

**MAIDENHEAD u3a**  
**MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> April 2022**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>John Twydle (via zoom)</b>
	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Linda Main</b>
	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Pat Laković</b>
	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Nuala Smith</b>
	<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Maggie Kearney</b>
	<b>Groups Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Kathy Bell</b>
	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Janet Rose</b>
	<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Philip Ratcliffe</b>
	<b>Web Secretary</b>	<b>Nigel Roper</b>
	<b>TVN</b>	<b>Mandy Taylor</b>
	<b>Without Portfolio</b>	<b>Derek Searle</b>

**Other Members:** Approximately 45 participants

1. **Welcome by Chairman**
2. **Apologies for absence:** Jessie Cooper, Ann Hay, Maura McGinley, Heather Deakin
3. **Matters arising from minutes of the 2021 Annual General meeting** - none.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – John Twydle**

Our last AGM took place on Zoom amid a pandemic and while restrictions have almost been completely lifted, the virus is still with us in an even more infectious form but with fortunately less morbidity. I am proud of the fact that Maidenhead u3a has to a large extent remained active during the restrictions. Thank you to all those convenors and members who helped to make that happen. One thing that the pandemic brought home to us was the fact that we are social creatures. Zoom had its advantages but in the end, you can't beat a good chat and a biscuit to stimulate the grey matter.

Over recent years our membership has been stable around 600. It normally falls at renewal time, which largely reflects our ageing population and increases during the year as new members join. Following our latest renewal, we have approx. 490 members and we expect this to increase as our activities resume and soon reach pre-pandemic levels. We thank our membership secretary, Maggie Kearney for her energy and persistence in maintaining our membership in difficult circumstances.

The annual subscription has been returned to £16 for 2022. We have considerable reserves, and I would like to remind convenors that they are able to claim for any legitimate expenses that they incur in running their groups. Thanks to Linda for managing our finances.

The majority of our groups are back in action again and a few new ones have appeared. London Explorers Group Lead by Janet and Steve Rose has been particularly popular with visits to No. 1 London, the O2 arena, the Albert Hall and Tower Bridge among the venues visited. Art appreciation has been another popular addition with Mandy Taylor guiding us through a myriad of art objects and artists. Ukulele and Canasta are another couple of groups that have also proved popular. We thank and congratulate all those convenors who have kept their groups going throughout this difficult year and our Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell, who has supported them.

The newsletter has made a huge contribution to keeping us connected. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Pat Lakovic and Nuala Smith for their energy and creativity, along with our poets, photographers, quiz masters and humourists who have raised our spirits throughout the last year.

Our normal Sportsable meeting venue was a casualty of the pandemic and as a result we had an enforced move to the Desborough bowling club. Normally 60 - 80 regulars attend the monthly meetings at Desborough and enjoy the social contact as well as the speakers. During the year we were entertained by such diverse topics as the British Raj, Roman Britain and where to find it and our former local police and crime commissioner Anthony Stansfield, sharing his thoughts and experiences with us. Thank you, Philip, for all of your efforts to find us excellent speakers.

We are members of the Thames Valley Network (TVN), a collection of some 40 U3a's. They organise a wide range of speakers, study days and other events which we advertise in the newsletter and all U3a members can attend. Several committee members have participated and found them to be excellent, but there is very little uptake from other members. We recommend these and some of you may find Zoom is an advantage because it removes the need to travel. We encourage you to participate.

The Committee has been very stable and has continued to meet every month in person or via Zoom but as usual there will be a few changes at this AGM. During the year Maggie Kearney was co-opted to the committee to relieve Linda Main of the Membership secretary role leaving Linda as Treasurer.

The Newsletter is a major effort and we also co-opted Nuala Smith in support of Pat Laković.

Both of these members have been valuable additions to the team, and I commend them to you to retain them on committee. With the passing of Jean Myhill, Mandy Taylor has offered to join the committee to take over the role of Thames Valley Network Rep. Derek Seale has also agreed to offer his services to the committee initially without portfolio.

