

**HADDENHAM U3A**

**Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 13 June 2023**

**at 2.15pm at The Village Hall, Haddenham**

**Chairman’s Welcome:** The Chairman, Sally Lajalati, welcomed 100 members.

**Apologies for absence:** Mary Kiff, Annette and Bob Marsden, Christine and Keith Wheeler-Cherry, Barry and Sue Wood, Dorothy Robson, Pauline Deeprose, Judy Wildgoose, Bill Piers, Jill and Ken Gilham, Richard Harper, Mike and Stacey Mingos, David and Joyce Lindsey, Barry Mills, Sylvia Eyles, Peter and Alice Gillespy, and Brian and Delia Bilbey.

**Minutes of the AGM held on 10 May 2022:** These were proposed by Kevin Hourigan and seconded by Richard Withey and carried nem con.

**Chairman’s report: “**Those of you who attended last years AGM may remember our speaker, Dr. Kathryn Harkup who gave us an excellent talk entitled A is for Arsenic, taking a forensic look at the perils and pitfalls of poisons, as seen in Agatha Christie’s novels. I’m happy to be able to report that following this there was not a spate of murder by poison in Haddenham.

Another busy year for our u3a. As well as meeting regularly to plan and keep things running smoothly your Committee has been very busy reviewing the following policies: Privacy, Data Protection, Equality and Safeguarding. These are now on our website along with the new Accessibility Policy. We have also updated our advertising posters and leaflets, so do look out for them around the village.

Our u3a continues to offer an extensive range of activities to stimulate mind, body and soul. Suffice to say there has been a lot of learning, laughing and living happening.

Some changes to our interest groups this year

Doreen Barker stepped down as leader of the Gardening group which is now being run by a committee of Sarah Darnell, Howard Roberts, Lynne Roberts, Joyce Riley, Barry Wood, Sue Wood and myself.

Roger Rickard stepped down as leader of the film group

Carol Mason stepped down as liaison with Greater Thame for Digital Photography

Annette Marsden – Friday and Sunday lunches is stepping down in the autumn and we are looking for someone to take this over as it is a very popular group,

We had a new group, Movers, an exercise class, led by Linda Page

The Theatre Group was resurrected led by Joy Dyson.

Many of the groups in addition to having speakers arranged outings to a wide variety of places.

16 Long Distance Walking group members have just completed the tenth and final stage of The Ridgeway, walking 90 miles from Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon

The Tuesday Walking Group enjoyed many pleasant walks including a circular walk in glorious weather at Waddesdon and a pretty September walk through wooded paths and fine views of classic Chiltern landscape and architecture in the region around Penn, near Beaconsfield.

The Technical Group visited the British Motor Museum, had a backstage visit to the Waterside Theatre and a visit to Quainton Windmill — one of the oldest tower mills in the country

The History Group visited the gardens of Thame Park. Roderick Floud introduced us to its history from the time it was the Cistercian Thame Abbey and had excellent visit to the Buckinghamshire Museum for a guided tour of its buildings.

The Wine Tasting Group visited the Chafor vineyard in Gawcott near Buckingham, where the first vines were planted on the 23-acre estate in 2003

OWF have their regular Sunday lunches, a regular quiz team and theatre visits

The Gardening Groups first visit of the season was to Chesham Bois House and the group also visited Red Kites at Bledlow Ridge, a superb hillside garden, with cascading terraces looking out over the Chiltern Hills and Lords Wood near Marlow Common, a property that has been described as “an outpost of Old Bloomsbury in Marlow Woods”

For our avid readers we now have three book groups. I hope you enjoy the reviews that they write for our newsletter.

And our Square Dancing group celebrated 10 years of dancing.

Members also holidayed together, cycling in the Rhine valley, walking in Dovedale and, coming up in September, our tour of the D Day landing beaches

We have had a variety of excellent speakers at our General Meetings.

Our Jubilee General Meeting in last June hit the right notes, thanks to the talents of multi-instrumentalist Adrian Broadway and his Sounds of the Sixties. Adrian took us back with songs and memories. Our Best Celebratory Hat competition was won by Mary Pritchard who enjoyed a cream tea at the Haddenham Garden Centre as her prize, but congratulations must go to all our entrants who took part.

Members enjoyed hearing about Secrets, Sex and Scandal at the Royal Court with Sarah Slater, guide and lecturer at Hampton Court Palace wearing a 1720s court dress, keeping us spellbound with salacious gossip from the period 1660-1830.

Christopher Baines gave a detailed illustrated account of the life and works of the artist Paul Nash, renowned for his landscapes of the First World War including his affinity for the Wittenham Clumps

As you know, as a mark of respect for the passing of HM The Queen, we cancelled our September General Meeting. In tribute to her late majesty our Writers Group wrote a selection of poems and prose.

Martin Lloyd’s 23 years in HM Immigration Service gave him many insights into the chequered history of the British passport which he share with us in his talk Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies

Graham Horn told us about The Thankful Villages of the Great War and how the First World War impacted all communities up and down the country, with only a very few able to welcome home all their fighting men.

Our Christmas meeting was a lively affair with Christmas Prose, Poetry and seasonal singing and of course Prosecco and seasonal refreshments.

