

Minutes of Haughley WI Annual General Meeting: 7.00pm November 5th, 2025

Members signed in and were advised to view the notice board.

1	WELCOME and APOLOGIES: Special welcome to our SEFWI Advisor Jenny Pearson. Apologies noted from Marian, Venessa, Barbara W, Evelyn, Wendy, Alex and Fiona
2	JERUSALEM: sung by the Members to open proceedings
3	HOSTESSES 3.1 for tonight: Veronica, Maureen and Sue 3.2 draft for next 3-month rota on notice board to confirm and/or enable changes to be made.
4	NO BIRTHDAYS this month
5	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OCTOBER 1 , to be presented for approval by members alongside these minutes at the next meeting on December 3
6	NO MATTERS ARISING, BUT FEEDBACK FROM CENTENARY EVENTS RECEIVED The Committee began planning and fund raising for this significant Haughley WI milestone about two years ago. We hope Members enjoyed the provided series of free events and agree that all the teamwork, time and effort paid off. 6.1 Thanksgiving Church Service on Sunday October 26 in St Mary's was conducted by Reverend Andy Buttress and well received by the congregation, who afterwards enjoyed refreshments. The order of service included concise and relevant readings, heart warming prayers and enthusiastic singing, which was aided by the church organist and choir. 6.2 Dinner in the beautifully decorated Village Hall on Thursday October 30 was a joyful occasion. The hall was prepared and cleared up afterwards by the committee with the help of willing partners and friends. The evening meal was served by caterers Burtons of Ipswich, a licensed bar provided by the Event Bar Company, and music provided by professional 5-piece band, Caxton Swing. This ambitious event was made possible largely due to Sarah's expertise, experience and contacts, and for that we thank her. Sarah circulated some lovely photographs of the evening, taken by her husband and Mandy, copies of which will be available for members to order. 6.3 Unveiling of the Centenary Memorial in VH garden on Saturday 1, during the RBL community café event was well attended by WI members and other café attendees. Reverend Andy Buttress performed the formal unveiling ceremony of a unique hand sculpted galvanised steel depiction of a cedar of Lebanon tree mounted on a brick plinth. The sculpture was crafted by local blacksmith Kevin of Designs on Metal. The sculpture was inspired by three cedars of Lebanon, planted in the 18 th Century on the ancient site of Haughley Castle and from visible several Haughley vantage points. The completed sculpture was collected from the forge and then installed by local builder Tony Gillon, who built the plinth for the sculpture with his friend Andy and at their request were paid in cake!

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BUSINESS: REMINDER FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SUPPORT BEING SOUGHT

- 7.1 Forthcoming events as shared at the last meeting were displayed on the notice board
- 7.2 Programme Planning for 2026/27. Call for help. Team will be Veronica, Sarah, Sally and Yvonne H. The team invites ideas and suggestions for activities, speakers and trips
- 7.3 Christmas Cake Stall on Saturday November 29. Jane has compiled a list of volunteer bakers and helpers. Set up from 1.30; help run stall 2.30-4.30 and 4.30 onwards clear up. It's not too late to offer to bake or help in any capacity, just contact Jane
- 7.4 Payment for December 17 Christmas lunch at the Kings Arms requested. BACS preferred, but cash acceptable. Christine needs to pay the pub, so prompt payment requested for anyone yet to pay for their meal. Two courses: £26.95. Three courses: £31.95. We have pre-orders list if anyone can't recall what they ordered and/or need our bank details to pay by BACS
- 7.5 Next General Meeting: December 3 Christmas Party **6.30pm for 7.00pm**: Secret Santa £6.00 limit, Ukelele band, Seasonal Refreshments, Seasonal dress encouraged

Ordinary meeting closed by Julia and AGM opened by Jenny Pearson

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AGM: helped by our SEFWI Advisor Jenny Pearson

Note: Members advised of the 6 Committee members standing down. Names of 7 members who are willing to stand for election to the committee already shared and also on notice board.

- 8.1 Jenny advised of our received instructions for five proxy votes
- 8.2 Jenny was introduced and she gave a short address
- 8.3 The Treasurer's report included the audited financial statement – given by Malcolm.
 - 8.3.1 Julia proposal made to accept financial statement: approval proposed by Mandy and seconded by Irene.
 - 8.3.2 Independently verified financial statement approved by Members' show of hands
 - 8.3.3 Treasure proposed appointment of Jenny Pearson to independently audit our financial statement next year. Approved by Members' show of hands
- 8.4 Committee's annual report given by Yvonne
 - 8.4.1 Julia proposed acceptance of the Committee's annual report
 - 8.4.2 Committee's annual report approved by Members' show of hands
- 8.5 The President's address given by Julia who gave thanks for everyone's support and participation during the past year.
- 8.6 Election of Committee en bloc: approved by Members show of hands
- 8.7 Election of President: A secret ballot conducted by Jenny Pearson resulted in election of popular choice Jane who accepted the nomination. Her short address to the members emphasised that following this very busy year, she anticipates a period of relative calm.

9	The AGM was formally closed at 8.00pm
10	<p>REFRESHMENTS AND SOCIAL TIME</p> <p>Was enjoyed by all, with savoury nibbles, biscuits, chocolates and a choice of beverage: Prosecco, cordial, tea and coffee.</p> <p>Chocolate Bingo and a “play your cards right” game were great fun and run by Irene and Anne A.</p> <p>There were lots of the good natured and cheerful chatter and camaraderie so characteristic of Haughley WI on display, with everyone looking forward to next month’s Christmas party.</p>
11	CLOSE OF MEETING: 9.15pm

President

Date