

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Slowly but surely, the days are getting longer and the last cold snap seems to be behind us. We can look forward to more trips and outings and more general outdoor activity.

In the last 3 or 4 months we have had a series of particularly strong speakers at our regular monthly meetings. As a consequence, meetings that used to attract 60 to 80 members now attract over 100 and in one case 120. Desborough Bowling Club is one of the most comfortable and cost effective venues we have had in my memory and has the most free parking. However the success of the monthly meetings has meant that the available parking has been insufficient for the increased attendance. We are not the primary user here and we need to do what we can to make sure as many as possible can park.

Give some thought to car sharing; if we all drive ourselves that's up to 120 vehicles that need to be parked. If we all brought one other person that would halve the number of vehicles to 60. If we brought 2 others the number of places would be just 40. Just think how much fuel we are saving too!! I know many of you do already share transport, or even walk, well done for that, but if you don't, give some thought to who you could share with.

Annual General meetings are not everyone's idea of a fun afternoon out but they are part of the way we run our u3a. Please attend our AGM in April - we need your support there to come and vote. Hope to see you then.

John Twydale
Chairman

2023 Annual General Meeting**Tuesday, 11th April 2023 @ 2.30pm****Desborough Bowling Club****10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ**

The Agenda & the Minutes of the AGM held on 12th April 2022
are at the end of this newsletter.

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

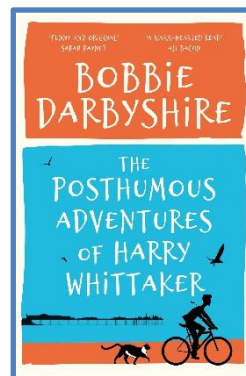
Tuesday, 11 April 2023 (starts after AGM finishes)

Our guest speaker in April is Bobbie Darbyshire, an author, whose talk is entitled '*A beginning, a muddle & an end - Where do novelists get their ideas from?*'

Bobbie will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind, drawing not just her own experience but also that of numerous novelists. Author of four novels so far, Bobbie has won the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Nonfiction Prize 2010.

She has also worked as a barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher! So we should anticipate an entertaining talk with plenty of tips for aspiring writers.

Bobbie will give her talk immediately after the AGM, so hang on to your seat.



The talk will be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ. Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm.

To avoid problems with parking, **please share rides if possible**. You may park in the spaces for buses. **If the bowling club car park is full, you can park in front of Lidl or Homebase which are a short walk away for up to two hours, ideally having made a purchase.** We no longer require anti-Covid masks to be worn, but anyone who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT.

If you have any comments before or after the meeting, or suggestions for talks, please contact Speaker Organiser, Philip Ratcliffe, on speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Trisha Pottinger, Joan Griffith, Jennie MacLeod, Brian Darracott, Terence Gilbert, Wendy McClure, Jane Endersby, Sue Burnand, Ann Murray, Hilary Lawes, Christine Feldon, Marie Raines, Alison Wattiau, Martyn Lloyd, Heather Ayres and Robin Gibbs.

99% of all new members heard about Maidenhead u3a from a friend, so please continue to spread the word about us and all the interest groups we have.

Maggie Kearney Membership Secretary 01628 637160

membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

GROUP NEWS

For information about any of the groups below where a convener is not named, please contact Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell, by email to groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or by phone on 07752 660537.

First Coach Outing of 2023

Destination: DEVIZES

Date: 13th April 2023

Depart: 9am from Braywick car park

Cost: £18 pp

How to pay:

1. By cheque or bank credit transfer
2. Cheques payable to Maidenhead u3a, collected on the day. Put cheque in envelope marked with your name.
3. Bank credit transfer details:
 - Account name: Maidenhead u3a
 - Sort code: 30 95 36
 - Account #: 02728719
 - Payee ref: Your Last name + Devizes

Maura will attend AGM meeting at Desborough Bowling Club on 11th April & a can collect your cheques on that day. Book your place by contacting Maura MacGinley on: Mauramcginley17@gmail.com or 01628 629088 or 07767 446349.

