None
3. **Chairman's Report (Chris Bowerman):**  
Chris started his report by likening the Committee to Government. A reshuffle has taken place. Alison Lloyd is moving to run the Outings Team and Chris and the committee were delighted to welcome Ruth Grantham as Social Team representative. Both of them will always be looking for volunteers to lend a hand under their leadership. The carol concert scheduled for 12th December had to be cancelled but the singing group are thinking about a Spring concert instead. Chris told the meeting that an open day/coffee morning was planned for Friday 19th January 2024 and invited Ruth to tell them about it. It will be held from 11am to 1pm in the village hall at East Leake. Representatives will be on hand with information about their groups and it is hoped to attract non members in as well as being a social occasion for members. Following this on 17th February East Leake village hall will host another "Meet Your Village" event and we will be represented there too. There will be a u3a Festival in York from 18th-20th July with a buffet supper on the first day and an emphasis on fun. The First Aid Course held earlier in the month was very good and another course opportunity was offered by the organisers if there is any interest. Six members have already expressed an interest and anyone else wishing to take part should contact Brian Hanners. An email has been received from an organisation offering us a workshop aimed at older drivers. Driving is an activity that, as with many things, changes with age and circumstances and afterwards, if anyone is interested there will be the opportunity to drive, accompanied by an instructor, who can give feedback.
4. **Secretary's Report (Mike Sharpe):** Nothing to report
5. **Treasurer's Report (Gill Howdle):** The current balance is £6494.17 which includes £412 ticket sales for the Christmas Carvery.
6. **Membership Report (Marilyn Wood):** Current membership 344, an increase of 8 members since the last meeting.
7. **Group Co-ordinator's Report (Ian Lloyd):** Ian reminded members about the open day in January and the opportunity to speak to group contacts. There are currently vacancies in the Photography Group, Walking Group 2, Derbyshire Dales walking group and Strollers.
8. **Social Team (Alison Lloyd):** 94 places have been booked for the Christmas Carvery on 1st December and Alison reminded members that this general meeting was the last opportunity to book a place.
9. **Outings Team (Alison Lloyd):** Alison reported that three day trips were being considered and any ideas from members would be useful and very welcome.
10. **Any Other Business:** None

Chris introduced the speakers for the afternoon, our own members Wendy and Rob Miller with "Meccano - a Hobby for Life".

A vote of thanks was given and refreshments served.