

Harpenden Learning for Leisure

**First Annual General Meeting held at The Plough and Harrow PH,
Southdown Road, Harpenden on at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 25th April 2023**

1. Welcome and Report of the Acting Chair and Secretary.

Welcome to the first Annual General Meeting of Harpenden Learning for Leisure. We hope this meeting will give an opportunity for an exchange of views between students and the committee, in addition to dealing with the essential business of the club, in accordance with our Constitution. It is good to see you all and we thank-you for your support. The last year has been one of change and development for the club. First of all, we thank Bob Spence, Denis Cooke and Peter Loveland, who retired from the committee during the year for all their hard work in setting up and running HLfL since its formation as a successor to the Harpenden Branch of the WEA. We also remember with gratitude Roger Hughes, our former Chairman, who passed away in September 2021. When Bob, Denis and Peter decided to retire from the Committee they sought volunteers to take over their roles and to bring fresh ideas; following this, six new committee members joined the three remaining members of the former committee. Unfortunately, one of the six new members, Stephanie Cooper, has had to resign for health reasons.

Since March 2022 the committee has drafted and adopted the Constitution, the GDPR Policy document and the Privacy Statement and we thank Stephanie for the work she put in on this. John Smith has upgraded our website so that members and potential members can view these online, in addition to providing details of our current courses. We have created a HLfL logo, the final version designed for us by Roger Fox, which we hope will help to make our posters and website readily identifiable in future.

Thanks to our Tutor Secretary, Julie Loughlin, HLfL has been able to mount eight classes for the Autumn 2022 term, compared to five in 2021/22, and six of these have had a part 2 in the Spring 2023 term which recently finished, giving a wider range of opportunities for leisure study for our members. The average number of students per class between the Winter 2021 term and the Spring 2022 term remained at approximately 17. This enabled the less-well subscribed classes to be supported by those with more students. The total number of students was 88 in Winter 2021; this has increased to 140 in the Autumn 2022 term, following the sterling efforts of our Publicity Officer, Sarah Webster, to widen

Harpenden people's knowledge of our existence and the class we are putting on. This has kept our Enroller, Elaine O'Brien, very busy. The closure of most Banks in Harpenden has meant that we have needed to move to online banking with Lloyds Bank for receiving and making payments where possible, but we continue to be happy to receive payments for enrolment by cheque as this is more convenient to some of our students. Thanks to Nick Mourant for keeping our finances up to date and for producing his Report to this meeting.

We have been able to hold the fee for our ten-week classes at £80 for both terms in the 2022/23 year, in spite of the background of rising costs for venue hire, in addition to which we have been able to offer students an early-booking discount of £10 from this sum for the first term of two-term classes. We intend to hold the fee at £80 for at least the Autumn 2023 classes. Our committee meetings have been held on Zoom, bar one; this has avoided the expense of room hire for these and we intend to continue in the same way.

2. Report of Treasurer *FD to introduce as NM is away*
3. Report of Enroller
4. Election of Chair and Secretary
Francis Dowley. Nominated by Nick Mourant. Seconded by Julie Loughlin
5. Election of Treasurer
Nick Mourant. Nominated by Francis Dowley. Seconded by Sarah Webster
6. Election of other committee members:
Roger Fox, Julie Loughlin, Elaine O'Brien, John Smith, John Wassell, Sarah Webster.
Nominated by Francis Dowley Seconded by Nick Mourant.
7. Closure of meeting. Thanks to those attending and closure of the meeting.