

**MAIDENHEAD u3a**  
**MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB**  
**9th April 2024**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>John Twyde</b>
	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Linda Main</b>
	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Nuala Smith</b>
	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Jack Kerbel</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>Membership and Publicity</b>	<b>Maggie Kearney</b>
	<b>TVN &amp; TAT Rep</b>	<b>Jenny Alder</b>

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

**2. Apologies for absence:** Jessie Cooper  
Attendance – 90 Members

**3. Matters arising from Minutes of the 2023 Annual General meeting**

No Matters arising from the Minutes of AGM 2023

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – John Twyde**

After 4 years as treasurer and 3 years as chairman I have to stand down from the committee at this point, but I have one last job to do. Thank all those convenors and members who helped to keep our u3a thriving in the last year. Many convenors and others open up their homes to members on a regular and ongoing basis. Without their hospitality and expertise, we would be much the poorer. Also, the Desborough Bowling Centre is an excellent venue and looks after us well. Thank you.

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 renewals, we have in excess of 585 members. Post Covid we were down to 450 members, and we set ourselves the target of getting back to 600 within 3 years. We are pretty close to that goal in just 2 years. We thank our membership secretary, Maggie Kearney for her energy and persistence in maintaining and encouraging our membership. The annual subscription has remained at £16 for 2024. 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 Main for managing our finances.

Many of our groups have continued and London Explorers has spawned explorers 2 ,3 and maybe 4. A few groups are still looking for leadership and I have in mind theatre visits. We thank and congratulate all those conveners who have kept their groups going 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 Nuala Smith and Jack Kerbel for their energy and creativity, along with our poets, photographers, quiz masters and humorists who have raised our spirits throughout the last year.

Philip Ratcliff's ongoing efforts to provide a range of high-quality speakers have ensured that monthly meeting numbers are now regularly in excess of 100. Thank you, Philip, for all of your efforts to find us excellent speakers.

We are members of the u3a 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 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. Jenny Alder has been our TVN rep during 2023.

Thanks also to Nigel Roper and Pat Lakovic who look after our IT, web site and Beacon databases as co-opted members, they work hard on our behalf to keep things running smoothly.

Sheila White was co- opted onto the committee towards the end of 2023 and has offered to take on the publicity role in 2024. Thank you, Sheila.

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 has as Secretary kept us well organised this year, and 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. Many members of the team worked together to lay on an excellent afternoon of music and entertainment. Thank you.

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT - Linda Main

The accounts have been examined by Graham Clark, our Independent Examiner, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them.

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

<b>Income – 2023 compared with 2022</b>	Year Ended 31.12.23 Total Funds	Year Ended 31.12.22 Total Funds
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Subscriptions	9,456	9,650
Room Hire	1,503	1,080
Outings	1,071	612
Christmas Party	957	910
Donations	38	98
Diaries sold	34	69
Gift Aid	1,588	1,357
Interest	137	12
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>14,647</b>	<b>13,788</b>

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

<b>Outgoings – 2023 compared with 2022</b>	Year Ended 31.12.23	Year Ended 31.12.22
	£	£
Third Age Trust (Magazine, Beacon, Capitation/Subs)	4,297	4,026
Meetings (room hire, food, speakers)	4,213	3,810
Communications (Website, Newsletter, Postage, Stationery)	2,435	2,578
Group Expenses	4,593	2,990
Other (e.g. Copyright License, QuickBooks, advertising, promotion, training, travel)	213	804
Accountancy	343	312
<b>Total outgoings</b>	<b>16,094</b>	<b>14,520</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>13,556</b>	<b>14,867</b>

We finished 2023 in a healthy position with funds of £13,556 which were

retained into 2024. We continued to eat into our reserves, as in previous years, but in a managed way. During 2023 our expenditure exceeded our income by £1,310. We envisage similar losses in 2024 and 2025 as we continue to provide support to our membership. **Our aim is to always have a minimum of 6 months' reserves/operating costs in the bank (approx. £8000-£9000).** These predicted 2024 and 2025 losses will take our reserves down somewhere very close to our 6-month operating costs. Therefore, we are proposing that subs are increased in 2026 to £20 per year for basic membership and other categories of membership are increased in proportion to this. Of course this will be reviewed towards the end of 2025. Even with this increase basic membership will cost less than £2 a month per member. This still represents excellent value for money.

Whilst our subscription income has remained stable in 2023 our Gift Aid income has increased. This is because more people have signed the Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim an extra 25% of all donations and membership fees. So, if you are a taxpayer and sign up for Gift Aid this enables us to claim an extra £4 on your £16 membership or £7 if you also pay for the newsletter to be delivered by post (total membership fee £28). In total we claimed £1,588 through Gift Aid in 2023.

During 2023 we have spent slightly more on Group support, particularly helping to fund hall hire for those groups who cannot meet in homes, either because of the group size or because it is impractical. Each group is still required to contribute to hall hire costs. In contrast we have spent rather less on advertising and leafleting as our experience tells us that word of mouth is by far the most effective method of recruiting new members.

I have one more year to serve as Maidenhead u3a Treasurer. I have enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful committee and would be happy to mentor anyone willing to take over the Treasurers Role in 2025. You don't need to have any financial qualifications. Guidance and support is also available through the Third Age Trust.

## **6. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report**

Proposed by Maggie Snook

Seconded by Chris

Carried unanimously

## **Motion to appoint Graham Clark as Independent Examiner for accounts.**

Proposed by Sheila White

Seconded by Norman Philips

Carried unanimously

**7. Election of Committee Members/ Officers**

- Chairman - Maggie Kearney
- Linda Main – Treasurer and Vice Chair
- Janet Rose – Secretary
- Jenny Alder – Groups Coordinator
- Philip Ratcliffe – Speakers
- Vacant – Membership Secretary*
- Sheila White - Publicity
- Nuala Smith – Newsletter
- Jack Kerbel - Newsletter
- Nigel Roper – Co-opted IT and website
- Vacant – TVN an TAT Rep*

Proposed by Norman Philips  
 Seconded by Pat Lakovic  
 Carried Unanimously

**New Committee Member**

Sheila White - Publicity

Proposed by John Twydle  
 Seconded by Linda Main  
 Carried Unanimously

Breacon will continue to be managed by Pat Lakovic.  
 IT and Website will continue to be managed by Nigel Roper.

**8. AOB**

Maggie Kearney thanked the Committee and Conveners and everyone for attending.

**9. Date of next AGM – Tuesday 8th April 2025**

Signed:.....  
 Chairman

Date Signed.....