

January 2022

General Meetings are held on the **second Thursday** of the month at 2.00pm
at Christ Church, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW

View from the Chair



The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been hard for us all, and we have all experienced the effects differently, including those of us who have been shielding. However, I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year. May you enjoy good health, good experiences, and good company!

I hope I'm not bragging when I say that our u3a Christmas celebrations went pretty well! They started off with our **Christmas Concert** by our old friends Fools Gold at the Essex Cricket Pavilion on 8th December. We laughed at the clever animated video clips (especially the one where Santa's sleigh and reindeers were falling off the roof) and sang along to Christmas carols and other well-known folk songs. After the concert there was tea and coffee and possibly the biggest and tastiest mince pies I have ever tasted!

This was swiftly followed by our **Christmas Social** event at Christ Church, which afforded all of us the opportunity to catch up with our friends, eat loads of cake and have a glass or two of mulled wine. The live ukulele band provided more songs for us to sing along to, whilst at the same time we were pitting our wits on the fiendishly hard quiz.

I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in creating these memories for us, in particular Diane Brewer, Marie & David Neale, Ron & Glenys Freeman, Sue Cunnington, Nick Bailey, Eddie Wood, Ann Bell, Geoff Swaine & Wendy Hubbard. Amongst the volunteers on the day were Janice Buckmaster and Veronica Hughes who helped out in the kitchen, decorated the tables etc. I must also thank our Vice Chair, Roger Spall, our compère for the event and giving me the day off!



2022

Well that's enough looking back, let's now turn our thoughts to the year ahead, It is clear that Covid-19 will be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future, so we need to learn to live with it and devise ways we can keep our u3a running.

As I'm sure you are all aware, the Government announced on the 9th December that England will move to **Plan B** in response to the risks of the Omicron variant. As a result the wearing of face coverings will be required by law in most indoor settings, including community centres, village halls, members/social clubs and libraries. I therefore have to ask you to wear your face mask when attending indoor u3a meetings, such as the monthly members meeting and any interest group meetings in halls. Quite how this will affect our speakers is not clear but I'm sure we will find a way round it!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Naturally we all want to do what we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19, to protect others and to reduce the risk of new variants developing. So we will continue to keep meeting areas well ventilated as letting fresh air in helps get rid of air that contains coronavirus and helps stop the virus from spreading. We will monitor the room temperature and endeavour to ensure it doesn't fall below 18 degrees. You might want to dress warmly, though.

Annual General Meeting

In February Chelmsford u3a will be 29 years old! I wonder how many of you have been members right from the start? On page 15 of this newsletter you will find the notice of the AGM (it is also be posted on our website). At this point in time we plan to hold the meeting in person on our usual meeting day at Christ Church, but we will also be streaming it live on Zoom, giving you the opportunity to take part from the safety of your own home. If neither of these options are suitable for any reason, you can appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. The Proxy form included in the newsletter is mainly for people without internet access. You will find an updateable PDF version of the form on our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/c/chelmsford/docs/proxyformfor2022agm.pdf> which you can complete electronically and send back to Marie (our secretary) by email, so much easier than posting it!

That just leaves me to make one last plea for volunteers to join the committee. The pandemic has been very demanding of our committee. We have had to learn new skills, and grapple with a rapidly changing context of lockdowns and social distancing, whilst all the time keeping our u3a running by doing some old things differently and some entirely new things. We are facing the loss of three more committee members in February, and we still don't have a Group Coordinator.

Our aim is to make our committee 'Bigger and Better' by sharing roles and tasks.



There are lots of potential benefits to being a committee member. Here are just some of them:

- Working with others in a rewarding and shared endeavour.
- Growing your u3a as part of a team effort – what could be more satisfying?
- Developing new skills including technical skills such as chairing meetings, public speaking, mentoring, marketing, social media, online meetings. Better still, developing your skills further if you already have them.
- Making and deepening friendships.
- A sense of achievement from helping your u3a go to the next stage
- Fun and enjoyment. We aim to keep our meetings light-hearted as well as being effective.

If you would like to stand for election at the AGM please complete this form <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/c/chelmsford/docs/committeenuominationform.pdf>

If you are still not sure, perhaps you would like to observe one of meetings or to shadow a committee member? Please contact one of the committee via the website [Chelmsford U3A: Contact \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk).

Lesley Wood
Chair

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Thoughts From Behind the Chair



We've reached that stage of the year now where I'm sure many people are thinking they can't wait to get rid of 2021 and are looking forward to a better 2022 with fingers well and truly crossed. And to help with the task of making it better many of us make New Year Resolutions. Often these will be an attempt to improve ourselves whether in terms of health, wealth or lifestyle, whilst some may even adopt an altruistic approach and resolve to help others.

