



NEWSLETTER No. 243

MAIDENHEAD

MARCH 2019

(Registered Charity No. 1074907)

Committee

Chairman	Ian Ross	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	626849
Treasurer	John Twyde	treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	621644
Secretary	Mo Wright	secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	630023
Membership Secretary	Carol Cameron	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	530437
Groups Coordinator	Cynthia Wood	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	628008
Speaker Organiser	Jean Myhill	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01189 034769
Events Coordinator	Cynthia Wood	events@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	628008
Newsletter	Pat Laković	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	782038

Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead U3A www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Twitter twitter.com/MaidenheadU3A

Thames Valley Network www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Third Age Trust www.u3a.org.uk

Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	636893
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN FEBRUARY

Ruth Deadman, Christine Parsons, Ros Mandeville, Tony Durham, Nicola and Tom O'Kane, Mary Oorloff, Evelyn Zivkovic, George Hutchinson, Stephen and Vivienne Evans

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

As announced last month, the 2019 AGM will be held at **2.30pm** on **Tuesday, 9th April** at SportsAble. Consistent with notice requirements, the agenda, a proposed amendment to the constitution and minutes of the 2018 AGM are attached. A summary of the Accounts will be provided with the April Newsletter and we will therefore not distribute copies of these documents on the day.

Amongst other things, the Committee will submit themselves for election / reelection in the usual way. We are still looking for a Secretary and Membership Secretary, although Mo Wright and Carol Cameron have agreed to carry on for the time being. These roles are critical to our survival and we appeal once more for volunteers.

Monthly meetings

Monthly meetings are held at 2.30pm @ SportsAble, Braywick Road, Maidenhead.

12 March: Fran Sandham – Walking across Africa

9 April: **Annual General Meeting** (see Agenda & Minutes of 2018 AGM at end of Newsletter)

14 May: Commonwealth War Graves Commission – speaker TBC

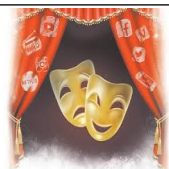
11 June: Energy for Life – Alex Paterson will talk about what our energy sources will be in the future

FINAL 2019 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those who have not yet paid their 2019 subs, the deadline of **10 MARCH** for payment is fast approaching. To pay your subs, please contact John Twydle (his contact details are on Page 1) **OR** complete the renewal form in the February newsletter.

If you decide NOT to renew your membership, it would help greatly if you inform BOTH Carol Cameron at membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk and John Twydle at treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk.

Please note that you must be a fully paid up member to take part in group activities.



THEATRE TRIPS

DATE	VENUE	TICKET PRICE	PAYMENT DATE
10 th April	Richmond	£28.56	By 8 th March
12 th June	Wycombe Swan	£22.50	By 11 th May

In November, if interest is there, we are hopefully purchasing tickets for **The Boy In the Dress**. It is being held at Stratford-Upon-Avon so we will go for lunch also. I cannot book tickets until 18th March but if you are interested, either give your name to Mo Wright by phone or at the monthly general meeting.

In September, **The Girl On the Train** is being shown at Wycombe. Again, if you are interested, please let Mo know.

REMEMBER: If we don't have at least 12 people, the event will be cancelled (as far as Maidenhead U3A is concerned).

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THEATRE BOOKING FORM

Name: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Phone no.: _____

I would like _____ ticket(s) for _____

to be held on _____ at _____ Theatre.

I enclose my cheque, made out to Maidenhead U3A, for £ _____

I do wish to go by transport. Please advise when you are aware of total figures.

Mo Wright, 52 Lyneham Gardens, Maidenhead SL6 6SJ 01628 630023

GROUPS

FOR OUR WALKERS

Walking Group **Brenda Finnigan 625618** **John Twytle 621644**

Consists of 2 walks each month (2nd Thurs & 4th Tues) for about 2 hours and are typically 3-5 miles. Walks usually start at 10.15am.

There is a shorter walk on the 3rd Tues at 11.15am.

See entry in the schedule at the end of the newsletter.

All members walking need to carry some ID and walk at their own risk.

Nature Amble **Jill Waites 628993**

The first amble of the year will take place on 15th March when we will walk along the Jubilee River looking for signs of Spring. All are welcome please contact Jill Waites for details.

