

**MINUTES OF THE DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON
MONDAY, 17TH MAY 2021 ON ZOOM**

Introduction and Welcome

Leslye welcomed everyone to the Zoom Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending. She said that the 2020 Committee had been working hard on behalf of Du3A in the following roles:

Leslye Henstock	Chair of Dukeries U3A Establishing DU3A Virtual World on Zoom
Pam Hardwick	Group Secretary/Assisting Chair Links with Regional/National U3A and local community
Richard Titmuss	Treasurer to 31 st March 2021
Margaret Titmuss	Catering Manager and Health & Safety until 31 st March 2021
Ann Street	Co-ordinator of Guest Speakers Marketing and Communications in local press
Marie Bartle	Membership Manager Contact for Wellbeing
Christine Yates	Co-ordinator of Group Activities
John Harris	Newsletter Editor
Nick Mason	IT and Zoom Advisor
Val Saunders	Minuting Secretary
Chris Neighbour	Treasurer from 1 st April 2021
Wendy Owen	Apprentice Membership Manager/Funding Manager

The Past Six Months

Leslye thanked Richard and Margaret Titmuss, who stood down from the Committee on 31st March 2021, for their hard work and support. They have been given a garden centre voucher in recognition of their contribution to Du3a.

Leslye individually thanked other members of the Committee for their contributions since she took over as Chair.

Chris Neighbour took over the role of Treasurer from 1st April 2021. He is also sorting out the difficulties with the NATWEST on-line banking account for Du3A.

Marie Bartle will be handing over her role as Membership Manager to Wendy Owen in the near future. Marie reported that the Du3a currently has 101 members, 8 of which are Associate Members. This number includes two new members. Marie is also the leader of the WhatsApp Walking Group.

The Committee is still hoping to find a replacement for Christine Yates as Co-ordinator of Group Activities. Christine was given a special mention for hosting coffee/tea parties in her garden when this was allowed and for her support to other members during this difficult time.

Leslye reported that we have been trying to raise the profile of the Du3a to attract new members and are currently designing advertising material to use for this purpose. Nick, John and Ann have been liaising on the design of advertising material such as business cards, leaflets and banners. The membership was shown, on screen, examples of these.

Ann Street has also been submitting articles each month to local publications such as the Roundabout, Sherwood Life and Edwinstowe Parish Magazine. She appealed at the AGM for photographs to accompany the articles and asked Group Leaders to submit photographs of their groups, with their permission, when they are meeting again.

Ann has also done a lot of work editing the Du3a website in order to make it vibrant and current.

John Harris and Nick Mason have been working on the Du3a Facebook page in order for it to interact with other Facebook pages in the area. John is also editor of the Du3a monthly newsletter which has been enjoyed by members during lockdown and attracted many compliments.

Leslye reported that we are currently looking for funding grants for the Du3a. We are presently using an old borrowed laptop for Zoom events and a new one will cost in the region of £700 to £800.

Wendy Owen has been trying to source funding for Du3a. She has already applied to the National Lottery but our bid was rejected. We can apparently apply again at a later date. She has also applied to RTC and is hoping to hear from them in the next few weeks. She will also be in touch with local Councillors with regard to funding opportunities.

Pam Hardwick as Group Secretary is also the link with regional and national U3A teams. Pam reported at the AGM that Notts Network has been an invaluable source of information when any problems were encountered. They also have support groups for Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries.

U3A Head Office have recently produced a new Model Constitution. Leslye, Pam and Ann liaised over the wording of this. It was finally decided that we would go with the Model Constitution, despite the fact that it is much longer than our previous one. There are two points on the Constitution that were altered slightly which will be voted on by the members.

Leslye reported to the membership that although her time as Chair had been a steep learning curve, she has enjoyed the role. Meetings and social events have been ticking over on Zoom. The Du3a is also trying to build links with Community Groups locally.

Members Attending the AGM

Apologies were accepted from Peter Davies.

