

MINUTES OF U3A COMMITTEE MEETING 21 JUNE 2023

1. Present

Mike Best (MB)	Chair
Anna Fletcher (AF)	Executive Secretary
Ian Marshall (IM)	Treasurer
Rosemary Jensen (RJ)	Groups Coordinator
Peter Watson (PW)	Committee Information Administrator
Heather Quiney (HQ)	Newsletter Editor
Philip Garrison (PG)	taking Minutes

Apologies for absence were received from Derek Jones (DJ), Pat Jones (PJ), Terry Parker (TP) and Hilary Jinno (HJ).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (24 May) were accepted.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Item 3/11: Amanda Brown has agreed to take minutes at the AGM.

Item 4: MB has so far had no response from the town twinning people.

Item 5: The extra £30, as agreed last month, is now being spent on raffle prizes.

Item 8: Pickleball: see Item 9 below.

4. Chair's Report (MB)

The Christmas concert, featuring the Rock Choir, will now be held on 29 November at Foakes Hall. Despite the different location, the format will be the same as last year, though a different caterer will be used. Trauti Hard (speaker finder) will be asked to cancel the speaker already booked for that date.

5. AGM Voting (MB)

No nominations have been received. The AGM will be asked to approve (a) the appointment of Maureen Best as Welfare Co-ordinator, and (b) the subscription change to £10 per year. As treasurer, IM will prepare a single-page slide about finances which he will email to PW.

IM

6. September Newsletter (MB)

This will brief the membership about forthcoming events, as previously discussed.

7. September Meeting arrangements (MB)

The monthly meeting on 27 September will give members a chance to play a variety of games. RJ tabled a variety of games such as Bananagrams, Qwirkle and Cluedo, and games such as bridge, canasta, whist and scrabble were also mentioned, amongst others. The format of the afternoon would involve different games being played at different tables, with a leader stationed at each. Members would be encouraged to participate in games, particularly ones they'd never played before. Games list to be finalised at 19th July meeting.

8. Treasurer's report (IM)

IM drew the committee's attention to the report previously circulated. Concern was expressed that Du3a's subscription to Zoom had been automatically renewed. We no longer need it, so PW offered to modify our account details to prevent future auto-renewals. Outlook also comes under the heading of Communications.

PW

9. Group update (RJ)

There are 15 people interested in pickleball. RJ will meet Selva Govender on 30 June to discuss the practicalities of starting a group. Selva is a Du3a member who is also a member of Sawston u3a, who have recently started a pickleball group.

10. Gentle Exercise equipment (MB)

This Du3a group closed when its leader, Anita Davey, decided to step down. However, the committee understands it is continuing as a non-u3a group under the tutorship of Mary. The new group is using equipment bought and paid for by Du3a, and now looked after by Mary. The asset value of this equipment has been written off by u3a, but concern was expressed at Du3a's possible continuing liability for any injury caused through use of the deteriorating equipment that it still owns. It was decided that the equipment will be offered to Anita Davey. If Anita doesn't want it, the equipment would be offered for sale to Mary for a nominal sum: £10 and £1 were both suggested. The £116 allocated for this Group is u3a money and will be retained as such.

11. Membership Secretary's update (TP)

In his absence, TP's report was read out to the committee.

As of 17th June, Du3a has 550 current members, comprising 495 renewals and 55 new members. Last year we eventually reached 577 members, so there is every possibility this number might be reached – or exceeded – this year. There are currently 61 non-renewals outstanding, and 25 resignations.

12. Outings and trips (PJ)

Leeds Castle outing happened yesterday (20th June). 45 people attended and reports were overwhelmingly positive – even the weather improved dramatically from mid-morning!

Forthcoming outings to Hemingford Grey Manor (6th July), Southwold (2nd August) and The Lion King (13th September) are all fully booked, though interested members are being encouraged to add their names to waiting lists due to the possibility of cancellations.

PW reports that the Waverley Paddle Steamer trip (September/October) looks unlikely to happen. Tickets are not yet on sale for the Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair outing on 17th November.

PW suggested that longer trips might be considered in future, such as a two-night trip to Arundel/Goodwood.

MB asked if an alternative to the paddle steamer trip might be considered if it indeed falls through?

13. Newsletter (HQ)

The deadline for the current newsletter is tonight (21 June).

HQ pointed out that Riviera Travel are offering cruises for which 10% of the price paid by the customer will be donated to a nominated u3a group. The committee agreed that the flyer for this could be published in the newsletter, with an appropriate strapline from HQ. It should be made clear that Du3a are not advertising, recommending, or encouraging people to book with that particular cruise company.

The committee agreed that HQ discontinue publicising (a) the regular lunches at the Rowena Davey Day Centre, and (b) the Uttlesford minibus in the newsletter. They could be reinstated in the autumn if felt appropriate.

HQ now has admin rights for the Du3a Facebook page, to which she has added details of all outings and monthly meetings since lockdown, along with shared posts from (the wider) u3a. HQ asked committee members who are on Facebook to look at the Du3a page and offer their opinions.

MB agreed that the September monthly meeting should be open to non-members as a “taster”; they should be encouraged to join.

14. Events (HJ)

HJ not present, but MB wondered if there will be a further quiz night in the Autumn?

15. Next meeting: Wednesday 19th July 2023, 10:00am at The Hub.

16. Any other business (AOB)

HQ agreed to take minutes at the next committee meeting as PG will not be present.

The meeting closed at 11:23am.