

BOURTON & DISTRICT u3a
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 10.30 am
at
The Royal British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water.

Present:- 36 members

1. Chairman's Welcome and apologies for absence. Paul Clark
Paul Clark welcomed everyone present and said he had received apologies from ten members.

2. To approve the minutes of the 10th AGM held on Wednesday September 22nd 2021 in the Royal British Legion Hall.
Proposed by Betty Hodges and seconded by Catherine Firth.

1. **Membership numbers**

The membership currently stands at 271, exactly the same as at the beginning of the period covered by my report. Yes, we lost a few members as we always do, but have been successful in recruiting an equal number of new ones. I have found that to be incredibly encouraging in these very difficult times.

2. **Interest Groups**

Some groups could not meet at all during the pandemic and have still to start up again (sadly, maybe some never will). Others, amazingly I thought, found ways of keeping going during the pandemic. Now we have a situation where many of our groups are meeting regularly again and I think that is brilliant. Maybe too, some completely new groups might form; I hope so. Interest Groups are our very life blood and, in March, the Committee recognised the hugely significant contribution made by our Group Leaders and their deputies by organising a heartfelt "Thank You" lunch for them. My thanks go to everyone who played a part in this, whether Committee or Group Leader/deputy, but particularly to Catherine who laid on such an excellent spread for us.

3. Committee and Non-Committee Roles

Your Committee found it very tough during the pandemic and the constant monitoring of ever changing Covid rules did not help matters

any. Sometimes it felt like we were operating in a vacuum separate to the rest of our membership and I suspect many of our Group Leaders may have felt the same.

I would like to pay tribute to the work done by the Committee during the eight months I have been your Chairman.

Our Secretary, Rosemary, has been very supportive and has done all I have asked of her. I am most grateful. Members need to be aware, however, that Rosemary only plans to continue 'til our next AGM, so our u3a does need to find a new Secretary.

Our Treasurer, Diana, can't be with us today as a significant family issue has arisen. In her absence, I need to present her Report and Accounts a little later but, as I do, I hope you will all recognise what a really excellent job she is doing for us. Our u3a has been incredibly fortunate in finding Diana and I cannot pay her enough compliment.

Our Membership Secretary, Catherine, continues to do a great job for us and, together with Ken, is the reason why the membership part of our Beacon system continues to be so successful. On her behalf though, I would like to appeal to all members to renew on Beacon if possible. It is very time-consuming for Catherine when members renew manually so, this year, our September monthly meeting will mainly be devoted to helping members renew online.

How many of you realise that Ken is our Beacon Lead and our Equipment Officer I wonder? I have already paid tribute to Ken and Catherine's excellent work on Beacon, but how many of you see what Ken does at the beginning and end of our monthly meetings as he sets up and takes down our equipment every month? Apart from his work for us, however, please join me in congratulating Ken who became a grandparent for the first time a few days ago. Those of us who are grandparents know just how special that is.

Our Groups Co-Ordinator, Margaret, has done a great job for us at a very difficult and challenging time. I'd particularly like to add, however, that Margaret was the one who successfully applied on our behalf for a grant

from the Bourton Parish Council. More is said about this later in the Treasurer's Report. Sadly, Margaret has now decided to step down from the Committee and we have to find a new person to take on her role.

Our Webmaster, Dawn, did an excellent job of overhauling our website. Sadly, ill health forced her to step down from the Committee back in February, but I am very grateful to her for continuing to look after the website until now. After today, however, we have to find a new person to take on this role.

Our Newsletter Editor, Christine, has continued producing high quality newsletters for us and sending them by email, thus saving us a lot of money. Sadly, Christine has now decided to step down from the Committee, but we are most fortunate that she is prepared to carry on producing the newsletters for the time-being. I must ask members to note, however, that the Committee have agreed to reduce the number of newsletters published each year from four to three. Thank you Christine.

Our Publicity Officer and Assistance Officer, Joyce, has successfully taken on expanding both these roles and I have really valued her contribution. Certainly it's important that the Committee and our Group Leaders understand their responsibilities regarding Safeguarding. Sadly, however, Joyce too has decided to step down from the Committee and her roles need to be filled. Meantime, however, she has indicated that she will continue helping us as much as she can. Thank you Joyce.