In addition to the Committee, the following members were present at the AGM:

- Colin Barratt and Mal Richardson
- Patti Bell
- Howard and Linda Bond
- Tony and Sue Brewer
- Janice Corkhill
- Alex Edwards

- John and Hazel Francis
- George and Alison Hodgson
- Doreen Jackson
- David and Mary Morris
- Sue North
- Sharon Pinkett
- Jean Parry-Williams
- Alan Saunders
- Norah Staley
- Richard and Margaret Titmuss
- Susan Viney
- John Wheeldon and Connie Bottell
- Stefan Ziembra

Proposal to Agree Minutes from the last AGM

Mary Morris proposed that the Minutes for 19th October 2020 be accepted as a true record and Jean Parry-Williams seconded.

Votes by Email and Post

The total number of email and postal votes prior to the AGM was 56.

Voting – Items of Change

A total number of 61 votes were cast including 5 at the AGM. There were two reservations concerning one of the items of change in the Constitution and 59 votes in favour.

Voting for the Committee

A total of 61 votes were cast including 5 at the AGM and the Committee were voted in unanimously.

Membership Fees

These were set at £19 for two years to March 2022. The fee for new members from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 will be £15 and £10 for Associate Members.

A total of 61 votes were cast including 5 at the AGM and the motion was carried unanimously.

At this point in the AGM Leslye introduced our Community Partners, Andrew Oxnard and Steve Little who wanted to inform the membership about community project opportunities in the local area.

Andy Oxnard

Andy Oxnard, who is Community Group Co-ordinator for Newark and District Council, explained that his role in the local community was to get people involved in volunteering and upskilling, mainly in the Ollerton, Bilsthorpe and Edwinstowe areas.

He is supporting the Ollerton Bowls Club and is trying to encourage new members. Leslye informed him that Du3a already had a “taster session” booked for Wednesday, 26th May at 1.30. Quite a number of members expressed an interest in this.

Andy also promotes the Dukeries Workshop where people can learn such skills as woodworking and stained-glass window making. One of our members, Sue North, commented that she had joined the Workshop some time ago and was really enjoying it. She is currently making a walking stick.

Andy is also involved in the new local radio station, Bowe Radio, which is on air 24 hours a day with different presenters.

Finding volunteers for environmental projects such as those by the Forestry Commission are also within the scope of Andy's role.

Steve Little

Steve Little, who is Scheme Manager of the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership, explained that the area he covers is from Bestwood Park to the River Meden. It involves such issues as national wildlife and habitat, heathland areas and social history. The RSPB, Inspire, Wildlife Trust and Sherwood Forest trust are also involved with the Partnership.

Steve said that Inspire are running various courses which Du3a members might be interested in including Introduction to Natural History, Map Reading, Protecting, Preserving and Understanding Historic Buildings, etc. Steve said that he would send leaflets to Leslye giving more details about the various projects

Two other projects that Steve mentioned that Du3a members might want to get involved with were a Knitting Challenge to make tiny hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles and a Poetry Course where archive photographs would be used for inspiration to write poetry.

Steve said that Community Grants up to £1000 were available to encourage people to get involved in heritage projects.

Leslye invited Andy and Steve to our U3A Day on 11th September 2021.

Financial Report and Forecast

Chris Neighbour explained that although we have a healthy balance in both the current and social accounts, £3914.57 and £1179.58 respectively at 31st March 2021, there would be no new income until April 2022.

He said that a projected forecast of Expenditure based on 100 members from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 would be in the region of £1949. This did not include the capitation fee of £350 for 2021/22 which has not yet been billed or paid.

Our aim is to spend money wisely to benefit members.

Colin Barratt commented that the Jubilee Hall had obtained a grant of £10000 and suggested that we contact John Eastwood about how this was obtained.

Events for 2021

- 26th May at 1.30 – Taster Bowls Session at Ollerton Bowls Club

- 21st June – General Meeting. The Speaker, Graham Keel, will give a light-hearted talk on Terry Wogan's hairweave and other stories
- 28th June – Picnic in the Park. This will begin at 11.00 am at Sherwood Forest, near the cricket pitch, with a stroll and followed by a picnic. Please bring your own food, drinks, chairs, etc.
- 19th July – General Meeting. Speaker from Bilsthorpe Transport will give tips on driving.
- 23rd August – Garden Party at the Jubilee Hall
- 11th September – U3A Day
- 20th September – Members' Meeting

Finally, John Harris gave a vote of thanks to Leslye for her tireless hard work and leadership since taking over as Chair.