Research has indicated that in 2022, some 40% of our resolutions will involve becoming "greener", for example becoming more eco-friendly, recycling as much as we can and less use of plastic. As always the most common ones are concerned with diet, and exercise.

A good New Year's resolution is to help all your friends gain 10 lbs, that way you'll look thinner.



Unfortunately, however strong our resolve may be, it's reckoned that less than 10% of us are successful in attaining our goals. 1 in 5 has given up by 5th January and by May that's gone up to half of us. So why bother with New Year's resolutions? It's been suggested that they are "a triumph of hope over experience" and a means of cataloguing our personal dissatisfactions (or perhaps even what we're told they are!) The older we get, the less likely we are to make resolutions. The younger generation are more likely to set out with good intentions, with nearly 40% making resolutions.

By 50+ we have learnt from our mistakes, and only 14% persist with the habit. And when it comes to exercise resolutions, Strava, the sports social network, identified the third Thursday of January as Quitter's Day, the day you are most likely to give up on your good sport intentions. I wonder how much of this is to do with aching joints and coming to the conclusion that "perhaps I should be realistic" or even "I've always been like this and no-one's going to make me change now!". Alternatively there is also the view that says:

I was going to quit all my bad habits, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

As for how it all began, the ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first to make New Year's resolutions some 4000 years ago. They made promises to their gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed, and if they kept their word favours would be bestowed upon them for the coming year. Similarly, in ancient Rome, January held special significance as it was named after the god Janus whom they regarded as the god of beginnings, endings and the New Year. Sacrifices were made to the deity and promises of good conduct in the coming year. The same was true for early Christians, where the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future.



Janus

Nowadays it's more likely to be someone dangling the carrot of better things to come if you agree to "give up.../change....", provided of course that Boris let's us do so in the future without jumping through too many hoops! The last couple of years have certainly been a time when the idea of a better future seems a long way off and hopes seem to be taking precedence over realistic intentions.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



But having said all that we mustn't think it's all doom and gloom. Some resolutions are remarkably easy to follow, especially if like all of us – we're members of the u3a. Popular suggestions are to make new friends, learn something new and be happy, which is of course, what your u3a aims to help you to do. So yes, New Year's resolutions are all about hopefulness, but it's also true to say that

A New Year's Resolution
is something
that goes in one year
and out the other



From Roger Spall.....

Memorial Copse - Closing Date 31/01/2022

The cost of a memorial copse is £650. So far you have donated £565. The committee would like to thank all those that have contributed. For anyone still wishing to subscribe to this good cause please note that we have set a cut-off date of 31st January.

For full details please see the last item in the November Newsletter.

Eddie Wood
Treasurer

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

January 2022 General Meeting

Do join us for our monthly meeting at **2pm. Thursday January 13th 2022 for "THE MAGIC OF THE THEATRE." By Roger Mannion** at Christ Church 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW.

Doors open 1.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available. For those who cannot attend the meeting in person you are welcome to join by Zoom, details will be sent out later.

Our speaker, Roger Mannion, is a retired pilot and Technical Director at the Old Court Theatre in Chelmsford. His talk is a look at how the magic on stage is created backstage. The fun, the fear and some of the tricks of the trade.

We are hoping to meet face-to-face and to Zoom the meeting as well. However if the government issues further guidance that may restrict us meeting we will inform members via email and for those of you without email we will endeavour to contact you.

Calling all tree lovers.



I have arranged with Chelmsford Parks Department to plant a new wood at Hylands Park on February 11th 2022 between 10.00 and 13.00.

This will be an exclusive u3a planting event, at which photographs will be taken for the Chelmsford Borough website.

All tools and tree saplings will be provided on the day. Having planted saplings with the Council previously I can confirm that it is fun and enjoyable and not strenuous.

If you are interested in coming along and doing your bit for the environment then please contact Nick Bailey at: nickbailey01245@outlook.com

Reminder to Group Leaders

**Please send copy for the February 2022 Newsletter to Andy Moir
All copy must arrive no later than Friday 28th January 2022.**

**Please would contributors use the Calibri Font size 12.
For MS Word use Paragraph settings; line spacing single and spacing 0 before and after lines.**

See page xx for the January quizzes

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

London - The City & its People Group

Leader: Berry Cornell



Our visit to Greenwich December 2021 (Photo by Linda Knock).

2022 is here and the London Committee sends all our members masses of good wishes for good health and a return to all the activities that were curtailed last year. We may need to be brave but if like me, you're not getting any younger, we have to get on with our lives.

One of your new year resolutions might be to join this group as visits are only open to members so if you have enjoyed learning more about London – past and present through the U3A Zoom facility, do consider joining us by contacting the membership secretary: Chris Rycroft Tel no. 01245 473047 email: c.rycroft123@btinternet.com for further information.