NEW 'LISTENING TO JAZZ' GROUP

The existing Jazz Appreciation Group has been running for several years and is fully subscribed to, with no vacancies. I and some others have been on the waiting list but as there is little prospect of joining the existing group I am starting a new group "Listening to Jazz" whose format will develop over time.

We will meet on the first Monday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. The first meeting will be held on **4th March**. Anyone interested should telephone John Woodcock on 01628 620898.

TALKING RUBBISH?

Are you interested in recycling but unsure what goes in which bin?

Would you like to compost your own garden and food waste rather than pay to have it removed?

Fed up with litter in the countryside?

Jacqueline Turner would like to start an Environmental Science group with an initial meeting at her house to discuss interest and topics.

If you are keen, send her a message on jacqrturner@gmail.com or call her on **07860 883370**.

The initial meeting is planned for **18 March @ 3pm**.

MOTO **(Members On Their Own)**

Jean Gale 825107 / Joy Lamont 624747

MOTO is not a lunch club as such, although Sunday lunches are the most popular. This is a group for members who are on their own and would like the company of others in the same situation.

It is hoped that members will also contact each other to meet up for a coffee, drink and chat, or to arrange days out, theatre or cinema outings etc.

A list of email addresses and/or phone numbers is available from Jean.

COFFEE MORNINGS **Held on 3rd FRIDAY of the month** **10.00 – 12.00**

We are now established in the Methodist Church Coffee Shop, King Street, Maidenhead.

Open to all, no need to advise if attending.

All very informal and you may come and go at your leisure.

If you are a new member this a great way to meet up with more experienced members.

OUTINGS CALENDAR

Friday, 12th April - CIRENCESTER AND ANTIQUE / STREET MARKETS

This was the second largest town in Britain during Roman times; in later years it was a very prosperous medieval wool town.

Things to do:

Visit.....

Corinium Museum of the Roman past / Cirencester Park / Arts Centre / Parish Church of St John the Baptist / street and antiques and collectibles markets. There is a good range of shops and cafes / restaurants.

The cost for coach hire is **£15**. The coach will leave Braywick Sports Area (A308) at 9.00am; return around 6.00/6.30 pm. Remember there is now a £5 charge to park all day at this site.

Thursday, 16th May – HENRY MOORE STUDIOS & GARDENS

A world renowned collection of sculpture set in a 70 acre estate. Included in the entrance fee is a tour of Moore's former home, a tour of the exhibition, Aisled Barn, studios and gardens.

The trip costs are - coach £15, entrance fee £14.30. Total cost is **£29.30**.

Leave Braywick car park at 9.00am; return at 6.30pm. There is now a £5 charge to park all day here.

Wednesday, 3rd July - St. Albans Street Market and Hitchin Lavender Fields

Tuesday, 3rd September – Brighton

Booking information:

Outings are initially limited to Maidenhead U3A members only. If insufficient support is forthcoming, trips will be advertised to other U3A groups and/or friends of members who have booked.

If you wish to go on any outing, please complete the booking form below enclosing a cheque for the correct amount, made payable to Maidenhead U3A. Send the form and cheque to:

Maura McGinley, 16 Chandlers Quay, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead SL6 8NJ. Tel: 01628 629088

Acknowledgement / receipt will be by email if requested or, *if you require a mailed receipt, please enclose a SAE.*

Any cancellations to be notified to Maura; also enquires to her re vacancies.

Refunds of coach costs - if a member cancels, refunds are made at the discretion of the organisers.

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BOOKING FORM

Outing to: _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel. no/email _____

Maidenhead U3A membership no _____ Email acknowledgement required? Yes / No

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be distributed on April 1st (or maybe 31st March!)

Please send your contributions to Pat Laković by 21st March.

(newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk)

If you wish to join a group please ring the convenor, even if the group is known to be full. You can always be entered on a waiting list.

