

Minutes of the HWu3a AGM held on Monday 25th March 2024 at 10.30am in the Methodist Church main hall

Present: Ian Webb (Chair), Liz Brett (Groups Facilitator), Pamela Costall (Business Secretary), Robert Davison (Premises Officer), Louise Elsome (Minutes Secretary/Vice Chair), Clare Heaton (Treasurer), Jack Horton (Marketing Officer/Vice Chair), Linda Reed (Membership Secretary)

Pamela Costall welcomed all attendees to the HWu3a AGM.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Pauline Asprey, Sheila Pendered, Kevin Millard, Carole Winfield.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th March 2023:** Approved and signed off by Ian Webb. No Matters Arising.
3. **Annual Report of u3a activities:** Reports from the Chair and other Trustees were circulated pre-AGM.
4. **Financial Report and Examined Accounts for the previous year:** Report and Accounts were previously circulated by the outgoing Treasurer, Andrew West. Pamela Costall thanked Andrew for all his hard work during his term as Treasurer.
5. **Members' Questions** (previously tabled, no questions taken on the day): No questions submitted. Pamela Costall requested that questions may be noted on the Committee table for trustees to consider and respond to in due course.
6. **Election of new Committee:** Pamela Costall led the voting process. Voting had already taken place online and by post, and the AGM was declared to be quorate. Members in attendance who had not already voted, placed their votes at the meeting in 2 block votes (69 votes for Chair, 69 votes for Committee).
The following trustees were elected:
 - Chair - Ian Webb
 - Business Secretary - Pamela Costall
 - Treasurer - Clare Heaton
 - Premises & Accessibility Officer - Robert Davison
 - Groups Facilitator - Liz Brett
 - Publicity & Marketing Officer - Jack Horton
 - Membership Secretary - Linda Reed
 - Minutes Secretary - Louise Elsome
7. **Message from the Chair:** Ian Webb thanked everyone for attending and reported that the previous year had been a successful one, while the HWu3a membership had grown

by 22% since its launch in 2022. The number of new groups has also increased, while the HWu3a Facebook Group and YouTube Channel have both expanded. A new flyer, designed to promote HWu3a at community events and venues, was made available at the AGM.

The Chair expressed his thanks to all trustees and gave a particular mention to Andrew West for the work he has put into establishing an efficient financial system and for his ongoing commitment to HWu3a. Clare Heaton was welcomed in her new role as Treasurer and as part of the trustee team. The Chair thanked the following volunteers whose support is essential for the smooth running of meetings and other activities: Adriana White (New Groups Facilitator), Stephen Joy (Webmaster), Dave Martin (co-editor of the Magazine with Jack Horton, Speaker Secretary), Maryan Richardson (Trips/Holidays), Sharon Webb (STARS Coordinator), Refreshment and Meeters & Greeters Teams, Helen Salisbury (Publicity Officer) and Steve Elsome (Monthly Meeting Set-up). A final thanks went to all HWu3a Group Coordinators who give of their time, energy and expertise to ensure that groups run efficiently and members enjoy the various activities.

The Chair emphasised that all the above are volunteers, as are the trustees whose responsibility it is, as a charity-run organisation under the aegis of 'The Charities Commission', to ensure that statutory regulations and procedures are followed. Some trustees will be standing down in 2025 and these positions must be filled if HWu3a is to continue; plans will be put in place to encourage members to get involved. The Chair expressed some disappointment that, occasionally, HWu3a receives criticism from some members who are reluctant to participate more fully, but fortunately many positive comments are received which are much appreciated.

The Committee is committed to raising the profile of HWu3a in the local community by working collaboratively with other organisations, including 'Creative Harborough'. Another aim is to establish a fund which will assist HWu3a interest groups so that they, and HWu3a as a whole, can benefit. **Action:** The Treasurer will contact all Group Coordinators in the near future regarding funding.

Finally, the Chair reiterated the benefits of being a u3a member, citing the range of activities provided which enable all to learn and enjoy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50 am. The next AGM will be held in March 2025.