Just a reminder, the Group **usually** meets up on 4th Monday in month at 2pm but **dates in bold** are exceptions due to Bank holidays, Christmas and availability. We will continue using the newsletter and hopefully Zoom to keep in contact with members unable to visit, also through London Group 'catch up' letters.

2022 Programme

- 24th Jan A visit to the Essex Record Office to enjoy 'An Afternoon of Entertainment' plus tea and cakes – flyer to book places on page 14 of the newsletter and on the website. If anything changes we will of course be in touch with members who have already paid to offer an alternative date.
- 28th Feb Gallows, Gangsters & Girls – the Darker side of London's History. Speaker: Peter Lawrence, a Zoomed talk.
- 28th Mar Spiritual London – religious houses in the medieval City and the way they changed our attitude to charity. Speaker Alison Woollard **back at Christ Church**. The talk will also be Zoomed to members.
- 24th Apr Hopefully.... a walk in the City.

Committee: Berry Cornell Convenor, Joy Channing, Susie Fowkes, Wendy Jordan, Chris Rycroft, Dave Sayers, Bob Smith.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Local History Group

Leader: Jane Humphreys 01245 259590

Secretary: Lesley Wood 01245 601359

Nearly 30 members met at Boreham Village Hall on 6 December and were enjoined by another eight at home for some gentle quizzing. Looking at a street map of central Chelmsford and trying to locate the shops taking part in late night shopping wasn't easy given the year in question was 1982. Two of the 24 shops are still in the same locations 39 years on. Lesley had been out and about with her camera this year photographing clocks and clock towers, some of which were much easier to locate than others. We also tested our knowledge of eight prominent buildings in Chelmsford. It was all good fun – but most of all it was a joy for those of us at Boreham to be able to relax and talk together over refreshments.

Current guidance does not prevent us from continuing to meet together at Boreham Village Hall. We know that for some members joining via Zoom is not an option, and we would like as many people as wish to, and feel able, to take part in our meetings to do so. We will continue to send out the Zoom invitation to all Local History Group members for whom we have an email address, and also welcome to Boreham those who wish to meet in person. Our 2022 programme starts on Tuesday 4 January with Lindsay Whitehouse speaking about 'The Secret History of Chelmsford Prison'. New members are always welcome.

Jane Humphreys

PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

**Meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month, talks starting at 2.15pm.
Talks at Boreham Village Hall, and available by Zoom**

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
4th January	The Secret History of Chelmsford Prison	Lindsay Whitehouse
1st February	Sutherland Lodge: Coming to the Surgery for a History Lesson	Cathy Trevaldwyn
1st March	TBD	
5 th & 12th April	Rayne Heritage Trail	Walk led by Richard Bale
3rd May	How to read the English country church – Part 2	Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson
7th June	Lodge Coaches Vintage Essex	Visit

Birding Group

Leader Alan Alexander 01245 248030 Mobile 07712 818499

Hello friends,

The Birding Group does not meet in December due to the close proximity of Christmas, so no boring list of sightings for you to scroll past. On the subject of Christmas, I hope you were all able to spend time with loved ones, and that the New Year finds you in good health.

I have started a WhatsApp Group for those few members who responded to my group email last month. The advantages are, its free to use, it's an easy way to communicate with everyone in the group instantly,

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

and we can share sightings and photos. If running late to a meeting all members get the message not just one person (me) who may miss a call. The disadvantage is, be careful what you say, all group members can see it. If you want to be added to the Group Chat let me have your mobile number and I will add you.

As promised in the December Newsletter, here is the proposed program of visits for 2022.

28th Jan. Heybridge Basin.
25th Feb. Old Hall Marshes.
25th Mar. Bowers Gifford.
22nd Apr. Fingeringhoe.
27th May. The Naze, Walton.
24th Jun. Lee Valley Area.
22nd Jul. No meeting.
26th Aug. Abberton or Canvey Island area. Tides dependent.
23rd Sep. Blue House Farm.
28th Oct Tollesbury.
25th Nov. Hanningfield Res or Two Tree Island. Tides dependent.

As always, if any members have ideas or suggestions for visits, please let me know.
All meetings are subject to cancellation if Covid rears its ugly head and restrictions get tightened.

I will send all members an email nearer the time confirming the location and that we can go ahead.

Do not forget that each of us must carry out our own Risk Assessment before attending and masks, space and hand sanitizing should be adhered to. Can I also suggest that you take a Lateral Flow Test before attending a meeting, for your own piece of mind and to reassure others.

So for now, take care, stay safe and keep smiling.

New members are very welcome to join us, please feel free to contact me on the numbers above. We meet at 10 am on the fourth Friday of the month and set off about ten minutes later. The walking is not arduous, and we usually spend more time standing or sitting in hides enjoying the spectacle of nature. There is no fee to join the group and **all abilities are more than welcome** whether an experienced birder or total novice.

