



NEWSLETTER No. 281

MAIDENHEAD

May 2022

(Registered Charity No. 1074907)

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All

Well, the AGM ran smoothly despite my virtual presence only due to Covid. Thank you to all those that did turn up and who were treated to a really excellent speaker in the second half of the meeting. Well done Philip for delivering on that, also at very short notice.

Our focus in May is to try and drive a bit more recruitment. We have the new members' meeting on 11th May. We will introduce them to the range of activities available in our u3a and listen to their needs too. If you have friends who you think would enjoy u3a bring them along to your next activity. Any potential member can have two taster sessions without commitment. Over half of all our new members come through friend introductions.

Later in May we will host the conveners' party to thank all those members and their partners who convene all our activities. These members give their time and in many cases their homes for activities and meetings.

Stay safe.

John Twydale

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 10th May 2022 at 2.30pm

In May, our speaker will be the distinguished economist Richard Smethurst. Former Provost of Worcester College Oxford and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, Dick Smethurst was an adviser to Harold Wilson, Jim Callaghan and Roy Jenkins during the 1970s. Later he was Deputy Chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. For many years, Dick has given WEA courses on economics in Maidenhead. He will talk about his experiences in these roles and how crises impact economic policy.

The meeting will again be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ (Green Lane is just off Stafferton Link and Bray Lane; there is plenty of free parking). Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm, wearing a face covering. Please remember to wear your u3a lanyard at the monthly meeting.

Covid protection - We recognise that, while government regulations have relaxed, Covid infections continue to be high and u3a members may still be vulnerable even though the majority of our members are likely to have been double vaccinated and had a booster. As we are meeting indoors, please wear a face covering as soon as you arrive to ensure the greatest level of mutual protection. If you have not been vaccinated or cannot wear a face covering, please sit at the back. Our concern is to do everything we can to protect all our members.

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

Membership News

A warm welcome to: Martyn Suggett & Julie Veazey who joined us recently.

Finding New Members

Those considering joining the u3a can have two taster sessions before committing themselves - this could be a monthly meeting or joining one of the group activities.

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

If you have not been a Maidenhead u3a member for very long or you joined us during the pandemic and were unable to find out as much as you would have liked about our activities, then you are warmly invited to a meeting on

WEDNESDAY, 11th MAY at 2.00pm

at St Joseph's Church Hall, Cookham Road, Maidenhead **SL6 8AT**

Please let Maggie know if you plan to attend ASAP (if you haven't already done so).

Maggie Kearney - Membership Secretary

CONVENERS' PARTY

One of the pluses of being a convener is that you and one other person are invited to a get-together once a year to talk to, and share experiences with, other Maidenhead u3a conveners who lead a wide variety of interest groups.

On **26th May at 2.00pm**, all conveners and a partner or guest are invited to the first Conveners' Party since 2019 - this seems like a lifetime ago! We will meet at St Joseph's Church Hall, Cookham Road, Maidenhead **SL6 8AT**

If you have not already done so, and to assist us with catering arrangements, please let Kathy Bell, Groups Coordinator, know if you plan to attend.



*STORIES of imagination tend to
upset those without one.*
Sir Terry Pratchett, author (1948-2015)

HELP WANTED

Assistant Website Editor

The job of keeping the Maidenhead u3a website current is no mean feat and Nigel Roper, our webmaster would appreciate some help. He has written a comprehensive training manual for all aspects of our website so if you are that way inclined and would like to either use your existing web editing skills or develop your IT skills in that direction, please contact Nigel at web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or ring him on 01628 636893.



Another of John Twyde's many photos!
Spotted in a Dorset village.

u3a

South East Region

Thames Valley Network

MAY event

The Origins and Development of Anaesthesia

Talk by Professor Tom Clutton-Brock

Cost is £1.00 per device.

Closing date for applications Saturday, 7th May.

More info can be found at http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/?page_id=44

GROUP NEWS

If a group in which you are interested is listed as full, or if there is a group that you would like to set up, please contact Kathy (her details are given further in newsletter).

GO

GO is a board game and, according to the British GO Association, originated over 3,000 years ago in China and is very much a part of oriental culture. (See Q8 in Ann's May quiz)

One of GO's best features, unlike almost all other games, is the **handicapping system** which allows players of very different strengths to play a proper game, giving each player a 50% chance of winning. For more information about the game, visit <https://www.britgo.org/whatisgo>

Iain Attwell, who is a keen GO player, would like to start a group. To find out more, please contact him on 01628 676792 or by email at wintergarden@talktalk.net

CREATIVE WRITING

There has been some interest in restarting this group.