March Programme

V = Vacancy W = Waiting List

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Ancient Literature	Thurs Mar 21	14.30	Mick Stringer	635804 / 07836 211314	The group will finish its reading of The Bacchae.	
Art 1 Untutored	Tues Mar 5 Tues Mar 19	14.00 14.00	Wyn Greenhow	822884	Venue: St Joseph's Centre, Cookham Road, SL6 7EG. New members are always very welcome.	V
Aviation	Thurs Mar 14 WLAC	14.30	Bill Teasdale	672873	A welcome return visit by Peter Hart, oral archivist of the Imperial War Museum, with "Ypres of Trouble" - the story of the RFC and Passchendaele.	V
Book Reading 1	Wed Mar 20	14.00	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Book Choice: 'The Heart Goes Last' by Margaret Atwood Venue: Rosemary Parfett, tel: 01628 521332. Please let Rosemary know if you are unable to attend. The April book is 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy' by Rachael Joyce.	V
Book Reading 2	Thurs Mar 28	14.00	Pat Bird	664760	Book choice: 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine' by Gail Honeyman. Meet at Pat's house (as usual).	V
Book Reading 3	Thurs Mar 21	14.15	Marie Hague	484991	We have a vacancy in this friendly group. If you are interested, please call Marie Hague.	V
Bridge A	Every Thurs	10.00	Brian Commins	626038		
Bridge B	Every Frid	09.30	Karol Kwiatkowski	629197		
Bridge C	Every Thurs	14.00	Penny Moriarty	622823		
Bridge D	Every Wed	14.00	Colin Morgan	01344 360217		
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Malcolm Geary	07973 193439	Note earlier start time.	
Bridge F - beginners	Every Wed	09.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789		V
Sunday Bridge	Every Sun	14.00	Susanna Jones	07583 447789		V
Canasta	Every Frid	19.30	John Farrant	675447		
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Braywood Hall, Fifield. New members welcome.	V
Classical Music	Mon Mar 11	14.15	John Noakes	637399	Meet @ Dennis's house. Please ring him if you will be there (or not).	V
Coffee Morning	Frid Mar 15	10.00	Bill Teasdale	672873	Note earlier start time. See page 3 for more info.	V
Computing	Tues Mar 12 Tues Mar 26	09.30 09.30	Stephen Waites	628993	If you are not a Computing Group member, please contact Stephen if you wish to attend.	V
Creative Cards	Frid Mar 8 Frid Mar 22	10.00 10.00	Eileen Rogers	639656		

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Creative Writing	Last Tues of month	10.00	Mo Wright	630023		V
Cribbage	Thurs Mar 14 Thurs Mar 28	15.00 15.00	Nigel Furneaux	635488	Venue: Shire Horse Pub on A4 towards Reading	V
Current Affairs 2	Thurs Mar 14	14.15	Janice Waterman	530770	NHS Plan; Police Service, Brexit; Who is on next £50 note?; Feedback on Dementia Research.	
Current Affairs 3	Tues Mar 26	14.00	George Chamberlaine	670891		
Everyday French	Tues Mar 5 Tues Mar 19	14.00 14.00	Colin Goodman	670714		
Family History	Tues Mar 19	14.30	John Noakes	637399	Meet at Brian's house.	
French 1	Tues Mar 5 Tues Mar 19	10.00 10.00	Colin Goodman	670714		
French 2	Wed Mar 13 Wed Mar 27	10.00 10.00	Katharine Firman	07805 851330		
French Advanced	Thurs Mar 21	15.00	Marie-Christine Geary / Ian Ross	627009 626849	Venue TBC.	V
French for Beginners / Near Beginners 1	Wed Mar 6 Wed Mar 27	14.00 14.00	Marie-Christine Geary	627009	Meet @ Elizabeth's house, phone 636313 Meet @ Shirley's house, phone 781738	W
French for Beginners / Near Beginners 2	Frid Mar 1	14.00	Marie-Christine Geary	627009	Venue: Ann's house, phone 636355	W
French Games	Mon Mar 4	14.30	Ros Shotter	482548		V
French Improvers	Wed Mar 13	10.30	Evelyne Withey	627603	There are vacancies for this group	V
Fun with Wine	Thurs Mar 28	14.30	Judith Down	631640		
Garden Visits Group	Wed 27 Mar	12.30	Maura McGinley Shirley Forde	629088 07980 604416	Annual lunch @ Bull at Bisham SL7 1RR	V
German 1	Frid Mar 8 Frid Mar 22	10.00 10.00	Rhona Latham	638740		
German Conversation	Wed Mar 6 Wed Mar 20	14.30 14.30	Vreny Beadon	770731		V
History	Frid Mar 8	14.15	Molly Hurley	523484		V
Investment & Personal Finance	Wed Mar 13	14.15	Philip Ratcliffe	671220		V
Italian	Thurs Mar 7 Thurs Mar 21	14.00 14.00	Sheila Franklin	629615		
Jazz Appreciation	Mon Mar 18	14.15	Douglas Talintyre	781612	Meeting at Gavin's.	