Garden Group

Group Leader: Chris Bellamy Secretary: Val Green

The Garden Group has no meeting to report in December but has arranged a lunch on Thursday 27 January at Little Channels 12.30 for 1 o'clock. Details have been sent by email to group members. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Val Green (valgreen51@tiscali.co.uk) to see if places are available.

We are planning an outdoor meeting in February to see one of the many local gardens with displays of snowdrops - details in the next newsletter.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Book Group

Leader: Andy Moir

At our December meeting we discussed *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson. *Big Sky* is Kate Atkinson's fifth Jackson Brodie novel. Jackson Brodie is a retired police detective inspector who now works as a private investigator. He has moved to a quiet Yorkshire seaside town, and his moody teenage son and an aging Labrador are staying with him.

Jackson's current job is gathering proof of an unfaithful husband for his suspicious wife but a chance encounter with a desperate man on a crumbling cliff leads him into a sinister network which is making large amounts of money sex-trafficking young women from foreign countries.

Kate Atkinson is a popular author with the group and we have read a number of her books including others in the Jackson Brodie series. We all agreed that she is a very good writer and that we enjoyed the novel in spite of its very dark theme.

However we also thought that the novel was too long, too complicated and with too many strands and red-herrings which were resolved very quickly right at the end of the book.

The group agreed that we would be happy to read another Kate Atkinson book in future but that we preferred her literary novels to her crime novels.

Our Book Group meetings for the next three months are:

Mon Jan 17 th	The Call of the Wild by Jack London
Mon Feb 21 st	The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman
Mon Mar 21 st	Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte

Spanish Conversation Group

Leader: David Gout

Five of us held a meeting on Zoom on 15th December 2021.

As is our usual practice, we each took it in turn to tell in Spanish highlights of what we had been doing over the past month. Topics included visits to the physiotherapist, a museum linked to the Battle of Britain, the ice-skating rink, and an indoor market in Ingatestone. Our Spanish member told us about her trip back home to Almeria, where amongst other things she had attended a display of flamenco dancing.

We continued from last month our exploration of Spanish reflexive verbs, which are used much more extensively in Spanish than in English. We looked at a further thirteen examples, including contexts such as getting dressed and undressed, being busy and gobbling food!

One of our members had prepared a couple of quizzes. The first was to test our knowledge of what the Spanish words were for various types of occupation e.g. bricklayer, carpenter, hairdresser. In the second we were shown pictures of various places in Spain. For the next meeting each member will be asked to prepare a short submission in Spanish on one of these places, saying why it is worthy of a visit. Those of us there chose from the list Barcelona, Bilbao, Seville, Ronda and Palma, while those who could not participate today will be allocated Madrid, Tenerife and Salamanca.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

One of our members receives a Spanish “word of the day” over the internet, which has helped to broaden his vocabulary. Over the past two or three meetings, he has shared some of these words and phrases with us, and we have translated sentences including these words to aid our understanding of their use. One of the words that we looked at today was the Spanish for “tongue twister,” and our Spanish member will provide further examples of Spanish tongue twisters for our next meeting. An example is “tres tigres tristes” (three sad tigers!). Foreign pronunciation is tricky enough for the English without the added complication of tongue twisters, but we shall see how we get on!

We concluded on a seasonal note by listening to a Spanish Christmas song.

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday 19 January 2022 at 10:30 am. If you can hold a basic conversation in Spanish, and wish to join us, please click on the link on our website.

Un feliz Año Nuevo a todos los miembros de U3A.

David Gout

Art Appreciation Group

Leader: Brenda Kelly

Happy New Year to everyone



The Girlhood of Mary Virgin
by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1848)

We are starting 2022 with a Zoom talk by Margaret Mills, who you may remember gave us the very interesting talk on 'Canaletto's London' early in 2021. This month she will be talking about 'The Pre-Raphaelites'. 1848 was called the 'Year of Revolutions' across Europe, but a revolution of another kind was happening in the art world. She will consider the ideals and formation of the Pre-Raphaelites, and some of their controversial work.

Margaret's talk will take place on Tuesday 25th January at 1.45 for 2 p.m. The Zoom details will be:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81916510980>

Meeting ID: 819 1651 0980

Hopefully, in February, we may visit the Courtauld Institute which has recently been completely refurbished.

Brenda Kelly

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

walls with the help of DNA. Maybe there will be further lock-downs but that won't bother us; we can use the time to write up our family story, organise our old family photographs or tidy-up our records.

Why not join us on the third and fourth Friday's of the month? We are meeting by Zoom for the foreseeable future while things remain uncertain about Covid.