If you are interested, or indeed if you would like to lead such a group, please contact Kathy.

OTHER NEWS

ART UNTUTORED

On **17th May**, we will have a professional artist coming to demonstrate and instruct and the session has been extended to 3 hours to allow extra tuition time. The subject matter is **Landscapes**, the medium is water colour.

All are welcome to attend; new members are especially welcome. The venue is St Joseph's Church Hall, Cookham Road, SL6 8AT. See more information in May programme listing.

CONDUCTOR NEEDED

The Recorder group has been playing together for many years but unfortunately, its current conductor will be leaving in the Summer and we are looking for a replacement. Currently around 10 of us play regularly but at one point it was double that.

We meet twice a month on a Monday (1.30pm to 3.30pm) at Cox Green Community Centre. If you think you could help, we would love to hear from you!

Edwina Shelley, convener. My email address is edwina.shelley@btinternet.com

BUCKET LIST GROUP

8 members of the Bucket List group have booked a 6 hour trip across Weymouth Bay on a Dutch sailing barge. The trip will take place on **Thursday, 7th July**.

See <https://www.moonfleetsailing.com/>

If any other Maidenhead u3a members are interested in joining, we may be able to add some members, up to a total of 12. Or if there is significant interest, we will try to organise a second date. You do not need to be a Bucket List member to participate.

Please contact John Twydle 07786 854920 jtwydle@gmail.com if you wish to participate.

May Quiz

(Answers are further on in the newsletter)

1. What was unusual about the 19 th century naval doctor, Dr James Barry?	11. What is the deepest lake in the world?
2. For what is a créance used?	12. What is the deepest area on earth?
3. Winston Churchill's will specified that there must always be what at Chartwell?	13. Who designed the red telephone box?
4. What is the largest area in Europe which is still banned to women?	14. What is the only village in Britain with an exclamation mark in its name?
5. How many capsules are there on the London Eye?	15. What is a Bedfordshire Clanger?
6. What is the name of the bird often called the Butcher Bird?	16. What are the silver hallmarks of these assay offices? (a) London (b) Edinburgh (c) Sheffield (d) Birmingham (e) Dublin
7. Rate in order of size (a) a dollop (b) a tad (c) a smidgen	17. What is Greenwell's Glory?
8. What is reputed to be the oldest board game in the world?	18. What is the name for a three-dimensional movable model of the solar system?
9. What is (a) a curragh & (b) a Claddagh ring?	19. Name the seven deadly sins.
10. Where in the body might one suffer macular degeneration ?	20. When an antique dealer refers to an item with 'a cover' what would most people think was meant?

Submissions to Newsletter

If you wish to send us photos, please ensure that they are no more than 500kB 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.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the **June** newsletter NO LATER than **22nd May 2022**.

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

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

May Programme

Group information below is accurate as at 26th April 2022. More group details are available on our website but make sure you are registered as a user. If you wish to join a group please ring the convener. Even if it is full, you can always be entered on a waiting list.

