

BOURTON & DISTRICT u3a
THE TWELTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
WEDNESDAY MAY 24th 2023 at the Royal British Legion Hall
Bourton-on-the-Water.

Present:- 55 Members

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for absence. Paul Clark.

Paul welcomed those members present and thanked them for the loyalty they had shown to Bourton & District u3a during the last 12 months. It was noted that eleven members had given their apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the 11th AGM held on Wednesday May 25th 2022.

(as published on our website) –**Paul Clark**

Proposed by Betty Hodges and seconded by Janet Carless. Unanimously agreed.

3. Chairman's Report for 2022/2023. – Paul Clark.

1. Membership numbers

We are a relatively small u3a, but our membership currently stands at 252, i.e. just slightly less than this time last year. In itself, I find this very encouraging considering the difficult times everyone has been through over the last 3 years.

2. Interest Groups

Since the pandemic, we haven't yet been able to get back to the heady days of having over 40 interest groups running. We do, however, now have well over 20 groups fully operating again and I think that is brilliant. Interest Groups are our very life blood and I cannot thank our Group Organisers, and their deputies, enough for all the hard work they've done, both, during the pandemic and since we've come out into the sunshine on the other side, to enable our members to enjoy the various activities we have on offer. As part of our September Renewals Meeting, the Committee decided to include an Opportunities event where various Group Organisers did an excellent job of profiling their activities. There was a real buzz in the room and I thought it was a super morning.

In January, the Committee recognised the hugely significant contribution made by our Group Organisers and their deputies by organising a heartfelt "Thank You" gathering for them. My very real thanks go to everyone who made this such an enjoyable event.

3. Monthly Meetings

Sadly, ill health forced Mary Bryant to step down from being our Speaker Secretary. I take the opportunity, once again, to say a huge "thank you" to her for the really excellent job she did for us. Members may not realise that, before she stepped down, Mary set up the programme for the whole of this year and, goodness me, how we have benefitted from that. So many good meetings including, to name just two, a super 60's music quiz by Ray Sturdy and a fascinating look into the world of antiques by Chris O'Grady. In addition, your Committee had the very real bonus of inviting the local Police to talk to us, in what turned out to be a most interesting and humorous way,

about Fraud. It's been so encouraging to see a significant increase in the number of members attending our monthly meetings where we have a speaker.

Meantime, as requested by you the members, admittedly before Covid, your Committee has continued to include other events in our monthly programme. Steve and Myra Ford organised a really good Barn Dance and my very great thanks go to them. We also organised another Beetle Drive last month. Although the numbers attending both events were a little disappointing, those who came along really enjoyed themselves and were very complimentary. If our u3a does continue to exist, and that is a question for later, your Committee will, with the help of you the members, have to look at whether or not these different kinds of events should continue. Meantime, if anyone has any other ideas for future monthly meetings, then please let me know or any other member of the Committee.

4. Other Events

Two other things happened this year which I think are worthy of comment because they were both about profiling our u3a to the local community.

Firstly, in June last year, Jenny Stanfield organised a team to promote the work of our u3a at the Platinum Jubilee event held in Bourton. My great thanks go to her and all her team who did such an excellent job on the day.

Secondly, in September, our previous Chairperson, Susan Dodd, offered us the back page of the Bourton Browser to advertise the activities of our u3a. With a lot of help from Christine Gorton, thank you very much Christine, the Committee were able to profile the work of our u3a in an excellent way.

Both these promotions were very well done and my thanks go to all involved.

5. Committee and Non-Committee Roles

Goodness me, this has been a tough year for your Committee. Just six of us have tried to do all that we can to keep our u3a going, but too many jobs that need doing are not being done.

I would like to place on record my huge thanks to each and every member of your Committee who have done so much on your behalf this last year. They have been brilliant.

Rosemary Quinn has done an excellent job as our Secretary and has always been so supportive. I've much appreciated the regular reminders of things I've needed to do and it's always done in such a nice way. Sadly, however, Rosemary will soon be moving up to Harrogate, so I take the opportunity to thank her for all she has done for us since taking on her role.