Best wishes

Lesley Wood

Lunch Club 2

Leader: Harry Franklin

Our Christmas lunch was held at Channels on 21st December, a repeat of the same festive lunch we last enjoyed at this venue at Christmas 2019. It had promised to be a record attendance, with nineteen of the then 22 members having declared their intention of attending. But then, guess what? An uninvited and unwelcome intruder, name of Covid 19, began to thin our ranks, either by infecting some or intimidating others into cancelling, so that on the day, there were twelve of us.

But what an enjoyable and festive occasion it was. Because of the reduced numbers, Channels accommodated us at one long table making conversation both easy and non-stop. Almost as a side topic, lunch was delicious and the accompanying service excellent.

It would seem that word of Luncheon Club 2 is beginning to spread. I have now received enquiries about membership from a further four people whom we hope to welcome at our table on January 25th when we meet at the Fox and Raven, Chelmer Village when Diane will be our host.

To all our members and those about to join us, I wish a happy and healthy New year.

Harry Franklin

Committee

To contact a member of the committee, go to the Contact page on our website.

Chairman	Lesley Wood	Vice Chairman	Roger Spall
Secretary	Marie Neale	Treasurer	Eddie Wood
Membership Secretary	Diane Brewer 01245 476274	Groups Co-ordinator	
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Wendy Hubbard	Speaker Organiser	Sue Cunnington
Events Organiser	Geoff Swaine	Communications/ Marketing Officer	Nick Bailey
Committee Member	Ann Bell		

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

January Quiz Questions

Occupation Aptagrams

An aptagram is an anagram whose meaning is relevant to original text that was anagrammed. An example is MOON STARER = ASTRONOMER

Can you work out the aptagrams for the following professions?

1. MENIAL COP
2. STAMP ON
3. FOR TREES
4. REMIT SIN
5. COURT POSER
6. SPIRIT SHAPER (Two word answer)
7. POLES GATHER A REPORT (Two word answer)
8. MASS DRESS ALTERATION (Three word answer. Two jobs separated by the word 'AND').
9. DINTS TEETH (Two word answer)
10. HE TOTS INCOME (Two word answer)
11. THEIR ART'S CAUSTIC (Two word answer)
12. I SEEN AT BIRTH COT (Two word answer)

A Well Known Character

The name of a character, that everyone reading this will be aware of, contains each of the five vowels appearing exactly once. The answer contains two words, with 8 letters in the first word and 4 letters in the second word. What is the name of this character?

Clue: The character is not a person or a being

Add a Word to the list

Can you determine another word that belongs in the following list?

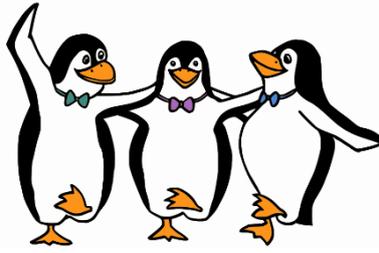
CUPID, ESSENCE, DEMON, ENTRANCE, SEAFOOD.

Clue : Try saying the words in the list aloud

The answers can be found on the Newsletter page of the Chelmsford u3a Newsletter

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

LONDON – THE CITY & ITS PEOPLE GROUP



Present

‘An Afternoon of Entertainment’

24th January 2022

2 - 4pm

at

THE ESSEX RECORDS OFFICE

Wharf Road

Chelmsford CM2 6YT

Cost: £12.50pp

Tea, Coffee & Cakes



Pay and Display parking at

(Far end of carpark, over the foot bridge, turn right and the ERO is just a few minutes’ walk away).

Meadows Surface Carpark

Please return slip to Berry to confirm. Payment by cheque or BACs to Chelmsford U3A

Name(s)..... Cost £12.50 pp

Email/Tel no. for confirmation:.....Membership No/s.....

No. of places required..... Cheque enclosed for £.....(made payable to Chelmsford U3A)

or

BACs payment to A/C No. 41153684 Sort Code:40.10.27 Reference: London Group

Please send cheques/slips to Berry Cornell 24 Park Drive, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 9DT

Email: mayberrynotes@outlook.com

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



Chelmsford u3a Notice of Annual General Meeting 2022

Dear Members,

Notification is hereby given of the **29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Chelmsford u3a** to allow members to prepare for the meeting. The AGM will be held as a hybrid meeting allowing members to attend in person (subject to government restrictions in place at the time) at Christ Church, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0AW or electronically (via Zoom) on :

Thursday 10th February 2022, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Details of how to access the meeting on-line will be distributed to members via email one week before the meeting.