V = Vacancy(ies), W = Waiting list

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Ancient Literature	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet by Zoom at 2.30pm on 19th May and complete Plato's Apology and look at his theories of the soul in the Phaedo. The group is now full but would consider a second group if there is interest.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	mandyofart@gmail.com	
Art Untutored	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.00	Peter Neville	01628 674097	On 17th May , we will meet from 2 to 5 pm . See more info in Group News.	V
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	Martin Suggett will talk about "Heathrow, the World's Busiest Airport - but nothing like anything you have ever seen on TV..... a collection of stories & anecdotes that I have experienced from working in a number of roles at Heathrow Airport from 1983 onwards. You may know of some of the events, but almost certainly not the background!"	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.30	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	May's book: Zeitoun by Dave Eggers. Venue TBA.	W
Book Reading 2	2 nd Wed	13.00 to 15.00	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	This new group would welcome one more member.	V
Bridge C	Every Thurs	14.00	Frances Foster	07548 306782	This Bridge group continues to meet in members' houses according to current regulations, common sense & members' wishes.	
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Mal Geary	07973 193439	We usually meet with 1 or 2 tables. More hosts / players would increase # of tables. Contact Mal for information.	V
Bridge F - Beginners	Every Wed	9.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's house. New members welcome.	V
Bridge on Sunday	Every Sun	14.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's house. New members welcome.	V
Bucket List			John Twytle	01628 621644	See information in Group News.	
Canasta	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	Meet at The Shire Horse pub on the A4.	
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Fifield Memorial Hall, Fifield. No vacancies in this group at present.	
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	We meet on 9th May at Janice's. Please let her know you will be coming on 01628 530770.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Creative Cards 1	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656		
Creative Cards 2	1 st & 3 rd Frid					
Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	15.00	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	Meet at Shire Horse pub. New members welcome.	V
Current Affairs 1	4 th Tues	13.00	Barbara Warmley	01628 522255	Meetings are held at Spindlewood, High Road, Cookham SL6 9JT. Contact Barbara for more details.	V
Current Affairs 2	2 nd Thurs	14.15	Janice Waterman	01628 530770	Co-convenor is Pam May. Her email is pam.may508@gmail.com	
Dog Walking	2 nd & 4 th Mon	Flexible	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462	The regular days may be altered to reflect holidays. Exact times and locations vary.	V
Exploring World Faiths	1 st Thurs	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801 077630405699	No specialist knowledge required! Please call or email michael.gammage@outlook.com for details. New members welcome.	V
Family History	3 rd Tues	14.30	John Noakes	01628 637399	Our meeting on 17 th May is at Jocelyn's. Please ensure she knows you are coming (01628 620275).	V
French 2	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218	We have space for 2 more members. Please contact Margaret for more information.	V
French Advanced	3 rd Thurs	15.00	Ian Ross	01628 626849		V
French Conversation	2 nd Mon	11.00 to 13.00	Tim Lodge	01628 627882	We meet in member's homes. Group now full.	
French Improvers	1 st & 3 rd Wed	10.30	Evelyne Withey	07939 083996	Meetings continue on Zoom. There are 3 or 4 vacancies.	V
Fun with Flowers	3 rd Frid	14.00 to 16.00	Chris Smith	01628 663764	Meet on 20 th May at 2.15pm.	
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	14.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088 07767 446349	25 th May. Venue to be decided.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	Reluctantly we have gone back to Zoom meetings, taking into consideration the current Covid situation and the vulnerability of our members. However we can still practise our language skills thanks to modern technology.	
German Conversation	Alternate Weds	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041		
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	The History group continues to meet each month enjoying contributions from members on our chosen subject which, at present, is South America.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00 to 16.00	Kath Evans	07743 572146	Meet at Richard's home on 9 th May.	V
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet on Zoom on 9 th & 23 rd May and continue to read pieces from the Latin Vulgate & explore the poetry of Catullus & Ovid.	V
London Explorers			Janet Rose	01628 624709	There are no vacancies at the moment.	
Lunch Club	Monthly		Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Next meeting is on Tuesday, 24 th May, <u>not</u> the usual 4 th Thursday. Venue to be decided. New members welcome.	V
Mahjong 麻将	1 st & 3 rd Wed	14.00	Jill Waites	01628 628993	Please contact Jill for more details.	
Maideleles (Ukulele)	Every Wed	10.30 to 12.30	Carolyn Bell	07940 333709	The group is now full. Carolyn may consider starting another group if there is sufficient interest. Her email address is carolynbell64@gmail.com .	W
Meditation	3 rd Wed	14.00	Marie Krag	01628 632683	Note change of day to 18th May. In April we changed the format slightly and did two meditations - one to access a past life and one to assess a future life. Amazing the images that came up for the group. It was fun. This group is full but would consider a second one if people are interested. Contact mariekrag@talktalk.net	V
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107	The next lunch is on 22 nd May at The Bull at Bisham	
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	Note change of date to Friday, 27th May. We will walk from the Sounding Arch across fields to Bray Lock and back along the towpath looking for early summer flowers etc. All are welcome, for details please contact Jill Waites. The April amble was cold but enjoyable, glorious bluebells and we were lucky enough to find an early spotted orchid.	V
Play Reading 1	1 st Thurs	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Play Reading 2	2 nd Frid	14.00	Janet Rose	01628 624709	The group is now meeting in person. It has no vacancies.	
Poetry 2	1 st Tues	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801	The group will revert to in-person meetings on 1 st Tuesday only.	v
Popular Music	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Quiz	2 nd Mon	19.15	Derek Searle	01628 822562 07801 926246	Note revised day for May only i.e. 9th May. Meet at Shire Horse pub. Derek's email address is drs05drs@gmail.com	V
Recorder	1 st & 3 rd Mon	13.30	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152		V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Frid	9.30 to 11.30	Janice Walker	01753 852403	Meet at Shire Horse pub. New members welcome.	V
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet at Jacqueline Turner's (Larkspur House, phone 07545 504880). Brian Wells will provide "Global Warming - a framework for discussion". Members will be invited to report on their own efforts to save the planet.	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Meeting as usual on last Monday, May 30th , at Hilary's house.	V
Spanish for Holidaymakers 1	1 st & 3 rd Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537		
Spanish for Holidaymakers 2	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00				
Spanish Improvers 1	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Check with Barrie if the group is meeting on 2nd May .	
Spanish Improvers 2	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.00				
Spanish Improvers 3	1 st & 3 rd Frid	10.00				
Walk 1	Thurs 12 th May	10.00	Wendy Jones	01628 662753 07513 019724	Easy 4 mile walk from Huntswood Golf Club, Taplow Common Road, Burnham SL1 8LS , through footpaths and country lanes north of Burnham, Rose Hill and Nashdom Abbey. Parking and lunch available at the Golf Club.	
Walk 2	Wed 18 th May	10.45	Pam Tyrell	07913 566514	Meet at the Shire Horse pub on A4 for a 2 mile, mostly flat, walk south of the Thicket. There are about 20 downward steps which are fairly steep but one could navigate by a slope; there is a handrail to assist if needed. Lunch available at the Shire Horse if desired.	
Walk 3	Tues 24 th May	10.00	John Twydle	01628 621644 07786 854920	Meet at the Lock Car Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead Berks SL6 8JN for a flat 4.1 mile walk. Walk out past Summerlease gravel extraction and across Widbrook and Battlemead Commons and return via the Thames Path. Lunch for those that wish to at Jenner's Café afterwards.	
Yoga	Every Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498	Meet at St Mark's Methodist Church, Allenby Road, Maidenhead. Note: there will be no meetings in school holidays. Group is now full.	