Diana White has proved to be such an excellent Treasurer and I can't thank her enough for all she does for us. We are so fortunate she moved into the area and took on this role.

Catherine Firth has continued to do such a great job as our Membership Secretary. Thanks to her, and Ken, the membership part of our Beacon system has been so

successful. Sadly, however, Catherine has decided to step down after the next Renewal, i.e. if there is a next Renewal. If we do continue as a u3a, we will need to replace Catherine and I ask members to think about that. Meantime, I can only thank Catherine for the huge contribution I believe she has made.

Then there is Ken Lamacraft, not only our Beacon Lead and our Equipment Officer, but also our temporary Webmaster. I've already paid tribute to Ken and Catherine's excellent work on Beacon and what Ken does for us each month with regard to our equipment and website is deeply appreciated. I have to say though that, without Ken, I think all our Committee agree that we would have been up the creek without a paddle if he had not been with us this year. There was a point where an issue with National Office caused us to lose our website completely for a while. Ken had to put in a huge amount of time and effort to recover everything and we are indebted to him as the rest of us did not have the necessary skills.

Last, but certainly not least on the Committee, there is our Groups Support Officer, Rob Gorton. Rob joined the Committee a year ago and took on this important role for us. He is doing an excellent job of it and I am most grateful to him.

Running our u3a can never be just about the Committee, however. There will always be others who make a significant contribution without which we could not operate. From the heart, I endeavour to recognise the efforts of so many.

I've already paid tribute to the work of our Group Organisers and their deputies. The Groups are our very life blood and, without them, we wouldn't be a u3a.

I've also paid tribute to Mary Bryant for her excellent work as our Speaker Secretary. If we are to continue as a u3a, however, it is absolutely vital we replace her.

In addition, I've paid tribute to Christine Gorton for her help regarding how we used the back page of the Bourton Browser. That, however, was only a minor part of all she does for us. Christine is our Newsletter Editor and continues to produce a high quality newsletter for us three times a year. I hope all our members agree that she does a really excellent job of this. Thank you so very much Christine.

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. We are most grateful to you.

Also, I would be failing in my duty if I did not recognise the excellent work done by Joyce Smith regarding helping the Committee to understand their responsibility to the members for Safeguarding. A complicated subject and we really are most grateful to you Joyce.

Last, but certainly not least, I also say a huge "Thank You" to Ruth Manning for taking the money at the door at our monthly meetings. It is greatly appreciated.

If, meantime, I have missed anyone out, then please accept my most sincere apologies. So many people make our u3a work.

6. The Future

As I close, I have no choice but to express my deep concerns about the future of our u3a.

Your Committee have written various job descriptions and summaries which have been posted on our website for members to read. We have appealed to you the members through various emails, our newsletter and finally through a letter sent to everyone. I am now starting to feel like the boy who cried wolf, but the current Committee cannot go on the way they are. It is just not fair. The burden they carry is too great.

I have already expressed my deep appreciation to a number of you who already play a significant part in our u3a and, with some of you, it is so difficult to ask anymore. Surely, however, with 252 members, we have the skills needed to fill the vacant roles we have, whether on or off Committee. We are, after all, a mutual aid organisation.

I am deeply committed to what the u3a is all about and believe there are others who feel the same. I hate negative vibes, but do we really want our u3a to close because, if it does, there will be no coming back from it? Certainly the Committee you elect today will have to face that decision very shortly as it does not feel right to go through the Renewals of subscriptions in September if we have to shut down. It's now up to you the membership to decide.

Thank you all,

4. Treasurer's Report. – Diana White

It has been a pleasure to see the British Legion Hall filling up with more members attending the monthly meetings. The renewed activity has also kept our financial position strong as you will see from the report. I will not be giving a line-by-line explanation as most of the figures are self-explanatory and are very comparable to the previous year's figures. However, there are some numbers worthy of comment.

Turning to the Balance Sheet on Page 1.