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Latin	Mon Mar 11 Mon Mar 25	10.30 10.30	Mick Stringer	635804 / 07836 211314	Continue Section 2D of Reading Latin and Dido's speech.	V
Listening to Jazz	Mon Mar 4	14.00	John Woodcock	620898	New group (see page 3). Phone John for more details.	V
Mahjong	Wed Mar 6 Wed Mar 20	14.00 14.00	Jill Waites	628993		V
Mathematics	Every Tuesday	10.00	Betty Lowe	477172	We study maths at A level. Topics include first and second order differential equations, Maclaurin and Taylor series, polar coordinates, the maths calendar and input by members.	W
Meditation and Self-Healing Group	Thurs Mar 14 Thurs Mar 21	14.30	Marie Krag	632683	All meetings at Marie's house. There are still places available for meetings on 2 nd Thurs of the month.	V
Military History of 20 th Century	Wed Mar 20	14.15	Philip Ratcliffe	671220	'War in Tibet'.	
Monthly Meeting	Tues Mar 12	14.30	Jean Myhill	01189 034769	See page 1.	V
MOTO (Members On Their Own)	Sun Mar 10 Sun Mar 24	12.30 12.30	Jean Gale Joy Lamont	825107 624747	The Jasmine Peking, High Street, Maidenhead - phone Joy or Jean The George on the Green, Holyport - phone Joy or Jean	V
Music Appreciation	Tues Mar 19	14.30	Mary James	629850	Presenter: David Bailey. Host: Mary James Programme: Two Symphonies	
Nature Ambling	15 th March		Jill Waites	628993	We will walk along the Jubilee River looking for signs of Spring. All are welcome. Please contact Jill for details.	V
Play Reading 1	Thurs Mar 7	14.30	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Contact Barrie for further information	V
Play Reading 2	Frid Mar 8	14.00	Janet Rose	624709 / 07762 339873	Meeting at Sarah's house. For further details contact Janet, the convenor, by phone or email her at janetcrose@btinternet.com	W
Poetry and Prose	Every 3 rd Tues	14.15	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Poetry Studies	Every 1 st Tues	14.00	Barbara Ashford	633911		
Popular Music 1	Last Mon in month	14.30	Sylvia Wimpenny	622949		
Popular Music 2	Every 3 rd Thurs	14.30	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Quiz	Mon Mar 4	19.30	Jean Myhill	01189 034769	At Shire Horse pub on the A4.	V
Recorder Group	Mon Mar 4 Mon Mar 18	13.30 13.30	Pat Fairbairn	01753 336030	At Cox Green Community Centre. We have vacancies for new members - please ring convenor for more information.	V
Rummikub	Frid Mar 8 Frid Mar 22	10.30 10.30	Kath Evans	07743 572146	2 nd and 4 th Friday of the month at the Shire Horse on A4 towards Reading. Contact Kath on kmevans4012@gmsail.com for more details.	V

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Russian	Frid Mar 1 Frid Mar 15	10.00 10.00	Andrew Thatcher	826297		V
Science	Thurs Mar 21	14.30	John Twydle	621644	Meet at Eileen Rogers' house at 2.30pm start. Topic(s) TBC.	V
Scrabble	Mon Mar 25	14.15	Hilary Brodie	522331	Meet at Hilary Brodie's house.	V
Singing for Pleasure	Frid Mar 15	14.30	Brian Commins	626038	Venue TBC. The group generally meets every 3 weeks.	W
Spanish Conversation	Mon Mar 11 Mon Mar 25	10.00 10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Spanish for Holiday Makers 1	Tues Mar 5 Tues Mar 19	10.00 10.00	Kathy Bell	01189 343965 / 07752 660537		
Spanish for Holiday Makers 2	Tues Mar 12 Tues Mar 26	10.00 10.00	Kathy Bell	01189 343965 / 07752 660537		
Spanish Improvers 1	Tues Mar 12	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Spanish Improvers 2	Mon Mar 4 Mon Mar 18	10.00 10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Spanish Improvers 3	Frid Mar 1 Frid Mar 15	10.00 10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Walking	Thurs Mar 14	10.15	Brenda Finnigan John Twydle Brenda Finnigan	625618 621644 625618	2 walks this month. <u>Walk 1:</u> An undulating walk of about 4 miles from the car park at the Dewdrop Inn, Honey Lane, Hurley SL6 6RB . Meet at 10.00 for a 10.15 start. Visiting Prospect Hill with good views over the Thames Valley and Berks College of Agriculture. Lunch is available afterwards at the Dewdrop Inn.	V
	Tues Mar 26	11.15	Pam Tyrell	627509	<u>Walk 2:</u> Short walk A flat 2 mile walk from The Cricketers Littlewick Green SL6 3RA . Easy walking with the end possibly being a bit muddy. Meet at 11.00 for 11.15 start, parking in the car park or on the verge outside the pub, where we can get lunch afterwards.	