It has been a pleasure to work with this team this year and I would like to record my formal thanks to Janet who has as secretary kept us well organised this year, as all the members of the team for all the effort they have put in.

The success of our u3a is entirely what we make of it. Our Christmas party last year was a good example where many members of the team worked together to lay on an excellent afternoon of music and dancing.

Thank you.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT - Linda Main**

The accounts have been examined by Graham Clark, our new auditor, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them. An extract was published in the April 2022 newsletter.

The accounts include a more extensive report (than that which was included in the newsletter) and this is in line with the Charity Commission's current best practice.

Another exceptional year for our u3a due to the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Under the governments social isolation guidance (and also bearing in mind the vulnerability of our members) we were still able to keep many of our activities alive to some degree.

Over the years since our inception in 1998, we have consistently made a surplus over each financial period. However, at the end of 2020 the committee agreed to try to cut this surplus by reducing the membership fee to £8. This was partly in acknowledgement that our activities in 2020 had been substantially limited. We left the option open to pay £16, the additional £8 to be classed as a donation. This reduction in membership fees also reduced our gift aid income.

You will therefore note that the cash at bank has decreased by £2274, representing the reduction in income over expenditure during 2021. This results from a reduction in membership of around 70 people, membership fees reduced by half and income from Gift Aid down significantly. Overall income was down by £5696 on the 2020 and £9596 on 2019 (in 2019 and 2020 there was no income from outings).

With the exception of the newsletter, nearly all normal costs were reduced when compared to pre-pandemic years. We sourced a new venue for our monthly group meetings at a reasonable cost and these meetings were resumed mid-year. The committee agreed to host a Christmas party at the end of 2021 and this was a huge success. We received donations from members allowing us to purchase of a copse – 100 trees for the U3a woodland appeal in the Brecon Beacons.

At the end of 2021 the committee agreed to re-instate membership fees to the pre-pandemic level of £16. This was in recognition of the resumption of normal meetings. I would like to thank Graham Clark for examining our accounts, and I would propose we use his services again to review the accounts for 2022. While we have seen a reduction in our income in 2021 and a reduction in our financial assets this was intentional. Maidenhead u3a remains in a strong financial position.

### **Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Year Ended 31.12.21 Total Funds £	Year Ended 31.12.20 Total Funds £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Receipts	8,757	14,448
Other Receipts	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>8,759</b>	<b>14,455</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Payments	11,033	9,989
Other Payments	<u>0</u>	<u>600</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>11,033</b>	<b>10,589</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(2,274)</b>	<b>3,866</b>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought Forward	<u>17,873</u>	<u>14,007</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>15,599</u></b>	<b><u>17,873</u></b>

**6. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and appoint Graham Clark as Independent Examiner for accounts**

Proposed by Brian Madge. Seconded by Margarete Shaw.  
Vote carried unanimously.

**7. Election of Committee Members**

Proposal to agree election and retention of all current Committee Members i.e.  
John Twydle, Linda Main, Janet Rose, Kathy Bell, Phillip Ratcliffe, Pat Lakovic, Nigel Roper  
Proposed by Jill Hughes. Seconded by Margarete Shaw  
Vote carried unanimously

Proposal to agree election of new Committee Members i.e., Derek Searle, Amanda Taylor, Maggie Kearney and Nuala Smith  
Proposed by Kath Evans. Seconded by Brian Madge  
Vote carried unanimously

**8. Any other business**

John thanked the Committee and Conveners, and everyone for attending.

**9. Date of next AGM – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

After the completion of AGM business, Lady Aurelia Young gave a very interesting talk and PowerPoint presentation about her father, the sculptor Oscar Nemon (1906 – 1985)  
Nemon was known for his busts, whole figures and architectural ideas. He created sculptures of well-known leaders of his time including General Eisenhower, Lord Beaverbrook, The Queen, Prince Phillip and of course, Churchill.