Having talked, however, about the contribution made by our Committee members, it is absolutely vital we recognise that our u3a only functions as well as it does because of the input of so many Non-Committee members. I pay tribute first to the work of our Speaker Secretary, Mary. I will expand on this a little later. In addition though, Mary is also our New Member Liaison and does a really good job here too. Thank you Mary.

Then there are those who serve us our tea, coffee and biscuits at the start of a monthly meeting, an important time for us to socialise together. How

important I think it is to say a huge “Thank You” to all those who have formed part of this team. It has just been so sad that we have lost Janet and David’s input to this team due to Janet’s extremely serious ill health. We are thinking of them both.

I also say a huge “Thank You” to Ruth for taking the money at the door at our monthly meetings. It is greatly appreciated and, again, it is so sad that we have lost the part played by Janet in this role with Ruth.

Last, but certainly not least, I would personally like to express my considerable thanks to Jenny (Stanfield). Not only has she taken on work previously done by Janet, but she has so kindly offered to man a stand

profiling the work of our u3a at the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Event in Bourton on June 5th. Sadly I can’t be part of this as I’m away at my son’s wedding, but if anyone else can help, then I’m sure Jenny would be delighted to hear from you.

If, meantime, I have missed anyone out, then please accept my most sincere apologies.

3. **Monthly Meetings**

For a long time, we organised a Zoom meeting each month to help keep our u3a going. That can never be the same, however, as us meeting face to face and being able to socialise together. A new norm has unfolded and, hopefully, will continue. We have seen a steady increase in members attending monthly meetings and, thanks to Mary, have heard some very good speakers. I personally really enjoyed listening to Ray Sturdy on the Swinging Sixties, Wendy Moore on the History of Johnson’s Coaches and Arthur Ball on Birds, Tigers and the Taj. I hope others enjoyed the talks as much as I did. Now the Committee has given Mary the authority to spend a bit more on speakers in the hope we can attract an even better quality of speaker.

At the same time, your Committee is continuing to explore other ideas for our monthly meetings, e.g. although the numbers were a bit disappointing, Catherine provided everything we needed for an excellent

Beetle Drive recently. Those who attended were very complimentary about the event. We will probably try another one, but not 'til next year now. Meantime, if anyone has any specific ideas for future monthly meetings, then please let me know or any other member of the Committee.

4. **The Future**

As I close, I feel I have no choice but to express my deep concerns about the future of our u3a. We came close to closing last September because we could not find a new Chairman. Fortunately, we found an excellent new Treasurer, but that was someone who had only just joined us. It freed me to become Chairman and, although it wasn't really a role I wanted, I accepted it to keep our u3a alive and kicking. I will continue, if you elect me, for the maximum period our constitution allows. What will happen then, however? Are we just postponing the inevitable?

It is the same with the rest of our Committee. They have given so much of themselves during the pandemic and now some are stepping down. I feel so sad at losing them and it places a big onus on those who are left. Assuming you elect everyone who has been put forward, we will still only be six people when it can be ten. Some roles currently performed by the Committee will only happen if others of you step forward and help us, either in a co-opted Committee role or as a non-Committee member. If you can help, then please speak with me privately or any other member of the new Committee you will elect shortly.

Like Susan said last September, I don't want to dwell on the negatives, but I implore all members to understand that we are a mutual aid organisation. We should all be taking a turn at the helm. I worry deeply about the apathy I feel sometimes. Without a significant change of attitude, we may only be delaying the closure.

I share these deep concerns with you because I finally feel we are coming out from under the shadow of Covid. I actually find it exciting that we are coming out into the sunshine on the other side still with 271 members. In my view, that is so encouraging. I feel so committed to what the u3a generally is all about, particularly our own u3a. Do you share the same feelings I wonder? Please don't let us just survive. You can all play a part in helping us to grow and thrive. It's over to you the members now,

Thank you all,

Paul Clark,
Chairman - B & D u3a

4. Treasurer's Report- Diana White.

U3A AGM – Presentation of Annual Accounts to 31st March 2022

Since October of 2021, the organization has been slowly but surely getting back to meetings and many of the groups are now operating as before. It has been a pleasure to see the British Legion Hall filling up with more and more members attending the monthly meetings. All this renewed activity has also kept our financial position strong as you will see from the report.

