



SILHILL u3a

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 4th APRIL, 2025

AT SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH, SOLIHULL

Officers In attendance:

Mike Nelson-Smith (MNS) - Chairman
Adrian Holcroft (AH) - Vice-chairman

Apologies:

Judith Hetherington (JH) - Treasurer
Linda Hornby (LH) - Business Secretary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Linda Griffiths (LG) - Membership Secretary
Kath Hall (KH) - Speaker Secretary
Marcia Legg (ML) - Gardening Group Co-ordinator
Geoff Williams (GW) - Webmaster
Wendy Westley (WW) - Liaison Officer

1.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:</u> - a) The Chairman welcomed the members to the thirteenth AGM and made the usual housekeeping announcements. b) Committee Member apologies for Linda Hornby and Judith Hetherington were given.	<u>ACTION</u>
2.	<u>MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:</u> - a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 th April 2024 had been available online and hard copies were available for members to read at this meeting if required and were therefore taken as read. b) There were no matters arising so the Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.	
3.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:</u> - This year has seen the transfer from the old Site Builder web site to the Siteworks platform and we are indebted to Geoff Williams and Marylou Jeffs for all their hard work, which I think has resulted in a much more user friendly and informative web site. Geoff is standing down this year, after many years of service as Webmaster, and his position is being taken over by Marylou Jeffs and Bryan Pooley, with assistance from Derek Giles and Alan Faulkner on the sound and other systems in the Church. MNS presented GW with a gift as a token of u3a's thanks for his years of service. MNS stated that the fact that 4 people had volunteered to take over gave some indication of the amount of work Geoff had done and he deserved our gratitude for this.	

	Linda Griffiths had also worked tirelessly to support the committee and she also merited u3a's thanks, on completion of her term of office. Bryan Pooley has very kindly agreed to take over this role too, so he was going to be busy on Silhill's behalf. MNS was grateful for the efficient and friendly work of Linda Hornby as Business Secretary and Judith Hetherington for her work as Treasurer. Adrian Holbrook had adopted a much more structured approach to the Vice Chairman's post than MNS managed and would leave him to comment on the hard work carried out by the co-ordinators of the groups and events, which remain the most popular aspect of U3A for many of the members. The core meetings continue to be well attended, with a good variety of speakers found by Kath Hall. Wendy Westley had worked constantly in her liaison role and on the desk at core meetings. One of the main reasons for the core meeting popularity may be the hard-working catering team managed by Julie Lefevre, and MNS was grateful to them and to Sue Gibbs and the new team who were taking over. MNS took this opportunity to remind everyone that Riviera Travel offers a rebate of 10% to u3a, most of which is credited to the individual u3a, but they must be told when booking (by using a code that they provide) and make it clear that it is Silhill u3a to be credited (as they get confused with the names) and ideally tell (in confidence) our treasurer or the Chairman how much the holiday cost so that we can follow it up to ensure we get the credit which helps to keep fees low. Silhill was fortunate in having so many members prepared to help. MNS has heard of many other u3a's struggling to find enough to fill the posts, but new people are still needed ready to step forward and anyone interested was encouraged to have a word with MNS or any committee member.	
4.	<u>LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT: -</u> The role of Liaison Officer is to connect the Committee to members, and often involves contact after prolonged absence, ill health or a significant event. Most members have appreciated my being in touch and I am aware many absences from the monthly core meeting are because members have family commitments, go on holiday or are just busy. They do appreciate being missed though. Silhill u3a is a friendly and supportive organisation and much support is done between members for which the Committee is very grateful. In the past year, I have sent 15 cards, telephoned or messaged 39 times, and sent 60 emails. I have also made 4 visits. Please feel free to contact me, Wendy Westley, through the website if you feel a member needs additional support. Thank you.	
5.	<u>VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: -</u> Attendees were asked to fill in forms indicating areas of interest and suggestions for new groups. 79 completed forms were handed in and the results will be presented at the next core meeting. Reporting on the events of the year;	