2019 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 9th April 2019

2.30pm at SportsAble

Agenda

1. Welcome by Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Matters arising from minutes of 2018 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for accounts
8. Amendment to Constitution (see below)
9. Election of Committee members
 - Ian Ross, John Twydle, Mo Wright, Carol Cameron and Cynthia Wood submit themselves for reelection.
 - Philip Ratcliffe and Pat Laković submit themselves for election.
10. Any other business
11. Date of next AGM

Followed by complementary refreshments.

Proposed Amendment to Constitution

- 4.1 (iv) The Chairman may serve for a period not exceeding three years and the Secretary, Treasurer, and all other members of the committee for a period not exceeding four years, all subject to annual reelection **and availability of suitably skilled replacements***. A period of not fewer than twelve months shall elapse between any two periods of service by any one person in any particular office.

* Addition (shown in bold) to enable the Secretary and Membership Secretary to carry on until replacements found with the appropriate skills.

**MINUTES OF 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
MAIDENHEAD U3A, HELD ON TUESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY 2018**

Present:	Nigel Roper John Twydle Ian Ross Mo Wright Jean Myhill Cynthia Wood	Chairman Treasurer Groups Co-ordinator Secretary Speakers Events Co-ordinator
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1. Welcome by Chairman **Nigel Roper**

2. Apologies for Absence **Nigel Roper**
Carol Cameron (Membership Secretary/Newsletter); Hilary Brodie and two others.

3. Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting. **Nigel Roper**
The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were distributed beforehand. No matters arose. Proposal to approve given by Shirley Ford and seconded by Pam Teasdale.

4. Chairman's Report **Nigel Roper**
Last August I went to the National U3A Conference and AGM in Nottingham. Attended by over 400 delegates from 238 U3As, the Annual Conference is an excellent opportunity to benchmark Maidenhead U3A against other U3A, compare notes and pickup ideas. We represent a typical size U3A, with a comparable annual fee and an above average ratio of Groups to members. Several Chairmen I spoke to were quite envious of the large numbers of language groups we run; by contrast, some are unable to offer even basic French. We also stand out by having a strong core of group Convenors, many of whom run multiple Groups. Again, there are U3As who find it difficult to find volunteers to run a group.

The following month, I was holidaying in Keswick and took the opportunity to go along to the annual open morning, run by Skiddaw U3A, which happened to be taking place that week. This once a year event provides prospective and established members an opportunity to come along, pay their membership fees, chat to Convenors, view exhibits laid on by various groups and meet the Committee. I was heartened to see the tide of members dropping in, enjoying cake and coffee; and chatting to fellow members – there was a real buzz and excitement in the air.

Nearer home, two of our Committee members attend the bi-monthly Thames Valley Network meetings, bringing back details of Study Days and learnings from other U3As in the Thames Valley.

We are part of a national organisation bonded by a set of values and principles and can all learn from other U3As by speaking to friends, browsing publications like Third Age Matters and reaching out to other U3As. The Committee will always have a listening ear for fresh ideas whether it's a new group or a speaker for a Monthly Meeting.