Turning to the Balance Sheet on Page 1:

Our bank accounts carry healthy balances with a total of £5,105.46. In addition, we submitted a claim of £949.66 for Gift Aid covering the two-year period to March 31 2022. We received those funds in early May.

There are funds in the General Account which are held for a specific use. Some funds are held on behalf of the various groups and these totalled £500.89 at the end of the year. We received a grant from Bourton on the Water Parish Council for publicity to encourage an increase in membership. The grant was for £550.00 and £148.00 was spent on the production of informational leaflets which have been distributed in the area. The remaining £402.00 of the grant will be used for further promotion to raise awareness. There were no liabilities as at the year end.

Turning to the Income Statement on Page 2, our overall net income was £1,704.85

On Pages 3 and 4 of the accounts. The income and expense are separated between operational costs and social outings costs. It is important to note that, under U3A and Charity Commission rules, theatre trips and non-educational outings are defined as being social and so fall outside our charitable objects. Such transactions must, therefore, be recorded separately and passed through a separate Social Account and not be included in any returns we make to the Charity Commission.

We had an operating surplus for the year of £1,666.85 and £38 surplus from the Social events. You will note that the income from the Groups' Activity exceeds the expense by £20.00, mostly due to invoices being received during the month following that in which the activity took place.

Comparing the figures this year over last year, our net income increased by £714.38, largely due to the Gift Aid. Bearing in mind that the Gift Aid represents two years, it should be noted that we do not have a significant surplus of funds for the year.

As a result of this reduced surplus, there are three important issues that you should be aware of.

1. We aim to invite quality speakers to the monthly meetings, but we are experiencing an increase in their fees as a result. Your committee is of the opinion that the quality of the talks is very important and that any increased costs to provide them, is justified.
2. Our subscriptions paid to U3A Head Office will be increasing in September for the new financial year. The cost of the Third Age Matters magazine is also due to increase.
3. Although we had a surplus in the past year, this was, as already stated, largely due to Gift Aid. The remainder leaves little leeway for any increases in costs.

Your Committee will be considering these issues in the coming month but it is highly likely that we will need to raise the current subscription rate. This decision will not be taken lightly and the Committee will endeavour to keep the increase as low as they consider prudent but we think it fair to advise you of the position.

As you know, this has been my first year as your Treasurer and I am extremely grateful to Chairman Paul for making himself available for advice and guidance. With the time involved in his position as Chairman, he has still taken time to ensure the handover was as smooth as possible. His patience has been much appreciated.

Finally, on a personal note. It is often difficult for me to attend the monthly meetings personally. I am extremely grateful to the members who have stepped in to help with the collection of the monies from the door and from the Group Organizers. This team effort has been extremely valuable.

Diana White
Treasurer.

5. To receive and approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022

Proposed by Dawn White. **Seconded** by Susan Dodd. All in favour.

6. Approval of the continued appointment of the examiner of Accounts.

Proposed by Andy Lewis **Seconded** by Susan Dodd. All in favour.

7. Election of Officers.

a) Chairman – Paul Clark- Nominated by Steven Ford and Seconded by Myra Ford. All in favour.

b) Secretary – Rosemary Quinn – Nominated by Terence Gavin and Seconded by Sandra Gavin. All in favour.

c) Treasurer – Diana White – Nominated by Sally Clark and seconded by Steven Ford. All in favour.

8. Election of Committee Members.

Catherine Firth ;- Nominated by Myra Ford and seconded by Steven Ford

Robert Gorton ;- Nominated by David Tebbutt and seconded by Mary Tebbutt

Ken Lamacraft:- Nominated by Beryl Ferguson and seconded by Allan Ferguson

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En bloc vote proposed by Ruth Manning and seconded by Susan Foster and All in favour.

9. Comments from Membership.

None.

10. A.O.B. None

Meeting closed at 11.25.am