Any member who is unable to attend the AGM (either in person or on-line) may appoint someone else to vote on their behalf (either a named individual or the chairman of the meeting). A form of Proxy notice has been issued for such purpose and must be deposited with the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Agenda

1. The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows:
 - I. To confirm the minutes of the last AGM held on 10 February 2021 (published in the Jan 2022 newsletter).
 - II. Chairman's annual report of u3a activities
 - III. To receive and adopt the examined accounts and financial statements for the year ending December 2021
 - IV. To appoint Maurice Van Mellaerts as independent Examiner for the following year.
 - V. To elect the following members to the committee:
 - i. Marie Neale
 - ii. Nick Bailey
 - iii. Geoff Swaine
 - iv. Diane Read
 - v. David Sweeney
 - vi. David Marsh
 - VI. To vote on Special Resolution 1: To adopt the U3a Model Constitution in its entirety, with the exception of Clause 16 (8) which is to be amended as described in the following statement.

Marie Neale, Secretary

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



Special Resolution 1: Adoption of the u3a Model Constitution

In order to change the constitution, it is necessary to hold this AGM with 66% of the votes cast in a quorate meeting in favour of this special resolution.

The Third Age Trust recommends that all u3a's adopt the latest version of the Model Constitution (updated in February 2021) as it is agreed by the Charity Commission and includes guidance related to casual vacancies, proxy voting, electronic voting and holding Trustee meetings online.

In March 2021 the trustees of Chelmsford u3a authorised a sub-committee to undertake an in depth look at our current constitution to see how it compares with the model constitution. The following observations were made:

Unlike our current constitution, the model is divided into two parts: the **first part** covering the purpose of the charity and how it's money and property can be used. It also contains the powers to change the constitution and to wind the charity up. The **second part** sets out the administrative provisions, including membership, appointment of trustees, meetings and powers of the trustees.

The provisions in Part 1 can only be changed by a 2/3rds majority of members present and voting at a general meeting, whereas those in Part 2 only require a simple majority to make changes. Our current constitution requires a 2/3rds majority vote for all but three clauses which potentially makes it harder to introduce changes of an administrative nature.

Clause 12 of the model defines the number of members that must be 'present' at the AGM to form a **quorum** for business to be conducted. The percentage is given as one tenth of the total membership at the time. Our current constitution requires 20% of the membership to be present and absences sometimes make it difficult to hold a valid meeting. The committee consider that the lower percentage stipulated in the model would be more realistic especially in the current climate of Covid-19 restrictions.

Clause 17 of the Model covers the appointment of trustees and provides that the committee may consist of up to 12 elected trustees (including officers) and up to 3 co-opted trustees. Our current constitution restricts us to having no more than 10 elected trustees and only 2 co-opted trustees. Although historically we have struggled to recruit the maximum number of trustees permitted under our current constitution, the committee feel it would still be useful to have the option to increase this number to allow role sharing and succession planning.

Clause 16 of the Model covers Officers and Ordinary Trustees. The model constitution requires that term of office for trustee officers i.e. the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer should be limited to 3 years. This stems from the fact that the Charity Commission stipulates that there should be a regular turnover of committee membership within a charity.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



Clauses 16(7) & (8) of the model constitution are, therefore, designed to limit any long term or indefinite terms of appointment. The recommendation is that after each 3-year term of office, the officers should take a 12 month break before taking on another officer role. It is also recommended that the maximum

total period of service of any trustee should be 9 years in any combination of roles, whether or not the periods of service are contiguous.

The Committee has taken advice on this issue and has secured the Trust's approval to amend clause 16 (8) to allow the Secretary & Treasurer to stay in post for up to 6 years before being required to either take a year off or continue as an ordinary (non-officer) role. This is because they are more specialist roles which historically we have found more difficult to fill.

Clause 16 (6) of the model provides transitional arrangements for election or selection of trustees. It permits us to continue with the terms of membership for those trustees eligible to continue serving under our current constitution, providing that any transitional arrangements end before the third AGM after the new model is adopted.

The committee concluded that the model constitution is more logically set out than our current one, which appears to have become fragmented over time. The wording is very different in parts but the model is much clearer, less ambiguous and seems to cover every eventuality. The committee, therefore, recommend that the suitably amended Model Constitution be adopted forthwith.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Chelmsford U3A

Minutes of the 28th AGM held entirely by electronic means on Wednesday 10/02/2021

Apologies for Absence. Val Chiswell. Brian Beer

The Zoom meeting was opened at 2pm by Maurice Van Mellaerts. He asked Lesley Wood to explain how the electronic balloting mechanism would work using Zoom Polls. Eddie Wood agreed to collate the electronic votes with the proxy votes.

An initial poll was run to establish the number of members attending the meeting electronically (since some screens were shared by more than one person). Members were asked not to vote if they had sent in a proxy form. A second vote was only for members sharing a screen. A total of 63 members were recorded as attending via electronic means and a further 102 members had appointed the Chairman to vote on their behalf as their Proxy. This meant that a total of 155 members were treated as attending the meeting and Eddie Wood declared it to be quorate.