The Third Age Trust is putting an emphasis on new technology and encouraging members to embrace social media. To this end, the National office has updated their website giving it a modern feel and have both a Facebook and a Twitter presence. Media such as the web, email, Facebook and Twitter enable us to bring opportunities to our members in a timely fashion, such as the TVN Study Days. Alongside our updated website which has been up and running for a year, there is now a Maidenhead U3A Twitter page. Technology is a means of jointing-the-dots and of course should never replace face-to-face gatherings. We must also not forget that 12% of our members are not on email and are possibly averse to personal computing.

Our membership for the past 3 years has hovered around the 620 mark. Although 92 members joined in 2017, with similar numbers joining during each of the previous 2 years, we lose around 30% of each year's intake for various reasons – members are unable to join the group of their choice, decide U3A is not for them or move out of the area. We assist newcomers by offering two 'New Members' meetings every year and a monthly Coffee Morning at Maidenhead Library. Of course, as individuals we all have a responsibility to look out for new faces and make newcomers welcome.

Maidenhead U3A, like other U3As, could not function without the dedication of our many Convenors for which Ian will say more. We are also indebted to others, like Pam Teasdale who provides us with tea at our monthly meetings; and also to the many helpers who assist at our Christmas party.

During the months of April to October our Outings team, consisting of Jenny Cooper, Maura McGinley and Cynthia Wood, organised 7 well attended coach outings to various locations in the South West and South East of

England. New to 2017 was the introduction of Theatre Trips, organised by our Secretary, Mo Wright, taking in 9 productions at our 2 local theatres at Windsor and High Wycombe. Booking seats, choosing the right size coach, hoping for take up and balancing the books requires a lot of hard work and tenacity. We should all be grateful to the work done by these members in enriching our programme.

I have been a member of Maidenhead U3A for 4 years and have served on the Committee for all of these 4 years having been drawn in by the charms of Harry Burnham at my first Monthly Meeting in 2013. Having acted as Speaker Organiser, Groups Co-ordinator, Vice-Chairman and finally as Chairman I have completed my maximum term and need to step down from the Committee. In many ways, my final role as Chairman has been the least demanding with the main responsibilities being to chair our monthly Committee meetings and write the Chairman's Report for the Monthly Newsletter. My role has been made easy by being surrounded by a great team (in no particular order):

Ian Ross, our Groups Co-ordinator, who has been instrumental in setting up new groups and keeping the wheels turning for established groups.

Mo Wright, our Secretary, for minuting our meetings, handling publicity and still finding time to run the Creative Writing group and, as mentioned, organising the Theatre trips.

John Twytle, our Treasurer and newest recruit to the Committee, for keeping our books in order and still finding time to run the Science group.

Jean Myhill, our Speaker Organiser, who goes to great lengths to select interesting and varied speakers. Jean also acts as our catering go-to person at the Convenor and Christmas parties.

Cynthia Wood, our Events Co-ordinator, who liaises between Events organisers and the Committee.

Finally, Carol Cameron, our Membership Secretary, who unfortunately can't be with us today. Carol is also our Newsletter Editor and is responsible for gathering Convenor input, editing and publishing the Newsletter on the first of each month. To add to this, Carol now runs a second Family History group.

I shall miss my colleagues on the Committee, but I will continue to look after our website, so will be keeping in touch. I wish the new Committee every success for the coming year.

5. Treasurer's Report (See attached accounts)

John Twytle

As in the last couple of years, we have once again sent out the accounts with the February Newsletter, so you will all have had a few days to look at them and consider any queries which you would address at this meeting.

Firstly, the Statement of Assets, the simpler of the two pages, which simply shows how much cash we hold at the bank and equates it to the surpluses which we have accumulated over the years since our inception in 1998. You will note that the cash at bank has increased by some £1,004 during the year and this represents a surplus of income over expenditure for 2017. Significantly less than 2016, when a surplus of £1,817 was achieved. The difference between the 2 years is largely due to increased expenditure during 2017.

The report, as ever, has been audited and signed by John Tryon, our independent examiner. We propose that John is re-elected to this honorary position, later in the meeting.

Now to page 2, the receipts and payments account, and the reasons behind the surplus for the year. I should emphasise that the Committee does not set out to achieve a surplus, but we do have to ensure that we do not incur a deficit. The trip and theatre visits both incurred a small loss - you will appreciate that it is exceedingly difficult to cost these events and one cannot emphasise the importance of the planning and budgeting required for this aspect of our activities.

Membership was strong with additional income from subscriptions and Gift Aid.