Our bank accounts carry healthy balances with a total of £7,500.71. In addition, we submitted a Gift Aid claim of £470.38 for the year to March 31,2023 which we anticipate will be received shortly. Last year, we received £949.66, but this represented a claim for 2 years (2022 and 2021)

There is £1,153.16 in the General Account which is restricted for specific use. Some of these funds are held on behalf of the various groups and these totalled £851.16. Additionally, there is an unspent balance of £302.00 of the grant we received from Bourton on the Water Parish Council in the previous year. These funds can be used for publicity only. We spent £100.00 this year for a promotional article in the Bourton Browser. there are currently no specific plans in place for using this surplus. there were no liabilities as at the end of the year end.

Turning to the Income Statement on Page 2. our overall net income was £1,665.70, down a little from last year due to the difference in Gift Aid which I have already explained.

We reported last year that we would increase, where necessary, the fee paid to our speakers to ensure good quality. We hope you agree this has been the case and that the increase of £120.00 for the year has been well spent.

The income from Gift Aid as reported on this Income Statement is £473.21 but you will see that the amount claimed as indicated on the Balance Sheet is only £479.38. The additional £2.83 is interest received on the previous year's Gift Aid claim.

You will note that there is a decrease in the amount paid to National Office . *if you turn to Page 3*, you will see this is the payment for the TAM Magazines. National Office made an adjustment of £311.10 for the TAM Magazine received in the 2021-2022 year which was received in this financial year. As we already reported, the dues have increased as you will see indicated.

On page 4. You will note there are social outings costs for the year. 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. This year, there was no activity on the Social account.

Finally. We are most grateful to William Hinton Accountants in Stow who have, once again, kindly reviewed our accounts free of charge.

I should also mention that it is often difficult for me to attend the monthly meetings personally so 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 Organisers. This team effort has been extremely valuable. The Group Organisers should be complimented on the management of their individual group funds and their timely payments into the general bank account.

**5. To receive and approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.:-
Diana White**

Proposed by:- Catherine Firth Seconded by:- Myra Ford. Unanimously agreed.

**6. Approval of the continued appointment of the examiner of our accounts,
Messrd William Hinton of Stow.:- Diana White.**

Proposed by:- Christine Gorton. Seconded by:- Angela Orton. Unanimously agreed.

7. Election of Officers:- Rosemary Quinn

Chairman:- Paul Clark - Proposed by Myra Ford. Seconded by Steve Ford.
Unanimously agreed.

Secretary :- June Renshaw - Proposed by Rosemary Quinn – Seconded by Paul Clark. Unanimously agreed.

Treasurer:- Diana White - Proposed by Peter Boxall Seconded by Irene Summers
Unanimously agreed.

8. Election of Committee Members:-

Catherine Firth :- Proposed by Christine Gorton. Seconded by Robert Gorton

Robert Gorton:- Proposed by David Tebbutt Seconded by:- Susan Dodd
Ken Lamacraft :- Proposed by David Stanfield Seconded by Jenny Stanfield.
Unanimously agreed en bloc.

9. To Consider a Resolution that our current Chairman If properly nominated and seconded, be allowed to stand for re-election in May 2024, recognising that this would be his 4th term of Office.

Proposed by Annette Smith Seconded by Steve McHale. Unanimously agreed.

10. Comments from Membership

Paul repeated comments he had made in his Report where he had expressed grave concern regarding the future of our u3a. He said again that the Committee could not continue as it is but, if we lose it, there will be no going back. He then invited members to share in an informal period where they could express their views, ask questions and share potential solutions which they took full advantage of.

During this period, there were some very significant developments regarding the way forward for our u3a. Firstly Mary Bryant, who we thought was stepping down from being our Speaker Secretary, indicated she was actually continuing with this role and Jenny Stevenson offered to assist her in this. Then, as allowed by our Constitution, three members, namely, Neil Cox, David Tebbutt and Steve McHale, put their names forward to serve on the committee. All were duly proposed, seconded and elected unanimously.

Paul said how incredibly encouraging this all was as it ensured the future of our u3a for at least another year.

11. A.O.B. None

Paul thanked all for attending and closed the AGM at 12.10pm.