	- Two new groups have been added - an additional Book Group as the existing book groups were at capacity, and the Supper Club was started. Hopefully over the next year another couple of new groups could be added. - The Curry club had been run for several years by Peter Patrick and Sue Gibbs but this year they are both stepping down. Sue was taking over the catering role and Peter Patrick said that he would continue to support the Curry Club which would be coordinated by Chris Stajka. Both Peter and Sue were thanked for all the work they have put in over the years. Several Group leaders spoke about their groups: - - Art Appreciation Group - Collette Higgins, who promoted the upcoming outing on 9th May to Birmingham Art Gallery. - Bookworms - Dot Emm. There were vacancies in the new Bookworms Group 3 - Cribbage - Barry Toft. New members were welcome to join. - Wine Appreciation Group - Marg Toft. - Events and trips - Chris Cronin. Details were given of upcoming trips and events. CC thanked his team (the Magnificent Seven) for all their hard work. - Family History Group - Jenny Hardmann. Free access to various Family History websites and meetings will be held on Monday starting in May. - Gardening Group - Marcia Legg. Upcoming trips were mentioned and subs due. - Gin tasting - Marylou Jeffs. - Supper Club - Jill Woodford. - Table Tennis Club - Derek Giles. Held in conjunction with Dorridge u3a,. Promotes Mental and physical health. The remaining Groups - the Bridge Group, Historical figures, Luncheon, Poetry Appreciation and Rummikub Groups were mentioned and the Group co-ordinators and assistants thanked for their contribution. All details for the above were available on the website Silhill.u3asite.uk	
6.	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT: -</u> a) It had been a busy and successful year for Silhill u3a. The groups had been busy and there were a significant number of activities which generated over £50,000 of income. Membership subscriptions amounted to £3,790 which was an increase of £38 from the prior year, because of a slight increase in membership. The Silhill u3a is in a strong financial position, which is reflected by groups whose were well supported during the year. Silhill U3A Funds at the yearend amounted to £7,944. The aim of all groups is to break even for all activities and therefore £5,654 of the yearend balance represents timing differences for groups activities, with the expenditure being paid after the year end. The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 were approved. b) The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 were being completed but there were delays in auditing and these would be presented later this year.	
7.	<u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: -</u> At the beginning of the year April 2024, there were 184 members. From April 2024 to date, 20 new members had joined us. However, 10 left therefore there are now 194 members. In real terms membership had grown by 10.	

	Attendance at the core meetings was on average 115. Absences averaged 73, which worked out at approx. 61% of regular monthly attendance at core meetings. These figures were very good compared to some u3as. There were 4 people who had shown an interest in joining in May. Enquiries were regularly received from interested parties - who very often have friends or relatives already in Silhill u3a. Other u3a groups in the Solihull area had vacancies and potential members were always informed of this fact. LG thanked those who have sent apologies when unable to attend. The Membership Secretary could always be contacted through the website or by telephone. New diary/program cards would be available at the May Core Meeting if subs have been paid for the coming year. LG reminded members that it would be useful if members could please let the registration team know if you are aware of any members who are ill, and this information will be passed on to our Liaison Committee Member, Wendy Westley. At the date of the meeting there was no-one on the waiting list, however, depending on how many interested parties can be realistically accepted into membership of Silhill u3a, the waiting list would be reinstated when necessary. All existing members who had not paid their membership fees at the meeting would be contacted and these members will have until the next Core Meeting on 3rd May to renew their membership. New membership badges would be given to members when payment was made and which will be the receipt for payment. To make identification easier: • Committee Officers would have orange badges • Committee Members would have green badges. • New members would have a yellow badge. LG thanked all members for wearing their membership badges - it made registration much quicker and helped to learn names.																	
8.	<u>WEBMASTER’S REPORT: -</u> GW reported that after 13 years as Webmaster it had been a pleasure to be involved with such an active and friendly U3a. It was time to hand over the mouse to someone else. Over the last two years Marylou Jeffs and GW had been involved in the new Web site project and he gave a big thank you to her for all her help. Marylou would take over the role of Web Administrator with the assistance of Bryan Poole. Alan Faulkner and Derek Giles would assist the Speaker Secretary to ensure Silhill u3a continues to enjoy the wonderful speakers. He also I thanked the u3a committee for their support and encouragement during his time as Webmaster.																	
9.	<u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025-2026: -</u> <table><tr><td><u>Post</u></td><td><u>Name</u></td><td><u>Proposed by</u></td><td><u>Seconded by</u></td></tr><tr><td>Membership Secretary</td><td>Bryan Pooley</td><td>Mike Nelson-Smith</td><td>Wendy Westley</td></tr><tr><td>Liaison</td><td>Wendy Westley</td><td>Linda Hornby</td><td>Adrian Holbrook</td></tr><tr><td>Website Administrator</td><td>Marylou Jeffs</td><td>Linda Griffiths</td><td>Marcia Legg</td></tr></table> All were duly elected.	<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	Membership Secretary	Bryan Pooley	Mike Nelson-Smith	Wendy Westley	Liaison	Wendy Westley	Linda Hornby	Adrian Holbrook	Website Administrator	Marylou Jeffs	Linda Griffiths	Marcia Legg	
<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>															
Membership Secretary	Bryan Pooley	Mike Nelson-Smith	Wendy Westley															
Liaison	Wendy Westley	Linda Hornby	Adrian Holbrook															
Website Administrator	Marylou Jeffs	Linda Griffiths	Marcia Legg															

10.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</u> - There was none	
11.	<u>DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:</u> - The next AGM will be held on 3 rd July 2026.	

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....