

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the
Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday, 20th June 2024**

Steve Sell (SS) Chair	Tony Knight (TK) RUGs Coordinator
Stewart Walter (SW2) Vice Chair	Peter Harris (PH) Committee Member
Christine Luff (CL) Secretary	Frank Sluter (FS) Group Coordinator
Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer	Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member
Sue Allum (SA) Speaker Secretary	John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator
Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst. Program Editor	Heather Douglas (HD) Committee member
Vanessa Lucas (VL) Website Coordinator	Andy Smith (AS) Committee member

- 1. Apologies:** Christine Folland, Brian Peel.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting** held on 16th May 2024 agreed.
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes, not being discussed later:**

Rob to identify and contact members who have already paid £8.50 and ensure they pay the additional £6.50 to meet the current membership fee and to advise them to change the SO date from November to March. – Still pending, CF & RS working to resolve.

4. Chair's Report:

Welcome all to our June committee meeting. I thought that the speaker at our May meeting, Chris Foster was very interesting, and I am sure that most members were suitably entertained by his virtual guided walk around the Kings Cross area in London.

At last, I had a reasonable bundle of programmes left over at the end of the meeting and was able to put my first bundle in the racks at the entrance to the Leisure Centre. When these had all disappeared, I was able to replenish with a further bundle. I would like to think that the programmes were not only being taken by existing members but also by prospective members or family members that would forward them on. I know that when I have delivered programmes to the library in the past they have told me that they find them very useful in introducing the u3a to Third Age citizens in our community.

Pauline Pretty, Chair of Ware u3a and now East Herts u3a Network has circulated representatives from the latter in order to agree more suitable meeting days and times for members. It seems that Tuesdays are now out which means that the previous venue Wodson Park Charm Bar is out. Pauline

has asked if other members can offer suitable venues with plenty of parking. I say this in case anyone wants to offer any suggestions.

Amongst the now usual communications from the Third Age Trust has been a recent lengthy document detailing the results of the Consultation on the u3a 'Fit for the Future' initiative which I believe we decided did not engage with. My understanding is that the respondents were largely in agreement with the proposal to change to a new governance structure for the Third Age Trust so that it would comprise:

- A smaller, skills/experience-based Board elected by u3as nationwide that approves the annual budget and strategy, and is focused on oversight and compliance
- A Council, elected by regions, nations and networks, focused on identifying u3a-related issues, and contributing to the development of the u3a movement's future strategy and the Trust's annual budgeting process.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

Our May meeting was again well attended and seemed to run smoothly with queues at the door well managed and the flood for new memberships now down to more of a trickle. The speaker, Chris Foster, gave an interesting and informative talk sprinkled with personal anecdotes which gave it a more personal feel than we sometimes get. There was a comment from a few members that they had been on his actual walking tour with exploring London groups so they were aware of the content, but it did remain fresh for the majority of the members.

I would like to record thanks to Vanessa for all her hard work in revising the website. Our new version is up and running and is a vast improvement on the previous one. The task now is to try to educate and engage more people in uploading content to spread the load and ensure that it remains up to date and a prime source of information for members and prospective members.

I will not be able to attend this month's meeting in common with several other committee members due to the u3a cycling holiday. I understand that Andy is available to set up the sound equipment but has to leave early so we will need someone to take charge of packing up and to take charge of our laptop. With several people missing we probably need some extra RUGS to fill the gaps.

6. Business Secretary's Report:

u3a mailings and web contacts circulated.

Although Brian is unable to attend the meeting today he will be available to assist Christine at the Main Meeting.

BARTs have requested details of our Speakers for September 2024 to January 2025 by 24th June 2024. (There is an overlap in September covered in the previous edition, but we can add any new material for that month)

A member of Enfield u3a, Andy Berriman, asked if he could attend this month's meeting as keen to hear Chris Truan's 'A funny thing happened on the way to the Old Bailey'. I said he was welcome to come as a visitor.

He also asked if we had a 'piano group' as he had recently bought an electric keyboard and was looking to learn how to play.

Action: Peter will investigate the possibility of providing some lessons with a member of the A Train

7. Treasurer's report:

Monetary Assets as at 18th June 2024

Main Account	£8,888.18
Groups Account (Restricted)	<u>£18,240.28</u>
	£27,128.46
Cash Floats:-	
Membership Secretary	£50.00
Books	£5.00
Cash in hand held by Groups	<u>£2,520.46</u>
	<u>£29,703.92</u>

Again, another slowdown on the month's receipts and payments: We have received £659.00 in Membership Fees, with charges of £9.35, Books £10.00, Puzzles £20.00 and T&C £36.07. The Groups have paid in £5866.72

We have paid out just £156.00 for the May Newsletter and £20.00 for the May speaker's expenses, while the Group payments have been £4388.72

Rob reported that he had done some preliminary investigation into interest paying accounts and discovered that the CAF Bank is one which supports charities and is used by the u3a. They have an account which pays 4.5% interest on funds deposited for a year. The committee agreed that Rob should investigate further and present a proposal for discussion at next months meeting.

