

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Midhurst u3a held on Tuesday 21 May 2024 in the Methodist Church Hall, Midhurst, at 2.30pm

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Angela Campbell-Horne, Anna Acke, Pete Carver, Kate & John Cox, Frank & Carolyn Davies, Rosemary Doran, Isabel Fraser, Heather Glass, Alison Highton, Susan Hughes, Sue Walchli.
2. The minutes of the last AGM on 16 May 2023 had been circulated to all members. Acceptance of those was proposed by Ted Liddle and seconded by Fran Cooper and agreed unanimously by those present. There were 62 members present.
3. The Chairman, Di Ponting, announced this was her last report as Chairman of Midhurst u3a and she would like to thank the Committee and all the members for their support over the last few years. She introduced the 2023/24 Committee - Odette Marshall, Vice-Chairman and Groups Co-ordinator; Jeannine Murphy, Membership Secretary; Denise Barre, Speakers Secretary; Ian Woodhams Social Events Organiser; Penny Holland, Business Secretary and Website Editor. Sue Edwards had joined the Committee and leads the RUG – Really Useful Group. Carol Brinson was the Treasurer and editor of What's On? Carol was stepping down from the Committee and Di introduced John White, who was co-opted in February and has agreed to be the new Treasurer. Di thanked Pauline Guppy who stood down as Minutes Secretary in March.  
Di explained that the Committee really needs extra members. There will be only 7 Committee members at the start of 2024/25, rather than the full complement of 10.  
Di thanked the members of the RUG group for all they do - from delivering envelopes to putting out the chairs and welcoming new members. Di reported it is sometimes proving hard to find volunteers to serve the refreshments at monthly meetings. She thanked Fran for helping on the front desk to register members and Bruce, Val and Pete, for running the AV system at our monthly talks.  
Before the Pandemic, our membership stood at over 420. Our numbers fell dramatically but has steadily increased to 398 members this year. If we want to continue to increase our membership, then we will need to expand the number of groups we offer. We started the year with 39 groups. New groups, such as Bridge and Mah Jong, are flourishing, Di thanked the Group Leaders, who work so hard leading and organising our groups and also to members who offer their homes as venues for groups.  
At the Committee's annual Away Day, we looked at who we might approach to join us and this has been an on-going discussion. We also looked at the range of groups. In July of last year, 39% of the then 345 members were regular attendees of at least one group.  
Odette organised a business meeting for group leaders when a risk assessment group activity was undertaken, before a delicious tea was served.  
The entrance fee for the monthly talk was last increased in 2011/12 and the annual membership fee was last increased in 2010. A working party has been formed with the task of producing recommendations.  
Di thanked the Outings Sub-Committee – Christine Musgrove, Tricia Stephens, Maggie Rhodes, Judy Fowler and Peter Moss, who organised several interesting trips, including visits to Corsham, Kelmscott, Leighton House and the V & A, Salisbury Christmas Market and to 5 Wren churches and Clerkenwell Priory London and to see 'The Circle' during the year. Di thanked Maggie Rhodes who stood down from the Sub-Committee in March for all her help. She also thanked Bernard Allan who took a party to see 'Madame Butterfly'.  
Several events had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales, caused partly due to impact of The Angel fire. The Christmas Lunch at the Unicorn was very well supported as was 30th Anniversary celebration lunch. A Coffee Morning for prospective members, in September, was very well attended and several people joined.  
Carol Brinson revived our Study Day in October. 3 speakers explored how nature and landscape are illustrated by artists and photographers. Thank you to everyone involved in putting the study day on.  
There have been a wide variety of speakers at our monthly meetings including Andy Thomas, and Jim Buttress. Di thanked David Rudwick for stepping in when the booked speakers were unable to come.  
The Committee reviewed the Health and Safety Policy and the fire evacuation procedures. They work so hard to ensure Midhurst u3a continues to flourish and grow. Midhurst u3a is run by the members for the members. Di wished them well.
4. Carol Brinson presented her report, copies of which had been left on the chairs in the hall. There were no questions, and Ted Liddle proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Ian Woodhams.
5. Carol recommended that the subscription charge should remain at £10pa (£6 for members who are fully subscribed members of another u3a) for 2024/5, It was proposed by Ted Liddle and seconded by Fran Cooper, and this was unanimously agreed.
6. She thanked David Earley for examining the accounts and confirmed that he has agreed to continue as independent examiner. This appointment was proposed by Pauline Guppy and seconded by Peter Moss.
7. Penny Holland advised members that no nominations had been received for committee vacancies. She said that as previously indicated Di Ponting and Carol Brinson were stepping down, but all other existing committee members have agreed to carry on for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously having been proposed by Andrea Fox and seconded by Jeanna Bruggen.
8. There were no items under any other business and the formal AGM closed.

Bouquets and small gifts were presented to Di Ponting and Carol Brinson in recognition of their long years of service and significant contribution to Midhurst u3a. Di then introduced Dr Ian Goodall to give a talk on "The man who saved the lives of a million children – Frederick Banting and the discovery of insulin".