



SILHILL u3a

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 3rd July, 2026

AT SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH, SOLIHULL

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Nelson-Smith	(MNS)	-	Chairman
Adrian Holcroft	(AH)	-	Vice-chairman
Judith Hetherington	(JH)	-	Treasurer
Linda Hornby	(LH)	-	Business Secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryan Pooley	(BP)	-	Membership Secretary
Kath Hall	(KH)	-	Speaker Secretary
Marcia Legg	(ML)	-	Gardening Group Co-ordinator
Marylou Jeffs	(MLJ))	-	Web Administrator
Wendy Westley	(WW)	-	Liaison Officer
Chris Cronin	(CC)	-	Trips and Events Group Co-ordinator

1.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: -</u> a) The Chairman welcomed the members to the fourteenth AGM and made the usual housekeeping announcements. b) The Chairman apologised for the absence of two of the proposed new Committee members who had already made their holiday arrangements before agreeing to take on the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman.
2.	<u>MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: -</u> a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2025 were 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> - MNS reported that again, this had been a very busy year with a rich and varied programme organised by the interest group leaders. These included visits to Normandy beaches, a concert at St Paul's Cathedral, visiting Concord at Manchester Airport, a guided tour of Oxford Colleges, visiting the costume department at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, eating afternoon tea on a steam train in Staffordshire and having an interesting tour around a Sherborne recycling plant. - The Gardening Group also visited a number of places including Hergest Croft Gardens, Aston Pottery, Baddesley Clinton, Hidcote Manor Gardens. Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Wightwick Manor and Morton Hall. The group's annual holiday this year was visiting a number of gardens in Wales which was a great success. - The Core meetings had continued 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.

	There are a number of Committee members standing down this year including Adrian Holbrook, Wendy Westley and Chris Cronin. MNS thanked them for all their hardwork in each of their roles. MNS was not seeking to be re-elected and he had enjoyed his time as Chair and would like to thank all the Committee members, but especially Judith Hetherington and Linda Hornby, for supporting him during his time in the chair.
4.	<u>VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: -</u> - AH reported that there had been no changes in any of the groups since the last AGM when there were a few changes to announce. The various groups had all been well attended and the Group Co-ordinators had continued to run things smoothly and efficiently as ever. - Looking forward, however, there would be some changes affecting the Arts and Culture Group and the Gardening group in the next few months. - Collette Higgins, the Co-ordinator of the Arts and Culture group, was looking to step down at the end of this year after 7 years and members were invited to think about what they can do help keep the group running smoothly. - As we have had a number of new members to the u3a this report was mostly to introduce the Gardening group Committee and "what we do" in the group. (We have 117 members). - Our aim is to provide a varied program visiting gardens and horticultural events throughout the year, whether it be inspiring gardens large or small, Nurseries or regional flower shows. We have also organised an annual 4day holiday, this year it is " Autumn Gardens of Devon " - Our outings not only combine learning about the plants, shrubs , trees with Head Gardeners we exchange useful information an tips , these outings are social occasions, making new friends chatting over a coffee or tea and a slice of cake! - Next year at the AGM 2027, the current Committee will be stepping down and currently looking to recruit new Committee members....so if anyone is interested in getting involved please just call at the desk for more information. we look forward to seeing you. - To keep spirits up AH, invited Marylou Jeffs to say a few words about the Gin Tasting Group. Marylou listed the events the group had attended throughout the year, ranging from home events to a Cocktail making event in Birmingham. - Events and trips - Chris Cronin thanked his team for all their hard work this year. CC was not seeking re-election to the post of Co-ordinator but urged all members to keep booking trips and if anyone was prepared to join the team, they would be very welcome.
5.	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT:-</u> - JH reported that the 2026 year end accounts reflected that the Silhill U3A continued to remain in a strong financial position. For the year ended subscriptions of £3,248 were received and sundry income from Riviera Travel of £527. This related to commission from a member's holiday; with Interest Groups income of £25,805 relating to funding from trips and events this resulted in total income of £32,076. This was offset by £29,307 expenditure which mainly related to Interest Groups expenditure for trips and events of £23,115 and Third Age Trust Members Subscription and Magazine Distributions of £1,413. This resulted in net income for the year of £2,769. - Subscriptions for 2026/27 had increased to £20 to ensure we can a level of reserves could be maintained that would cover six months' day to day expenses. This referred to the direct level of expenses incurred and did not include self-funding elements of the interest groups. - The 2025 year end accounts reflected that subscriptions of £3,296 were received and sundry income from Riviera Travel of £567. This related to commission from a

