

**MAIDENHEAD u3a**  
**MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD VIA ZOOM ON 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Ian Ross
	<b>Treasurer</b>	John Twydle
	<b>Newsletter</b>	Pat Laković
	<b>Membership</b>	Linda Main
	<b>Group Co-ordinator</b>	Kathy Bell
	<b>TVN</b>	Jean Myhill
	<b>Speakers</b>	Philip Ratcliffe

**Other Members:** Approximately 33 participants

**2. Apologies for absence:** Nigel Roper  
Jill Powell  
Margarette Shore  
Vreny Breadon  
Irene Doh  
Rosemary Muncie

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2020 AGM MINUTES** - none.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - Ian Ross

Our last AGM took place three weeks into the first lockdown and here we are, three months into the third. Unlike many u3as, we have remained open but our activities have been heavily restricted.

First and foremost, our community appears to have escaped the virus relatively lightly, thanks to the caution and understanding of our members. However, I feel deeply for those who have died before their time or, like me, have lost family or close friends from Covid or other causes.

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 529 members and we expect this to increase as our activities resume and soon reach pre-pandemic levels. We thank our membership secretary, Linda Main, for her energy and persistence in optimising this result in difficult circumstances.

The annual subscription has been £16 for several years but for this year only we reduced it to £8 (about the cost of a very average bottle of wine!) because so many of our activities have not been possible. We gave members the option of leaving their subscription at £16 and 49% did so, for which we are very grateful. Even in such a quiet year we still have expenses, as John will explain, but our financial position remains strong, which will help us to support a good bounce back.

Many of our convenors soon got to grips with Zoom and the following groups have continued to meet virtually: Ancient Literature, Aviation, online Bridge, two French groups, both German groups, three Spanish groups, Latin, Book Reading 1, Play Reading 2, Poetry, Scrabble and Science. Walking groups have also met outdoors when the rules allowed. Many others are already planning their resumption and we hope all 70 will be back before long. Outings have not been possible, but Maura McGinley had planned visits to Devizes, Stratford on Avon and Lymington last year and is considering rebooking these in the summer, along with further garden visits. We thank and congratulate all those convenors who have kept their groups going throughout this difficult year and our Groups Co-ordinator, 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 for her energy and creativity, along with our poets, photographers, quiz masters and humourists who have raised our spirits through these dark days.

Normally 70–100 regulars attend the monthly meeting at SportsAble and enjoy the social contact as well as the speaker. Over recent months, Philip Ratcliffe has organised speakers, via Zoom, on American Presidents, the Russell-Coates Art Gallery and Aromatherapy, and as many as 150 people have logged in. We hope we will soon be able to meet again in person, but this will be in a different venue as SportsAble is closing.

We are members of the Thames Valley Network (TVN), a collection of some 40 u3as, and Jean Myhill attends their quarterly meetings which are now run via Zoom. 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.

Last week I received a call from the former Chairman of The Third Age Trust (that's the National Office) who was surveying a wide range of u3as and it was gratifying to receive feedback that our activity level in these restricted circumstances was ahead of the pack.

The Committee has been very stable and has continued to meet every month via Zoom but, as usual, there will be a few changes at this AGM. After a record six years on the committee, our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Mo Wright, has decided to stand down and we thank her for her tireless service to our u3a. In line with our Constitution and national u3a practice, I am also standing down today on completion of my three year term of office. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as Groups Co-ordinator and then Chairman over the last five years and I am confident our u3a will thrive once more as we emerge further from lockdown, hopefully in July. I would like to thank all my committee colleagues and our brilliant band of convenors for serving our u3a so well.

I am delighted to propose John Twydle, who is well known to many of you in the Walking, Science and Aviation Groups, as my successor as Chairman. Could I have a seconder please? John Morris seconded.

It remains for me only to wish you all well and hand over to John to deliver the Treasurer's report, propose the new committee and lead the rest of the meeting.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT - John Twydle**

The accounts have been examined by Peter Upton Ltd. as last year, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them. An extract was published in the April newsletter. As last year, the accounts include a more extensive report for the Charity Commission in line with current best practice. An exceptional year for our u3a which, in the circumstances, was able to keep many of its activities alive to some degree.

Firstly, the Statement of Assets, the simpler of the two pages, which simply shows how much cash we hold at the bank and equates 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 £3,866 during the year and this represents a surplus of income over expenditure for 2020. This surplus was due to the lack of activity due to the Covid pandemic and the suspension of all face-to-face meetings for the majority of the year.

Membership was largely static with income from subscriptions and Gift Aid down slightly.

Overall income was down about £3,900 but £3,400 of this related to no income from outings.

I would draw your attention to two items, with the exception of the newsletter, nearly all normal costs dropped. Theatre costs incurred in booking visits five months ahead were eventually reimbursed but appear to show significant activity when in fact they did not take place.

These exceptional figures and the surplus made prompted me to recommend to the Committee that subs be reduced by 50% for 2021. There was some concern that those who paid directly to the bank would have additional administrative work and hence the option of a £8 donation which about 40% of members took up. Thank you.

I would like to thank Peter Upton for examining our accounts, and unless another examiner comes forward I would propose we use his services again to review the accounts for 2021.

While this year has been a struggle in many aspects of our lives Maidenhead u3a remains in a strong financial position.

I propose adoption of accounts. Seconded by Maurice Skinner

6. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER** John Twydle proposed Peter Upton Ltd. as our examiner. This was seconded by Bill Teasdale.

## 7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Current Committee:-

Chairman	John Twydle
Treasurer	Linda Main
Membership Secretary	Linda Main
Newsletter	Pat Laković
Group Co-ordinator	Kathy Bell
TVN	Jean Myhill
Speakers	Philip Ratcliffe

John Twydle proposed the current committee for reelection; Sheila White seconded this proposal.

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER:** Secretary Janet Rose.

John Twydle proposed Janet as the new Secretary, which was seconded by Ian Ross.

John thanked past and current committee members and convenors for their service.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ✓ Bill Teasdale pointed out that you could not have a u3a member as Auditor. John replied that he hoped one member had a family member or friend who could take over as Auditor. John was also thinking of co-opting one of his family to become Auditor for 2021/2.
- ✓ Philip Ratcliffe suggested it might be a good idea if the Maidenhead u3a signed the Condolences Book for the Queen with regard to the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh. This has now been done by John Twydle.
- ✓ Kath Evans asked John Twydle if she could be considered as Promotions representative. John said the Committee would discuss it at their next meeting.
- ✓ A brief mention was made of the possible new venues for u3a monthly meetings. Hopefully, we would get a room at the new Braywick Centre. The alternative is The Long Barn at Norden Farm. A final suggestion was the Town Hall. Kath Evans also suggested the new premises of Desborough Bowling Club. Philip will investigate and report to the committee next month.

John thanked everybody for attending.

## 9. Date of next AGM - 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022