We travelled the world with Wildlife Photographer Tom Way who shared his images of Tooth Claw and Mane Life in the Wild, and sailed from Bali to Komodo with Zoologist Sarah Frost. In contrast we sat by Mr Garricks fireside hearing about the history of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane from Pete Allen, Director of arts charity The RC Sherriff Trust, and heard from Cartoonist Robert Duncan about his dubious way of making an occasionally successful living.

In May we had our Coronation Celebration Tea, with readings from all corners of the UK, and a wonderful afternoon tea was much enjoyed by all our members. Thank you to all the members who entered our cake competition and congratulations to winner Chris Wheeler Cherry.

We continued to support our local community and maintain our profile, taking part in various community events: The summer scarecrow festival, I hope you’ve seen our entry this year, Cat in the hat meets Puss in Boots, the Christmas Light Trail and the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. I attended the village Remembrance Day service, laying a wreath at the war memorial. I know also that many of our members volunteer for different organisations in the village and two of our members, Jeanne Watt and Mary White had an invitation to Buckingham Palace recently in recognition of their voluntary work with the FISH scheme.

In the wider U3A community, Zoom events organised by TVN and TAT proved popular with members. We continue to maintain a close association with CHaTTR and the Aylesbury Liaison Group.

By the end of the year our membership was standing at 434 with 47 new members signing up over the year. So I think you will agree that our u3a has had a very successful year.

For this I would like to thank those people who work so hard to keep our u3a running.

Our very hardworking committee

Elaine Parkes our membership secretary who very efficiently carries out all the many tasks this role involves, including organising the volunteers for registration at the General Meeting.

Angela Hart who books our excellent speakers and ensured that we had a wide range of topics - something for everyone indeed.

Doreen Barker our Interest Group Organiser. Our 30 + Interest Groups cover a wide range of subjects.

Mary Paterson for keeping us well refreshed at the General Meetings, especially our celebratory events and for organising the volunteers who help.

Linda Page for her Welfare Role,

David Ackroyd our very efficient Treasurer who keeps our finances in order.

Tony Barker our very efficient Secretary who keeps us in order.

Janet Mills who joined the committee last year and became our Deputy Chairman and part of our newsletter editorial team.

Fiona Chester who also joined the committee this year and became our Publicity Officer maintaining our profile in the village and beyond and becoming part of our newsletter editorial team.

At this point I should mention that Tony and David have both said that they will continue in their current roles for 1 more year so we are seeking people to take on these roles.

I would also like to thank those of our members who volunteer for a range of things.

Our Interest Group Leaders. Without them there would be no groups.

Geoff Parkes who continues to maintain our data base.

Those who help with registration, chairs, technical support, and teas.

Jonathan Hawkins for managing our website. Do explore it as we hope that you will find it interesting and informative.

Mike and Sally Phillips who deliver our newsletter to those members without email.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people on our committee, as well as members who are prepared to put their time and effort into organising such a wide range of activities and ensure that our general meetings run smoothly and our U3A continues to thrive. Can we show our appreciation by giving them a round of applause. Thank you.

Finally I would like to say how much I enjoy being a member of our u3a and how much I have enjoyed being Chairman. It has been a privilege to work with our wonderful committee who have always been so supportive and committed to ensuring our u3a runs smoothly and I would like to say a big thank you to them all. I look forward to continuing to be part of our thriving and friendly u3a. Thank you”.

**Treasurer’s report:** David Ackroyd presented his report as Treasurer providing an overview of the finances since the last AGM in May 2022.

* The Annual Report for 2022/23 showed income of £14,876 and outgoings of £15,674.
* Major events in 2022/23 were the Queen Elizabeth Celebration, the purchase of a new laptop computer, increases in bank charges, and ongoing improvements to the Village Hall
* Investments planned for 2023/24 include continued investment in the Village Hall venue, ongoing welfare activities and the Coronation Celebration held in May.
* The current state of account shows a balance as at 31st March 2023 of £19,369, less current liabilities of £6,019, giving total net assets of £13,350.
* The detailed accounts were exhibited at the meeting.

Acceptance of the Treasurer’s report was proposed by David Gregory and seconded by Linda Axford and carried nem con.

**Examiner of accounts:** Colin Furlong has agreed to continue in this role and this was unanimously ratified.

**Election of the Committee:**

**Chairman**:

* It was reported that Sally Lajalati is stepping down as Chairman, having held the post since May 2018. She has indicated however, that she is prepared to continue serving on the Committee.
* In her place Janet Mills has offered to take over as Chairman, so that will mean there will again be a vacancy for the Deputy Chairman role.
* Janet Mills’ election as Chairman was proposed by Jenny Watkins and seconded by Judy Brandis and carried nem con.

**Other Committee Members**:

* Annette Marsden has volunteered to join the Committee and a nomination form has been completed for her.
* David Ackroyd will be standing down as Treasurer at the end of this financial year i.e. April 2024 and also the Examiner of Accounts will stand down at the same time.
* Tony Barker intends to stand down as Secretary at the next AGM.
* The current Committee members: David Ackroyd, Doreen Barker, Tony Barker, Fiona Chester, Angela Hart, Sally Lajalati, Janet Mills, Linda Page, Elaine Parkes and Mary Paterson have all agreed to continue as Trustees.
* Their re-election, together with Annette Marsden was proposed by Richard Withey and seconded by Gayton Jordan and carried nem con.

**Any other business:** There was no other business and the AGM concluded at 2.35pm.

The AGM was followed by a presentation by Dr Martin Holmes on “Harold Macmillan: A Reputation Revised”.