Science March's meeting had to be postponed, so we'll have the same topic for our April meeting which is 'Our Gut Microbiome' at 14.15 on **Thursday, 20th April** at Larkspur House, Mill Lane, Taplow **SL6 0AG**

Practical Gardening We meet at 2pm on 1st Thursday every month at a local garden centre. At the moment, we plan to cover - jobs for the month, swapping of excess seeds & plants etc. Problem corner, plant identification, help with members' projects, bulk buy sharing & visiting each others' gardens. More activities will be added as time goes by. Contact Jenny Alder on 01753 859664 or by email on beandjalder@gmail.com

Film Group No film group this month. Normal service will be resumed in May.

Aviation Group

In April, a representative from Thames Valley Air Ambulance will give an update on their activities & achievements together with an insight into their operations.

Lunch Club will be on **Thursday, 27th April**, venue to be decided. New members always welcome.

Food & Nutrition Each time someone presents a topic & we discuss. At present, we are working our way through vitamins. A dietician has talked about gluten & in April another will talk on homeopathy & nutrition. The group has 5 or 6 members. Convener is Chris Good, t: 01628 628157

Puzzles

The first meeting of this group will be on 21st April.

The group will concentrate on working together on more “intellectual” types of puzzle such as: Sudoku, Number Jig, Piecework, Strip Trick and Code Word.

If you would like to join us, please contact Shirley Hitchcock preferably by email on yelr1hz@gmail.com or message her mobile 07768 068823. The group has room for more members.

Poetry Appreciation

If you have ever laughed or cried at a poem, or if you have a favourite poem, or if you always wondered what a particular poem meant, then please join us.

We have a very down-to-earth and unpretentious group, currently eight so we have space for up to four more members. We do tackle serious subjects – we’ve had talks on the life and poetry of Seamus Heaney, on John Keats and Women, and on the life and poetry of Dylan Thomas – but we also like to laugh.

Last month, one of our members had asked the ChatGPT AI system for a poem in the style of William Wordsworth about the need to preserve the tranquility of the Lake District from 4x4 vehicles. Which the robot created instantly – and it was amazingly good!

One of our favourites is *The Caveman’s Lament* by Brian Bilston (opening verses below). If you don’t want to commit, please join us for a taster session and then decide.

The Caveman’s Lament

By Brian Bilston (Picador)

me think about her when sun rises
me think about her when sun sets
me say to her how much me love her
she tell me love invent not yet

me make cave all warm and cosy
me lie bearskin on cave floor
me play song of love on bone flute
she choose cave of Tim next door

(opening verses from ‘Alexa, What Is There To Know About Love?’)

Convener: Michael Gammage, 07763 405699

Short Walk - Wednesday, 5th April

Meet at Cricketers Pub, Littlewick Green SL6 3RA at 11.00 for a 2 mile, mostly flat walk. Walk Leader is Keith Ponchaud. Contact him on 07942 277833. Lunch at the the pub for those that wish it.

Longer Walk - Thursday, 13th April

Meet at the Jolly Farmer Pub, Church Road, Cookham Dean, SL6 9PD at 10.15 for 10.30 departure. Walk Leader is Julie Veazey tel: 07710 278087.

Social Walk - Friday, 28th April

Social walk at Cliveden. Meet in the Orangery café at 10.30 for a coffee. For those that want it, stroll after. If you want to come and you are not a NT member, give stroll leader, John Twydle, a call on 07786 854920. He may be able to get 1 or 2 in on volunteer cards.

Nature Amble We had a mixed bag of weather on the March amble, but were rewarded with a sighting of roe deer and early blossom. Our April amble is through the woods at Pinkneys Green, when we hope to see bluebells and Spring flowers. Depending on when the bluebells decide to flower, the amble will either be on **Friday, 21st April** or put back a week to **Friday, 28th April**. All are welcome; please contact Jill Waites for details.