Minutes of the AGM held on 12/02/2020

The draft minutes of the last meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting. No matters had arisen from the minutes.

Ros Webb proposed that the meeting accept the minutes as a true record of events; Seconded by Sue Cunnington. 157 votes in favour, with 6 abstentions, motion carried.

Chairman's Report. Maurice our chairman has finished his term of office after 6yrs. He expressed his disappointment regarding not having any face to face meetings for his last year of office due to covid 19. He said that although it had been an unfortunate year so much has been learnt by those groups who had embraced the use of Zoom for their meetings. Maurice said is looking forward to being able to attend main meetings again in our new venue at the Church of Our Saviour. He gave his thanks to committee members who were stepping down from office; Chris Bellamy after 6yrs as Vice Chairman; Anne Brereton after 5yrs as Secretary; Judith Boniface after 6yrs as committee member with her final year as Groups Coordinator; Val Green after 6yrs with the last 5yrs as Speaker organiser; and Ron Freeman who had served for 3yrs as Newsletter Coordinator. He also gave his thanks to all the remaining committee members and all the candidates standing for election to the new committee.

Maurice also explained the proposed change to the Chelmsford U3A constitution to allow for virtual/electronic attendance and voting at future AGMs / EGMs.

Treasures report. Eddie Wood thanked Wendy Hubbard for stepping in at the last minute to examine the accounts for the year ending December 2020. Eddie reports that finances remain strong although membership has been down for 2020 no doubt due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The committee has voted in favour of reducing the subscription fees for 2021 as payments for halls and speakers have been a lot less than anticipated. Eddie also reminded members to tick the Gift aid box on the members renewal form as it was a good source of income for us as a registered charity.

- Val Green proposed that the meeting accept the Annual report and accounts. This was seconded by Lesley Wood. 161 Votes in favour, 2 abstentions, motion carried.
- Judith Boniface proposed that the annual subscription fee be reduced to £12 (full member); £8 for (Affiliated member) and £7.50 (part-year member). Seconded by Eddie Wood. 159 Votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention. Motion carried

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Special Resolution 1 (Constitutional changes).

- Lesley Wood proposed that the constitution be amended to allow virtual / electronic attendance and voting at future AGMs/EGMs. Seconded by Diane Brewer. 161 votes in favour, 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

Election of committee members & Accounts Examiner.

- Roger Spall. Proposed: Ron Freeman. Seconded: Chris Bellamy.
- Lesley Wood. Proposed: Eddie Wood. Seconded: Ros Webb.
- Wendy Hubbard. Proposed: Ron Freeman. Seconded: Chris Bellamy
- Ann Bell. Proposed: Chris Bellamy. Seconded: Ron Freeman
- Eddie Wood. 2nd term. Proposed: Anne Brereton. Seconded: Val Green.
- Diane Brewer. 2nd Term. Proposed: Sue Cunnington. Seconded: Anne Brereton.
- Lindsay Whitehouse. Proposed: Jenny Moir. Seconded: Ian Channing.
- David Marsh. Accounts examiner. Proposed Val Green. Seconded. Diane Brewer.

All items were unanimously carried. The committee members and accounts examiner were duly elected.

No further business. Meeting was closed by chairman at 14.35.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



Registered Charity No.: 1027234

**CHELMSFORD U3A
Annual General Meeting
10th February 2022
Form of proxy**

Before completing this form, please read the explanatory notes at the end of this form.

Member's Name:

Member's Address:

Membership number:

I[FULL NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

being a Member of Chelmsford u3a, hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting, or (insert name of proxy in the box if not the Chairman - see note 3)

as my proxy to attend, speak and vote on my behalf, as indicted below, and to speak and vote as they think fit on any other business (including any amendments to resolutions) properly dealt with at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity to be held on 10 February, 2022, at 2.00pm, and at any adjournment thereof.

I direct my proxy to vote on the following resolutions, as I have indicated, by marking the appropriate box with an 'X'. Unless otherwise indicated, the proxy will exercise their discretion as to how they vote, and whether or not they abstain from voting.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



RESOLUTIONS	For	Against	Abstain
ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS			
1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 th February 2021.			
2. To receive the examined Financial statements for the year ending 31 st December 2021			
3. To elect Nicholas Bailey to the committee.			
4. To elect Marie Neale to the committee.			
5. To elect Diane Read to the committee.			
6. To elect Geoffrey Swaine to the committee.			
7. To elect David Sweeney to the committee			
8. To elect David Marsh to the committee			
9. To elect Maurice Van Mellaerts as Accounts Examiner for 2022			
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS			
1. To adopt the u3a Model Constitution as outlined and amended in the Notice of AGM.			