Answers to May Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. She was actually a woman masquerading as a man.	11. Lake Baikal.
2. It is a long light-weight leash, used in training a falcon.	12. The Marianas Trench.
3. A ginger tomcat.	13. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.
4. Mount Athos in Greece.	14. Westward Ho!
5. Thirty two.	15. A double-ended pasty, meat at one end, sweet (fruit or jam) at the other.
6. The shrike.	16. (a) leopard's head (b) triple-towered castle (c) rose (d) anchor (e) figure of Hibernia
7. Tad is the smallest, then smidgen, then dollop.	17. A fishing fly for trout.
8. GO.	18. An orrery.
9. (a) a primitive Irish boat of skin stretched on a timber frame (b) an Irish ring showing two clasped hands, usually a love token.	19. Gluttony, lust, sloth, pride, anger (wrath), avarice (greed, covetousness), envy.
10. In the eye.	20. A lid for a pot.

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
Without Portfolio	Derek Searle	committeeDS@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 822562
TVN Rep	Mandy Taylor	tvn@maidenhead.org.uk	01628 298017

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



MAIDENHEAD

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

(Registered Charity No. 1074907)

Tuesday, 12th April 2022 @ 2.30pm

Committee

Chairman:	John Twydle (via Zoom)
Treasurer:	Linda Main
Newsletter:	Pat Laković & Nuala Smith
Membership Secretary:	Maggie Kearney
Groups Co-ordinator:	Kathy Bell
Secretary:	Janet Rose
Speakers:	Philip Ratcliffe
Web Master:	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** – 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 conveners 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 conveners 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 conveners 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 the 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, 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 Independent Examiner, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them. An extract will be published in the May 2022 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.

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 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 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 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.

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

Proposed by Brian Madge. Seconded by Margarette Shore. The vote was carried unanimously.

7. **Election of Committee Members**

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

Proposed by Jill Hughes. Seconded by Margarette Shore. The vote was 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. The vote was carried unanimously.

8. Any other business

John thanked the Committee and Conveners and everyone for attending.

9. Date of next AGM – 11th April 2023

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

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.