

WADHURST U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021 in Wadhurst Commemoration Hall at 2:15 pm

Committee Members Present: Jacqui Harman (JH) Chair, Paul G. Brown (PB), John O'Dwyer (JD), Mike King (MK), Sheila King (SK) Pamela Coyne (PC0), Philip Cheung (PCH), Sheila Jemmett (SJ), Norwill Hazell (NH) and 63 members.

1. Apologies for absence: Jane Austin, Suzanne Munday, Sylvia Fawcett, Marianne Lucas and Barbara Quick.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (published on the website):
Accepted as a true and accurate record by a poll of attendees.

3. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 (published on the website):

JH presented the following report:

Looking back over the past year I would like to share some of my observations and comments with you.

Speaker Meetings

It is a great relief that we are at last able to resume our monthly speaker meetings here in the refurbished Commemoration Hall but equally we have enjoyed a number of entertaining speakers via Zoom. In collaboration with Mayfield U3A we have welcomed their members to share our talks and they in turn have welcomed us to attend their Zoom speaker meetings. You will have noticed that our speaker meetings are now scheduled for the third **Thursday** of each month. This is due to the Commemoration Hall no longer being available to us for our usual Wednesday slot and this despite Philip having made a valiant effort to find a solution to the problem. Our speakers for the next year have all been rescheduled for our Thursday meetings and details can be found on the website. However, I would like to draw your attention to 2 dates. The Christmas meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th December and the meeting on the 27th January is on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Groups

I am incredibly proud of the ingenuity and determination of you all in finding ways for the groups to continue to meet during the restrictions placed on us because of the pandemic. Whether by meeting on people's patios, in pub gardens or via Zoom. I can understand book clubs and scrabble via Zoom but Wine Tasting by Zoom? The mind boggles but clearly it can be done. Not to be deterred the intrepid Gardening Group ventured forth to the West Country to visit various gardens with overnight stays and plans are afoot for next year for a five-day, four-night trip in June visiting the new RHS garden in Bridgewater and Harlow Carr as well as various one day trips to gardens of interest.

Historic Buildings Visits Group met in October to discuss plans for visits for next year. Since the retirement of Elizabeth Taylor as convenor of HBV members of the group have taken it in turn to organise visits and volunteers have already stepped forward to continue this trend for the next year, but I would ask that other group members also

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consider organising a trip. It might not be as daunting as you imagine, and I am sure you will receive help and guidance from those who have already done so. HBV is also in need of a Convenor who is first contact for information about the group. Please do consider volunteering for this position.

I would like to officially put on record our grateful thanks to Elizabeth Taylor for all her dedication and hard work in organising so many of the past hugely successful and enjoyable visits and guiding HBV to the popular success that it is today.

Membership

Our current membership stands at 254.

Last year the Trustees took the decision, due to the restrictions placed on gatherings, to suspend membership subscriptions; a move that was warmly welcomed. However, I'm afraid the holiday period is over, and I am reminding those of you who have yet to pay that your subscription is overdue, and should you wish, Pam, our membership secretary, will gladly relieve you of your money today!

Looking forward it is hoped that it will soon be possible for social gatherings to begin again. This will obviously depend on the Covid situation and, as always, your health and safety are of paramount importance.

PB presented the following report on the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts has been on the website for the last two months. It has been an unusual year as we made the decision to give everyone a subscription holiday due to COVID preventing us from having face to face meetings. However, we still had costs to pay such as capitation fees payable to Head Office and the costs of our quarterly magazine. The Reserves stand at a healthy £3,777 but approximately £1,600 of that amount relates to deposits being held for future visits.

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 were unanimously accepted by a poll of the attendees.

4. Election of Officers:

JH took the chair:

The following members were elected to the positions indicated by the unanimous decision carried out by a poll of the attendees:

Philip Cheung (PCH) Chair

John O'Dwyer (JD) Vice Chair

Sheila King (SK) Treasurer

Mike King (MK) Business Secretary

Pamela Coyne (PCO) Committee Member

Sheila Jemmett (SJ) Committee Member

Norwill Hazell (NH) Committee Member

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All existing members are standing except Jacqui Harman and Paul Brown.
JH then introduced PCH who took over the Chair.

PCH thanked both JH and PB for their services. JH had been a founder member of the Wadhurst U3A and will be greatly missed especially for organising many successful social functions. PB has been Treasurer for 6 years.
He and JD made presentations of gifts to both.

5. Retirement of Independent Examiner:

Mr John Francis has decided to retire as the Charity's Independent Examiner.
A vote of thanks and presentation was given for his past services.

6. Any Other Business

PCH made a general request to members asking them to come forward and volunteer to stand on the Committee and as Group Convenors.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 14:40.

Mike King
Business Secretary
Wadhurst U3A