	member's holiday; with Interest Groups income of £44,915, relating to funding from trips and events. This resulted in total income of £51,630. This was offset by £52,529 expenditure which mainly related to Interest Groups expenditure for trips and events of £44,703, Third Age Trust Members Subscription, Magazine Distributions of £1,219 and the transfer of the Table Tennis funds of £1,017 to Dorridge U3A. This resulted in net expenditure for the year of £899.
7.	<u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: -</u> • The bad news: 13 existing members did not renew in April, for various reasons. None mentioned that the price increase was the reason. One person sadly passed away. • The good news: 23 new members have joined since April, and there are still more interested in joining. • AS at the date of the meeting there was a total of 206 members, all of whom have paid their subscriptions. There was originally a 200 limit on membership which was mainly due to the capacity of the Church for meetings. However, as there have not been more than 150 at any core meeting the limit will be allowed to increase and attendance will be monitored. • Earlier this year membership numbers were introduced in order to help with payments where name only can be ambiguous. All members were notified of their membership number and it was also printed on their membership card. • This April was the first time bank transfers had been made to be used for subs payments. This had proved very successful as over 120 members used this method of payment, and helped to reduce our overheads. However, there will never be all members paying by this method, but the more the merrier. • There is also the possibility of allowing membership applications to be performed online rather than by completing a paper form. This would avoid some of the bottlenecks on the front desk at Core meetings.
8.	<u>WEB ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: -</u> • Marylou Jeffs reported that, as Website Administrator, she was continually trying to make Silhill u3a's online home as welcoming as our physical meetings. • Over the past year, the website welcomed thousands of virtual visitors – 5,268 to be exact. Remarkably, quite a few of those clicks came from foreign countries like the USA, Singapore, and even Venezuela. Marylou commented that either Silhill u3a fame had truly gone global, or a few confused tourists were about to turn up at Solihull Methodist Church looking for the Wine Appreciation group! • The most popular pages are the ones related to our Groups and Events. Current information pertaining to every trip, meal, outing and meeting date is on the website. • Marylou suggested that all members should visit the NEWS page regularly as pictures of recent events and outings are posted regularly. At the time of the AGM, photos of the Gin Cocktail Masterclass and a recent trip to Maxstoke Castle were on the NEWS Page. • Marylou asked whether anyone knew the u3a now organises holidays for members and friends? Or that there were free on-line learning events . . . and even a dedicated u3a YouTube Channel? Members were encouraged to click on the U3A NOTICES page and all the details are available. • A website is only as good as its content. Marylou gave a huge thank you to all the Group Leaders who send her information to keep their pages current and to everyone who sent in photos and event write-ups. They are the ones who give the site its personality. • In the coming year, there were plans to make filling out membership forms online possible with a new link on the Member Info page designed by Bryan Pooley. • The new Committee Members elected at the meeting today would be listed on the Contact page by that evening. To get in contact, you only need to click on the name and a form would open that would automatically generate an email. Marylou was sure they would love to hear any ideas and suggestions.

	If anyone has ever struggled to find something online, please speak to Marylou. Members' feedback helps make the site better for everyone.																												
9.	<u>LIASON OFFICER'S REPORT:-</u> - Wendy Westley reported that the role of Liaison Officer is to contact members whenever there was a request by members, or on behalf of the Committee, concerning ill health or bereavement, or when long standing members leave. - Recently, Wendy had contacted someone who had been nominated as an 'In Case of Emergency' contact, as members were really concerned after a member's hospital admission. WW was able to reassure the members concerned, but it was useful to remind all members to update the Membership Secretary of their details and their ICE contact. - This year WW had sent 25 cards, made 44 telephone calls, sent 7 What's App messages, 20 phone messages and 25 emails. - Not everyone attended Core meetings so WW apologised if anyone had been missed or felt unsupported.																												
9.	<u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2026-2028: -</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>Chairman</td><td>ALAN FAULKNER</td><td>Mike Nelson-Smith</td><td>Linda Hornby</td></tr><tr><td>Vice-Chairman</td><td>CHRIS JARVIS</td><td>Adrian Holbrook</td><td>Bryan Pooley</td></tr><tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>JUDITH HETHERINGTON</td><td>Bryan Pooley</td><td>Mike Nelson-Smith</td></tr><tr><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Business Secretary</td><td>LINDA HORNBY</td><td>Judith Hetherington</td><td>Wendy Westley</td></tr><tr><td>Liaison Officer.....</td><td>ALISON TUCKER</td><td>Wendy Westley</td><td>Linda Hornby</td></tr></table> All candidates were elected.	<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	Chairman	ALAN FAULKNER	Mike Nelson-Smith	Linda Hornby	Vice-Chairman	CHRIS JARVIS	Adrian Holbrook	Bryan Pooley	Treasurer	JUDITH HETHERINGTON	Bryan Pooley	Mike Nelson-Smith	-				Business Secretary	LINDA HORNBY	Judith Hetherington	Wendy Westley	Liaison Officer.....	ALISON TUCKER	Wendy Westley	Linda Hornby
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10.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS: -</u> There was none.																												
11.	<u>DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: -</u> The next Annual General Meeting of Silhill u3a will be held on Friday, 2nd July 2027 at 10.00 a.m.																												

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....