Garden Visits - Monday, 24th April @ 1pm

Visit to Chenies Manor, Rickmansworth WD3 6ER. Contact Maura on 01628 629088 / 07767 446349 for more details. (Note change of day)

Photography Group

It will meet at 11.15 on **11th April** at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA The topic for this month is "Disappearing Technology".

Beer Appreciation Group

The group's first meeting took place on 30th March in the Craufurd Arms, Maidenhead - a community owned pub.

The second meeting is planned for **27th April** starting at 1.30pm, in "A Hoppy Place", Trinity Place, Park Street, Maidenhead SL6 1TJ. This is a new craft beer pub, which has just won the local CAMRA's Pub of the Year award. The proprietors will be giving us an introduction to the different types of beer.

The aim of the group is to explore the world of beer in all its variety and complexity, to learn how diverse styles and tastes are developed, and to foster the social atmosphere in which beer is best consumed. Activities may include: pub visits; tutored tastings; brewery visits; micropub evenings; meet the brewer sessions; matching beer and food; bring a bottle sessions; low/non-alcohol beer; member-led discussions, e.g. the business of beer; beer in art and literature; beer and health.

Future meetings will take place on the 4th Thursday each month at various hostelries, breweries, beer gardens in and around Maidenhead.

Contact Bob or Ann Beauchamp, Tel. 07739 400092

Programme of Group Meetings

Below is a list of the groups currently active in Maidenhead u3a, listed in day order of the week - morning / afternoon. If you need any more information about what any group does, you can find it at <https://www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/> WITHOUT having to log in.

Convener contact details are available at www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/. You will first need to Log In or if you don't have a Log In, register for an ID. If you are unable to access the internet, ask another u3a member to help you or contact Kathy Bell. You can find her contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Sunday Groups: Sunday Bridge every week and MOTO (Members on Their Own) once a month.

Variable Days: London Explorers, Walks, Film, Solos and Bucket List

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Dog Walking, 2 nd & 4 th Latin, 2 nd & 4 th Spanish Improvers 2, 1 st & 3 rd	Bridge E, every week Carpet Bowl, s every week Classical Music, 2 nd French Conversation, 2 nd Jazz Appreciation, 2 nd Quiz, 1 st (evening)
Tuesday	Creative Writing, 1 st Photography, 2 nd Spanish for Holidaymakers 1, 1 st & 3 rd Spanish for Holidaymakers 2, 2 nd & 4 th Spanish Improvers 1, every 2 weeks	Art Untutored, 1 st & 3 rd Current Affairs 1, 4 th Family History, 3 rd Food and Nutrition, 3 rd Guitar, fortnightly Poetry Reading, 1 st
Wednesday	Bridge F (beginners) every week French, 2 nd & 4 th French Improvers, 1 st & 3 rd Garden visits, 4 th (time depends on destination) Maideleles (Ukelele) every week	Book Reading 1, 3 rd Book Reading 2, 2 nd Lunch on Wednesdays, 1 st Mahjong, 1 st & 3 rd Meditation, 3 rd
Thursday	Threads and Needles, 3 rd	Ancient Literature, 3 rd Aviation, 2 nd Beer Appreciation, 4 th Bridge C, every week Cribbage, 2 nd & 4 th Current Affairs 2, 2 nd Exploring World Faiths, 1 st French Advanced, 3 rd German Conversation, alternate weeks Play Reading 1, 1 st Popular Music, 3 rd Practical Gardening, 1 st Science, 3 rd
Friday	Art Appreciation, 1 st Canasta, 2 nd & 4 th Creative Cards 1, 2 nd & 4 th Nature Amble, 3 rd Rummikub, 1 st & 3 rd	Spanish Improvers 3, 1 st & 3 rd Creative Cards 2, 1 st & 3 rd German Advanced, 2 nd & 4 th
		Fun with Flowers, 3 rd History, 2 nd Play Reading 2, 1 st Puzzles, 3 rd

