

HGS u3a
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on 25 July 2024 at 10.30 am

Quorum check

To be valid, the Annual General Meeting of HGS u3a needs one-tenth of its members – a minimum of 65 – to be present or represented. 101 members were present.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Minutes were approved.

Trustees report

Trustees

Carole Spiers – Chair
Malcolm Brahams and Tina Stanton – Vice-Chairs, Joint Groups Organisers
Simon Freeman – Treasurer
Mayah Weinberg – Secretary
David Powers – Webmaster
Judi John – Monthly Talks Organiser
Governance Adviser – Richard Gold

Support Team

Alan Lee – Beacon Administrator
Neng Chong – IT assistance
Michael Berg – Zoom Administrator
Steven Rowe – Newsletter Editor
Margaret Harris – U3A London Region representative
Michelle Royston – Community and Members Support
Vivienne Collis – Volunteers Co-ordinator

Carole welcomed members and thanked the Trustees, members of the Support Team, and group leaders and co-ordinators for their contributions.

She emphasised her vision of HGS u3a as a community which provided a worthwhile experience for all its members. Initiatives introduced over the past year included the A-team to assist with management, the Easy Rider service to provide transport to monthly talks and other u3a events for members facing mobility challenges, and a team offering support to new members.

Carole noted that HGS u3a's membership has increased over the past year from 563 to 644, and that we have more than 60 interest groups, including several new ones, most of which meet in person. She invited members to come forward and lead new groups, and to offer social media, technical and PR support.

Meetings for new members and for group leaders are held throughout the year. The highlights of our year are Open Day during the summer, showcasing the interest groups on offer, and a

Festive Tea in December, an occasion to meet other members and enjoy music and singing together. An innovation this year will be brunch on New Year's Day, hosted by a member.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Simon Freeman, thanked David Epstein, last year's Independent Examiner.

A motion to appoint Arjun Matthai as the Independent Examiner of our Financial Accounts for the financial year to 31 May 2024 and for financial years thereafter was put to the meeting.

Motion carried.

Simon reported that HGS u3a's finances were in a healthy state. Gross income was up, due to increases in subscription income, membership, deferred income and income from three groups in particular – the Theatre group, the Outings group and the new Cinema group. However, more groups are now hiring halls and our other expenses are increasing.

The deficit for the year was £1,799, compared to a deficit of £1,831 last year. Cash in the bank amounted to £18,868, compared to £21,430 last year. Simon pointed out that the reserves are too large. We aim to reduce them over a period of two to three years, in line with best practice.

We are not able to claim Gift Aid refunds, as explained last year. We await the outcome of negotiations between HMRC and the Third Age Trust.

Fees for 2023–24 were £37 per individual member and £64 for joint members. Fees for 2024-25 are to be reduced in order to further reduce the reserves: for electronic payments, they will be £30 for single membership and £50 for joint membership (two members living at the same address). This represents a reduction of £7 for individual members and £14 for joint members. There will be a £2 surcharge on payments by cheque.

Simon offered to respond to members' queries after the meeting.

Election of Trustees

The Chair expressed HGS u3a's appreciation to Judi John and Richard Gold, who had previously announced their intention of standing down from their roles.

Lorraine Wilder, who was co-opted during the year, needed to be formally elected as a Trustee.
Unanimously elected.

Tina Stanton and Malcolm Brahams, having served their first three-year term as Trustees, had agreed to stand for re-election.

Unanimously re-elected.

Special resolution

The special resolution, drawn up in consultation with the Third Age Trust, amends the HGS u3a constitution to make it clear that proxy votes should be counted in determining whether a general meeting of the charity is quorate. The resolution makes other minor changes to tidy up the constitution.

Resolution passed by the meeting and adopted; the new constitution to be appended to these minutes when approved and signed by the Chair for identification.

Open Forum

Andy Freedman thanked HGS u3a for bringing so much joy to her own and her husband's lives.

Malcolm Brahams suggested that members check the website for activities that continue during the summer break.

Simon Freeman appealed to members to register for the Beacon portal, which makes the membership renewal process much simpler. He explained that the portal is a means of storing administrative information, such as membership records and the groups that each member has joined.

David Powers referred members to his recent email explaining how to register for the portal.

Diana Brahams asked members to update, if necessary, their emergency contact listed in HGS u3a's records.

Jane Singer called for more collaboration with other u3as.

11.52 am Meeting closed.

Carole Spiers, Chair

24 July 2025

Date