In 2016 we had an unexpectedly low charge from the Third Age Trust for their quarterly news distribution. In 2017 this charge rose to the level anticipated by Bill last year. The capitation fee will also be higher in 2017 as it is based on membership at December 2016.

Conference expenses - Nigel attended the National conference in 2017 hence the additional costs there.

Newsletter - unfortunately, as postal costs continue to rise, so does the cost of producing the printed newsletter delivery.

Group expenses - these will continue to increase as some of the larger groups find suitable accommodation.

The committee also offers support for groups who require literature or photocopying.

Provisions for general meetings - largely stable

Speakers – monthly meetings. While these costs are rising generally, we reduced costs in 2017 by having some U3A speakers.

Recruitment literature – decreased from £734 in 2016 down to £206 largely as we use up stock.

Yuletide – represents the deficit incurred on the Christmas Party.

Once again, I would like to thank John Tryon for examining our accounts, and I am glad to report that he has kindly agreed to continue in this role for yet another year.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by Bill Teasdale and seconded by Brian Jenner.

The acceptance of John Tryon for the next year was accepted by Moira McGinley and June Spiers.

Bill Teasdale mentioned that when John Tyndale took over from him, within a few months the systems he handed over broke down and John was forced to learn other systems. I send my congratulations to him.

6. Groups Co-ordinator's Report

Ian Ross

For our membership of over 600 we have 72 interest groups, at the last count. If I try to classify them, we have 15 language groups (and counting), 14 games groups, 9 arts, crafts and music, 9 literature, 5 maths, science and technology, 5 history, 3 current affairs and 12 others. But they all have their own unique character. The majority of groups meet in members' houses, but we also use a number of established venues for the largest groups.

I would like to pay tribute first to all the convenors and members of the 60 groups which existed a year ago and in most cases have kept going for many years. You obviously enjoy what you do, we rarely hear from you and you carry on month after month and year after year. I would like to mention all the convenors by name but it would sound like a roll call.

At last year's AGM we invited suggestions for new groups and the responses we received included Bridge and Beginners' French. We now have two additional Bridge groups, making 6 in all, which have been led by Susanna Jones. Marie-Christine Geary, a French national and former teacher, has just offered to lead a French beginners' and near beginners' group and we will hold a start-up meeting this month for the 12 members who have asked to join.

It is great when new members come to our U3A with ideas for new groups and offer to lead them. This has happened at the last two new members meetings. Mark Davis joined us from another U3A and has set up the History of Medicine group which is already very well attended. Mick Stringer who recently completed a PhD in Classics after a financial career has just started up an Ancient Literature group (meaning Homer, Virgil, Ovid and the like). One of our established convenors, Pat Cairney, is starting up an Italian group, as advertised in the newsletter, and 12 people have applied, so we may need two! And Philip Ratcliffe is trying to get an investment group off the ground.

Some of our groups prove so popular that they cannot accommodate everyone who wants to join. Family History is a good example, so we have set up a second Family History group led by Carol Cameron and the two additional bridge groups are another example.

Inevitably we occasionally lose convenors. Susan Scorer decided to stand down after many years as did Betty Carter and Iris McMenamin and sadly Pat Roberts has passed away. I am pleased to report that new convenors have come forward: Hilary Brodie to lead the scrabble group, Marie Krag the Relaxation and Self Healing group and Betty Lowe the Maths group, while Susan's members have mostly transferred to other French groups.

In September the annual Convenors party was held at Cookham Parish Hall and we invited them beforehand to raise any issues or suggestions which they wanted to discuss with the committee and their fellow convenors. No issues were raised. They just wanted to have a good party and it was very well deserved. But we must not become complacent and we are always pleased to hear from members with any suggestions for new groups or any other issues they wish to raise.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nigel informed all that Ian Ross will be taking over as Chairman and Cynthia Wood will become Groups Co-ordinator.

Everyone else remains in their current roles on the Committee.

Finally, Ian Ross expressed his thanks to Nigel for all his contributions. Not only has Nigel served us well over the last four years as Speakers Organiser, Groups Co-ordinator and Chairman, but he has done a lot to move our U3A forward by masterminding the introduction of the Beacon database, developing our new website and networking extensively with other U3As.

The 21st AGM will be held on the 12th February 2019.