

## MINUTES OF U3A COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2023

### 1. Present

Mike Best (MB)	Chair
Anna Fletcher (AF)	Executive Secretary
Ian Marshall (IM)	Treasurer
Derek Jones (DJ)	Assistant Treasurer
Pat Jones (PJ)	Outings Coordinator
Rosemary Jensen (RJ)	Groups Coordinator
Peter Watson (PW)	Committee Information Administrator
Maureen Best (MaB)	Welfare Coordinator
Heather Quiney (HQ)	Newsletter Editor
Hilary Jinno (HJ)	Events Manager
Philip Garrison (PG)	taking Minutes

Apologies for absence were received from Terry Parker (TP). MB welcomed Hilary Jinno (HJ) back to the committee.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting (20th September) were accepted with the following amendments:

Item 8: The walking holiday will take place in Abingworth Hall, Thakeham, West Sussex (not Ashbourne).

### 3. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Item 4: Ten-minute talks at general meetings: Gaynor Jones' talk on the Town Twinning Association will take place in Spring 2024. Margo Rogers will do her talk on the Women's Institute at the next monthly meeting (1st November). Jody Huizar (Dunmow Town Crier) will talk about the Flich Trials at the May 2024 monthly meeting.

Item 4a: RJ requested that discussion of a social event for group leaders be put on the agenda for January's committee meeting, with a view to holding an event in Spring 2024. AF

Item 7 (final paragraph): MB is having problems in operating the Dunmow u3a mobile phone. DJ's own phone can take two SIM cards, and he offered to take custody of the u3a phone. DJ

Item 14: The Charities Commission problem is ongoing.

#### 4. Chair's Report (MB)

At the next monthly meeting on 1st November, Margo Rogers will talk about the WI. This will be followed by the main speaker, Joanna Bogle, on "Riccarda Hambrough – A Forgotten Nun".

A caterer, Christine, working with Margo Rogers, has been booked for the Christmas concert on Wednesday 29th November.

She will provide savouries, mince pies, sandwiches and cakes on a budget of £4.50 per head. The event will be publicized in the forthcoming newsletter. Members with special dietary requirements have been asked to let us know by phone or emailing [christmas@dunmowu3a.org.uk](mailto:christmas@dunmowu3a.org.uk) and DJ offered to coordinate responses.

The committee agreed that the capacity for the Christmas Concert would be 200 people. (This figure comprises 140 Du3a members and 60 Rock Choir members.)

Next year's walking group holiday will take place at Abingworth Hall, Thakeham, West Sussex from Monday 30 September until Friday 4 October 2024. HF Holidays will provide the walk leaders, and the Centre will provide transport to and from the walks.

Following the East of England u3a Zoom meeting, a social event is to be arranged for group leaders. Details to be discussed at a future meeting.

The committee end-of-year lunch will be held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 – immediately after the committee meeting – at the Angel & Harp. HJ offered to organize this event again this year. HJ

MB will lay the u3a wreath at the war memorial at the Remembrance Sunday service at 10:45am on Sunday 12 November.

#### 5. Review of games afternoon

HQ reported that 82 members had attended, along with six guests, five of whom then joined u3a and the sixth renewed their membership. MB added that three new whist players had been recruited. It was proposed that this should become an annual event.

#### 6. Treasurer's report (IM)

IM briefly reviewed the group's accounts.

## 7. Payment for groups (IM)

As mentioned in last month's minutes, IM stated that members paying directly into u3a's current account – various amounts, for various purposes – makes account management difficult. After discussion it was agreed that only group leaders should pay into the account, on a monthly basis.

There was also a brief discussion on whether or not group leaders are insured for u3a cash in their possession. Following the meeting IM checked this, and the u3a insurance policy is clear that they are covered (with some exclusions) up to £1000 with no excess. This applies to cash held in members' homes, hired premises or in transit.

## 8. Group coordinator's update (RJ)

RJ reported that the new pickleball group is proving very popular, despite the clash with table tennis. A cribbage group has also been started. It is hoped to get a Sequence group running, and there was also some interest in a general games group.

## 9. Membership secretary's update (TP)

TP was absent from the meeting, but his written report states that Du3a now has 588 members (the highest ever), comprising 501 renewals and 87 new members. Last year at this time Du3a had 577 members.

## 10. Outings and trips (PJ)

The Waverley Paddle Steamer trip (Sunday 8th October) was universally adored, with many committee members reminiscing rapturously about it.

The Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair trip (Friday 17th November) is sold out, with a waiting list.

The "Drop the Dead Donkey" theatre trip (Thursday 29th February 2024) has already sold 19 of the 32 tickets in the 36 hours since the tickets went on sale.

PJ proposed a trip to the Wallace Collection (as part of a "Day Out in London" trip similar to the previous successful British Museum excursion) for January 2024, and an outing to the "Sargent and Fashion" exhibition at the Tate Britain, which runs February-July 2024.

## 11. Welfare (MaB)

There has only been one enquiry about transport for monthly meetings, and therefore this will be taken out of the newsletter. A small group of members are coming by Digibus, which they arranged themselves.

Sandra Walker is now out of hospital, and MaB is monitoring her progress.

#### 12. Newsletter (HQ)

HQ has promised a “bumper edition”; the deadline for submissions is this evening (18th October). The next newsletter after this will come out before the Christmas concert (29th November) and will cover December and January. It was suggested that group leaders might offer a round-up of their groups’ activities.

#### 13. Website

(This relates to the item in AOB last meeting, when PW asked to be informed of any web pages no longer required ahead of Du3a website’s move from SiteBuilder to WordPress.) PW reported he’d had no response, but he would action this.

PW

#### 14. Organisation of sign-in at monthly meetings (MaB)

Some members are finding the sign-in experience stressful, reports MaB. Trying to find their name on a long alphabetical list spread over ten sheets of paper, in a narrow hallway with others crowding in behind, is too much for some.

MaB proposes putting the sign-in tables in the Talberd Room, at the back of the room next to the raffle table. Additionally, the meeters and greeters could ask people’s names on arrival and sign them in. It was also suggested that the greeters could take a third of the alphabet each (eg A-G, H-P, Q-Z). This will be trialled at the next monthly meeting on 1st November.

Ma  
B

AF expressed concern at the accumulation of old magazines on the magazine swap table, which she runs with RJ. It was agreed that only magazines published within the past twelve months will be accepted.

MaB will inform Jane Tadman (meet and greet coordinator) of the above.

Ma  
B

#### 15. Next meeting: Wednesday 22nd November at 10am at the Hub

IM will not be able to attend this, and he apologises in advance for his absence.

#### 16. Any Other Business (AOB)

HQ is to study the “Comments on the Membership Application Form from New Members”, and this will be an item for the next committee meeting. RJ will look at group issues, and HQ will look at the comments about advertisements responded to by new members.

HQ  
RJ

The committee agreed to PW’s request for the Rock Choir to conduct a collection raising funds for Mission Christmas at the Christmas concert.

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.