Quiz 20 by Ann Hay

(answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. What is the difference between a puncheon and a pancheon?
 2. Why in World War 2, did many USA bomber crews include a member of the Navajo tribe?
 3. What was Brumas?
 4. What are 'racing plates'?
 5. Where is the Humboldt Glacier?
 6. Where are the highest accessible sea cliffs in Europe?
 7. What is the difference between the way a cow gets up from lying down and the way a horse does?
 8. What is the purpose of caryatids?
 9. Which country has the highest consumption of beer in the world?
 10. What is the difference between (a) a financière. and (b) a financier. Not human!
 11. What were the names of these characters in The Magic Roundabout:
(a) the snail (b) the rabbit (c) the dog (d) the little girl (e) the springy one?
 12. What is pyrography?
 13. In which sport is a close finish measured by (a) a canvas. (b) a short head?
 14. To where did the Royal Yacht Britannia retire?
 15. What was described by whom as a "wee, sleekit, cowerin' timorous beastie"?
 16. In which London street in the Dorchester Hotel?
 17. In 'Animal Farm' what is (a) Napoleon and (b) Boxer?
 18. What is the name of Mrs Addams in the TV series?
 19. Who plays Flash Harry in the St. Trinian's series?
 20. What do these have in common: Chambers, Merriam-Webster, Nuttall and Oxford?
-

Submissions to Newsletter - especially Pictures

If you wish to send us photos, please, ensure that they are no more than 750kb each. Also, please do not email .pdf files for the newsletter as the open source software we use to insert these files requires considerable additional effort. Acceptable formats are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg (.jpg) & .xls or .xlsx. It would help the editors if you would crop them and reduce the image size before sending.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the May newsletter NO LATER than **21st April 2023**.

Thank you
Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel

newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

South East u3a Forum Summer School

The 2023 Summer School will take place at the University of Chichester from **4th to 7th September**, inclusive. All courses are tutored by experienced u3a members There will be a range of subjects, academic through to practical and active. Information will be in the Third Age Trust's monthly newsletter at <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/home> and in the Spring edition of the 'Third Age Matters' magazine.

Sally Ingledew, South Central Network Manager
07772 368919 / 01329 667509



Jacqueline Turner
Bridges

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twydle	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 621644
Treasurer	Linda Main	treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07962 255743
Secretary	Janet Rose	secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 624709
Membership Secretary	Maggie Kearney	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 637160
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07710 160786
Newsletter	Pat Laković	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 782038
	Nuala Smith	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 541685
Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 636893
TVN Rep	Jenny Alder	tvn@maidenhead.org.uk	01753 859664

Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead u3a	www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk
Twitter	twitter.com/Maidenheadu3a.org.uk
Thames Valley Network	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk
Third Age Trust	www.u3a.org.uk



London Explorers March visit to Royal Opera House

Answers to April's Quiz Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Puncheon is a type of rum or its container. Pancheon is a large earthenware bowl used for straining cream.
2. The Germans often monitored radio between aircraft, but they were unable to understand messages spoken in the Native American language.
3. The first polar bear cub to be born at London Zoo, in 1949.
4. Lightweight horse-shoes fitted for racing.
5. In Greenland.
6. Sleave League in Co Donegal.
7. A cow rises back end first, a horse front end.
8. They are carved figures, usually female, supporting the upper storey of a building on their heads.
9. Chechya (Czech republic), with 4,000 litres per head per annum.
10. Both culinary, but (a) is a sauce made from mushrooms, olives, truffles and Madeira, while (b) is a small, usually oblong, almond-flavoured cake.
11. (a) Brian (b) Dylan (c) Dougal (d) Florence (e) Zebedee.
12. Pokerwork.
13. (a) rowing (b) horse racing.
14. Edinburgh.
15. A mouse, in Robert Burns' poem.
16. Park Lane.
17. (a) a pig (b) a carthorse
18. Morticia.
19. George Cole.
20. They are all dictionaries.

London Explorers again - in February, they went to Leighton House. The Scarsdale Tavern is highly recommended!