Signature	Date

Notes

FORM OF PROXY

1. As a member of the Chelmsford u3a you are entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote, at a general meeting of the Charity. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes.

2. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending the meeting and voting in person. If you have appointed a proxy and attend the meeting in person, your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



APPOINTMENT

3. A proxy does not need to be a member of the Charity but must attend the meeting to represent you. If you wish to appoint a proxy other than the chairman of the meeting, insert their full name in the box. If you leave this space blank, the chairman of the meeting will be appointed your proxy. Where you appoint as your proxy someone other than the chairman, you are responsible for ensuring that they attend the meeting and are aware of your voting intentions. If you wish your proxy to make any comments on your behalf, you will need to appoint someone other than the chairman and give them the relevant instructions directly.

VOTING DIRECTIONS

4. To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolutions mark the appropriate box with an "X". If no voting indication is given, your proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion. Your proxy will vote (or abstain from voting) as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is put before the meeting, including a motion to adjourn.

RETURNING YOUR FORM OF PROXY

5. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be:

Completed and signed;

Sent or delivered to the Charity Secretary, Marie Neale, 50 Primrose Hill, Chelmsford Essex CM1 2RH.

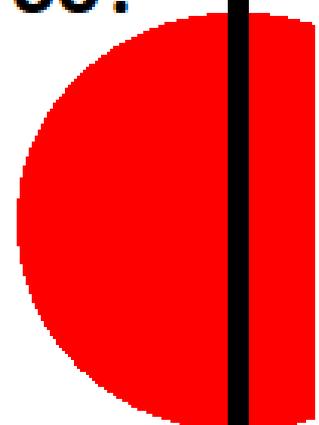
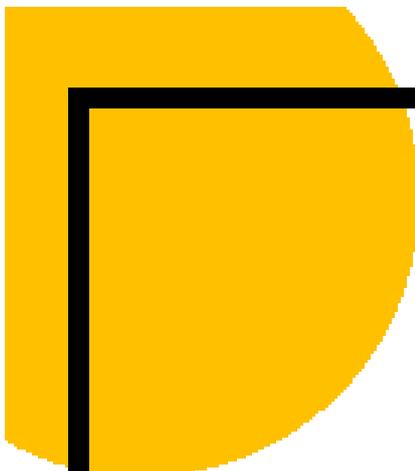
Received by the Charity no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

6. As an alternative to completing this hard-copy proxy form, you can appoint a proxy electronically by completing and signing the form and scanning a copy to mariedavidneale@btinternet.com. For an electronic proxy appointment to be valid, your appointment must be received by the Company no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

7. If you submit more than one valid proxy appointment, the appointment received last before the latest time for the receipt of proxies will take precedence.

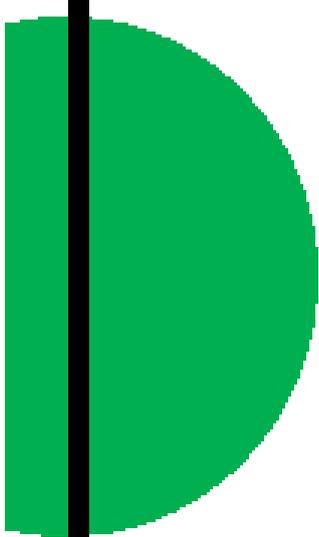
8. You may not use any electronic address provided in this proxy form to communicate with the Charity for any purposes other than those expressly stated.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

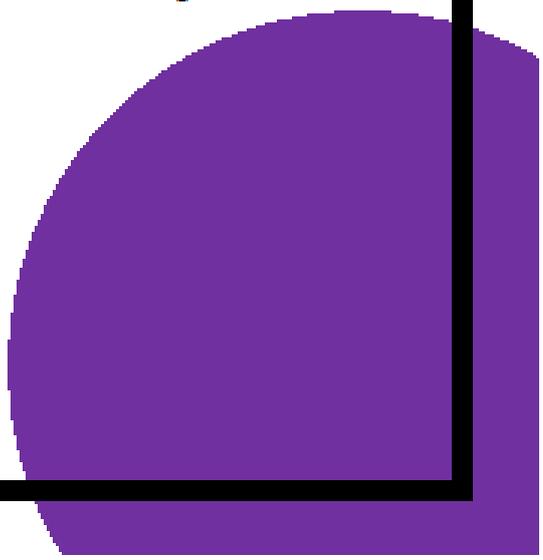


Are you over 60?

**Have you retired during
the pandemic or 6 months
before?**



**Would you be interested in
being interviewed about your
experience of retiring during
the pandemic for a University
Dissertation Project?**



**Email Khaleah
(3rd Year Medical Student at
University of Nottingham)
at mzykl8@nottingham.ac.uk
for more information**