Action: RS to investigate interest paying accounts

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

No report although CF had confirmed she would be able to attend the June monthly meeting.

Peter asked if CF could produce a list of lapsed members for group leaders so that they can double check that their group members are all still current.

Action: Christine F to produce a list of lapsed members to be distributed to GL's either digitally or handed out as hard copy at the monthly meeting.

9. RUG Co-ordinator's Report:

Because several committee members are not available at this month's meeting additional helpers are required. 2 RUG's are required as M&G for the next meeting. Barry Wallace will man the information table, Peter Harris will collect the programs from the printer and Steve Gollop will take charge of the u3a speakers laptop and help with dismantling the sound system at the end of the meeting.

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

This month's speaker, Chris Truran, "A funny thing happened on the way to the Old Bailey", has confirmed and will use our equipment with his presentation on a USB stick. Rob is away next week so Steve will bring a cheque for payment of the speaker.

11. Group Co-ordinator's Report:

Frank reported that the backgammon and scrabble group had met that morning and was now attended by 12 members, most to play backgammon, up from the 6 members initially.

The proposed new pickle ball group has 8 members with confirmed interest for a slot at LT from 6pm to 7pm on Wednesdays. At least 2 more are required before a block booking will be made. A note to this effect has been included in the monthly program

There is no community table this month

Carol Batter is not able to run the new members table at the moment. Jan Speller's availability was also uncertain. It was suggested that Alan Angel could be approached and may be able to step in. *(Note: after the meeting Jan Speller confirmed that she will run the NM table this month).*

12. Website co-ordinator's Report:

The new website is up and running and a vast improvement on the old one. The committee agreed a vote of thanks to Vanessa for all her hard work to achieve this.

There are some admin issues associated with the change of website to be addressed:

- Vanessa gave Rob the information on the new URL for him to inform the charity commission.
- She also needs to "inform Beacon" but was unclear how to do so. She has sent an email to the "Beacon Management System" requesting advice.
- Christine L needs to go onto the u3a Portal to update information on the new website

- The regional u3a which has links to our website needs to be informed. Vanessa has 2 months to do so.

13. Programme Editor's Report:

The number of copies last month seemed to be correct so once again we required 600 copies this month. Peter will collect from the printer because Stewart is not available.

14. Events Co-ordinator's Report:

All went smoothly at the May meeting except for some complaints that the water at the tea bar was not hot enough. This was possibly because the urn was not switched on soon enough or on low or because it was topped up with cold water. Being aware of this issue it will be sorted out next time.

Heather does not require a table for Coach Trips at this month's meeting

15. Any Other Business:

- **u3a day: Wednesday 25th September**

Sue has confirmed with Lynn at Tesco that we can use the outside space as in previous years and that electric power will be available. Tables are the main issue. Andy has a collapsable table that he can provide. We need one more, if necessary one can be purchased nearer the date.

We will need to make Paul Wallace Estate Agents aware of the event.

Stewart suggested that we could use the large screen TV used by the photo group to display group photos as a rolling powerpoint rather than have hard copy prints on a notice board. SW will work on this.

It was also suggested that we produce an A4 poster for Tesco's notice board.

Action: SW to produce.

It was agreed that the u3a day would be a topic at all future committee meetings leading up to the event with an ongoing review of plans as we get closer to September.

- **Christmas Meeting**

It was confirmed that the A Train will play 2 sets of approximately 45 minutes instead of engaging an outside entertainer. We will not pay them, but it was agreed that in lieu of a fee we will fund a new mixer unit for them to the value of £158.

The ideal would be for the A Train to play from doors open at 13.30 to 14.15 and then the Singing for Fun choir to perform for 30 minutes from 14.15 to 14.45. A Train will then play from 14.45 to 15.30. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting to give members an incentive to stay.

Action: Peter will discuss with Barry to confirm participation by the choir.

- **New registration computer**

Andy told the meeting that there are issues with the registration computer (probably the USB ports where the scanners plug in) which are causing problems with the digital registration system. This is our oldest machine and Andy requested that a new one be purchased. It does not have to be as high a specification as our other laptops. This was agreed by the committee.

Action: Andy to source and purchase an appropriate replacement.

16. Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 27th June 2024

17. Next Committee Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 18th July 2024

The meeting closed at 15.15