March 2023 u3a Monthly Meeting

Speaker Rob Preece on 'Prisons'

The speaker at the March monthly meeting was Rob Preece, the Communications Manager at the Howard League for Penal Reform, a charity 'working for less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison'.

In his talk 'The State of Prisons Today', Rob explained that the Howard League was named after 18th century prison reformer John Howard, who had visited prisons all around the UK and Europe. His exposures made prisons an issue and resulted in a new focus on what had been an invisible subject.

Rob went on to show photographs of prison interiors today, taken during actual formal prison inspections. These were conditions in which most would find it intolerably stressful to spend a day let alone sentences of decades; cells which were filthy, cramped, with broken windows and furniture, riddled with bugs, covered with damp and mould, prisoners having to share an open toilet in a cell designed for one but occupied by two, locked in for twenty-three hours a day.

The prison population had exploded during the 1990s and had doubled since. Currently there are around 85,000 people imprisoned in England and Wales. 71 of the 120 prisons are packed to well over their official capacity. This makes recruitment and retention of warders difficult, making matters even worse. Overcrowding leads to violence and self-harm. Although women account for just 4% of prisoners, they account for a third of cases of violence and self-harm.

Incarceration rates in England and Wales are among the highest in Europe at 139 per 100,000 population, yet below Russia's 300 and the USA's 505. A major factor is the

increasing severity of sentences to reduce crime, but experience has shown it doesn't really work. Many leave prison with nowhere to go. Court backlogs means that untried people are locked up for months on remand. The overloaded probation system interacts negatively with prison management.

Current actions include building more prisons; the government predicts 106,000 in gaol by 2027. But the Howard League believes that reform of sentencing and other social changes should be the way forward. Better prisons would mean less recidivism and ultimately less crime.

Many questions were asked following this compelling and sobering talk.



Bridges by Derek Minter



John Twydie; photo taken in 2021.

MAIDENHEAD u3a Annual General Meeting

Agenda

11th April 2023 at 2.30pm

Desborough Bowling Club

1. Welcome by Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Matters arising from Minutes of the 2022 AGM
4. Chairman's Report – John Twydle
5. Treasurer's Report – Linda Main
6. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report and appoint an Independent Examiner for accounts
7. Election of Committee Members
8. Adoption of the new Constitution
9. Any other business
10. Date of next AGM - 9th April 2024

MAIDENHEAD u3a

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB 12TH April 2022

Committee:	Chairman	John Twydle (via Zoom)
	Treasurer	Linda Main
	Newsletter	Pat Laković
	Newsletter	Nuala Smith
	Membership Secretary	Maggie Kearney
	Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell
	Secretary	Janet Rose
	Speakers	Philip Ratcliffe
	Web Secretary	Nigel Roper
	TVN	Mandy Taylor
	Without Portfolio	Derek Searle

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 from John Twytle**

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 led by Janet and Steve Rose has been particularly popular with visits to No. 1 London (Apsley House), 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 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.

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 u3as. 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 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 Searle 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, 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 where many members of the team worked together to lay on an excellent afternoon of music and dancing.

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 government's 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 £2,274, 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 £5,696 on the 2020 and £9,596 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 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 a copse – 100 trees for the u3a woodland appeal in the Brecon Beacons.

At the end of 2021 the Committee agreed to reinstate 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 £
RECEIPTS		
Receipts	8,757	14,448
Other Receipts	2	7
Total Receipts	8,759	14,455
PAYMENTS		
Payments	11,033	9,989
Other Payments	0	600
Total Payments	11,033	10,589
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(2,274)	3,866
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought Forward	17,873	14,007
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	15,599	17,873

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

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

7. Election of Committee Members

Proposal to agree election and retention of all current Committee Members i.e. John Twyde, Linda Main, Janet Rose, Kathy Bell, Phillip Ratcliffe, Pat Laković, Nigel Roper.

Proposed by Jill Hughes. Seconded by Margarett 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 - 11th 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.



London Explorers group trip to the Elizabeth Line in murky January.