

MAIDENHEAD u3a
MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB
11th April 2023

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Committee Present | Chairman | John Twydle |
| | Treasurer | Linda Main |
| | Newsletter | Nuala Smith |
| | Newsletter | Jack Kerbel |
| | Groups Coordinator | Kathy Bell |
| | Secretary | Janet Rose |
| | Speakers | Philip Ratcliffe |
| | TVN | Jenny Alder |

Members Present - 90

1. **Welcome by Chairman**
2. **Apologies for absence:** Jacqueline Orme, Anne Clarke, Maggie Kearney, Ann Hay, Tony Hatch, Derek Searle, June Searle, Sylvia Clark
3. **Matters arising from minutes of the 2021 Annual General meeting - none.**
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – John Twydle**

At our last AGM we were still very much feeling the aftermath of Covid. This year, while Covid is still present, we are learning to live with it. Thank you to all those conveners and members who helped to keep our u3a thriving in the last 2 years. One thing that the pandemic brought home to us is the fact that we are social creatures. Zoom has its advantages, but in the end, you cannot beat sitting with friends, having a good chat and a biscuit to stimulate the grey matter.

Over recent years our membership has been stable at 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 515 members, and we expect this to increase as our activities resume in full. We have a goal of returning to pre-pandemic levels within 3 years. We thank our membership secretary, Maggie Kearney for her energy and persistence in maintaining and looking after our membership.

The annual subscription has remained at £16 for 2023 and there is no intention to change this. We have considerable reserves, and I would like to remind conveners that they are able to claim for any legitimate expenses that they incur in running their groups. Thanks to Linda Main for managing our finances.

Most of our groups are back in action again and a few new ones have appeared. London Explorers Group, led 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, sculptures, and artists. Ukulele, practical gardening, and Canasta have also proved very popular. We thank and congratulate all those conveners who have kept their groups going throughout this difficult year and our Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell who has supported all our groups. Committee members come and go but the conveners manage their groups year after year and are the unsung heroes of our u3a.

The newsletter has made a huge contribution to keeping us connected. I am sure you will join me in thanking Pat Laković 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. Particular thanks go to Ann Hay and her encyclopaedic mind for supplying the quiz every month. Pat is standing down from this role now, to be replaced by Jack Kerbel. Pat has been one of those guiding hands over the last few years,

adding value to our u3a.

Normally 60-80 regulars attend the monthly meetings at Desborough Bowling Club and enjoy the social contact as well as the speakers. Due to Philip Ratcliffe's sterling efforts to provide a range of high-quality speakers, these numbers are now regularly more than 100. Thanks go to Philip for all his efforts to find excellent speakers, and for the excellent turn out this afternoon.

We are members of the Thames Valley Network (TVN), a collection of some 40 u3as. They organise a wide range of speakers, study days and other events which we advertise in the newsletter. 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 as it removes the need to travel. The usual venue is Benson. Jenny Alder has kindly stepped up to be our TVN representative.

Last, but not least, thanks to Nigel Roper who looks after our IT and website as a co-opted member of the Committee. He works hard on our behalf to keep things running smoothly.

The Committee has been very stable and has continued to meet every month in person, but as usual there will be a few changes at this AGM.

It has been a pleasure to work with this team this year and I would like to record my formal thanks to Janet Rose who, as Secretary, kept us well organised, as well as all the members of the team for all their efforts this year.

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 entertainment, much of which was provided by members.

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

The accounts have been examined by Graham Clark, our new Independent Examiner, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them. An extract will be published in the May 2023 newsletter.

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

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

| Income – 2022 compared with 2021 | Year Ended 31.12.22 Total Funds | | Year Ended 31.12.21 Total Funds |
|---|--|--|--|
| | £ | | £ |
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| Subscriptions | 9,650 | | 7,133 |
| Room Hire | 1,080 | | |
| Outings | 612 | | |
| Christmas Party | 910 | | |
| Donations | 98 | | 469 |
| Gift Aid | 1,357 | | 1,145 |
| Other | 81 | | 12 |
| Total Receipts | 13,788 | | 8,759 |

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

| Outgoings – 2022 compared with 2021 | Year Ended 31.12.22 | | Year Ended 31.12.21 |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Third Age Trust (magazine, Beacon, Capitation/Subs) | 3,888 | | 4,189 |
| Meetings (room hire, food, speakers) | 3,801 | | 2,045 |
| Communications (Website, Newsletter, Postage, Stationery) | 2,578 | | 2,308 |
| Group Expenses | 2,990 | | |
| Other (e.g. Copyright Licence, QuickBooks, training, advertising, promotion) | 1,263 | | 2,491* |
| Total outgoings | 14,520 | | 11,033 |
| Funds carried forward | 14,520 | | 15,599 |

*This figure includes the Tree planting project in Wales.

Currently we are trying to reduce our reserves, although we are required to maintain funds to cover 6 months of operational costs.

6. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report

Proposed by Margaret Shore

Seconded by Jessie Cooper

Motion to appoint Graham Clark as Independent Examiner for accounts.

Proposed by Moira McGinley, Seconded by Margaret Shore, Carried unanimously.

7. Election of Committee Members/ Officers

John Twydle – Chairman

Linda Main – Treasurer and Vice Chair

Janet Rose – Secretary

Kathy Bell – Groups Coordinator

Philip Ratcliffe – Speakers

Maggie Kearney – Membership Secretary and Publicity

Nuala Smith – Newsletter

Nigel Roper – Co-opted IT and website

Proposed by Jill Hughes

Seconded by Maggie Snook

Carried Unanimously

New Committee Members

Jenny Alder – TVN Representative

Jack Kerbel - Newsletter

Proposed by Moira McKinley

Seconded by Maggie Smith

Carried Unanimously

8. Adoption of New Constitution

John Twyde explained that we needed to change some points in our existing Constitution to be compliant with the u3a and the Charity Commission. The changes included having more Committee Members, Proxy Voting, rules regarding meetings and hybrid meetings, and maintaining 6 months operating budget. The revised Constitution has been approved by u3a centrally.

Proposal to formally adopt the revised Constitution.

Proposer – John Twyde

Seconded – Pat Laković

Carried unanimously.

Copies of the revised constitution are available via Pat Laković.

9. AOB

John thanked the Committee and Conveners and everyone for attending.

10. Date of next AGM – Tuesday 9th April 2024

Signed.....
Chairman

Date Signed.....