

## MINUTES OF U3A COMMITTEE MEETING 19th July 2023

1.	<p>Present</p> <p>Mike Best (MB) Chair          Ian Marshall (IM) Treasurer          Rosemary Jensen (RJ) Groups Coordinator          Derek Jones (DJ) Assets Manager and Outings team          Peter Watson (PW) Committee Information Administrator          Heather Quiney (HQ) Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer (and Minute Taker this meeting)          Maureen Best (MaB) Welfare Coordinator</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Pat Jones (PJ), Terry Parker (TP), Hilary Jinno (HJ), Anna Fletcher (AF) and Phil Garrison (PG).</p> <p>Maureen Best (MaB) was welcomed as the new Welfare Coordinator and committee member.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting (21 June) were accepted</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising from the previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 3:4 MB still hasn't had an official response from the Town Twinning Association about speaking at the start of the October monthly meeting but Gaynor Jones has said unofficially that someone will be there. MB to follow up. MB</li> <li>• Item 4 Christmas Concert: This has been confirmed for Wednesday 29th November in place of the usual monthly meeting. The speaker previously booked has been cancelled by Trauti Hard - Speaker Organiser.</li> <li>• Item 10: Gentle Exercise Group equipment. IM will be meeting Mary Davies (tutor) tomorrow (20 July) to verify what equipment we are selling to her for a nominal £10. All the equipment has been depreciated to zero already, due to age. IM</li> </ul> <p>DJ questioned whether there was a music player included and whether it could be used by another group. IM agreed to look out for anything along those lines and withdraw it from the agreement if he felt it could be useful. It was also agreed that if the equipment continued to be stored at the venue, then Mary should arrange her own agreement with the Town Council which does not involve Du3a. IM</p>	
4.	<p>Chair's report (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MB is unable to attend the monthly meeting next week (26 July). PG has agreed to stand in for MB for the afternoon. MB will supply notes to PG to share with the members. PG</li> <li>• PW is due to speak on behalf of Dunmow Rotary at the start of the meeting. MB</li> <li>• PW asked what equipment Patrick Forsyth (the speaker) needed? IM agreed to ask Trauti when he spoke to her about paying the speaker. PW</li> </ul>	IM
5.	<p>AGM Comments (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The business was concluded in 12 minutes - a record to date.</li> <li>• The Speaker (Danielle Barnet) was good and well received.</li> <li>• One member said that her friend, also member but who wasn't on email, didn't receive the AGM paperwork in time for the meeting. As the friend wasn't named, nothing further could be done to follow it up.</li> <li>• A speaker has already been booked for next year's AGM - Tony Harris, who will dress up as Shakespeare. He has previously spoken to Du3a as Henry VIII and Churchill.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p>September meeting / Games Afternoon (MB in HJ's absence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 27th September in place of usual monthly meeting. Offering something different. Potentially attracting new members to existing games Interest Groups. Possibly starting new groups if enough interest. Might lead to a General Games Group with different board/tabletop games being played each time.</li> <li>• The afternoon needs planning and advertising so decisions needed to be taken at this meeting.</li> <li>• Proposed: 20 tables, each with one game and one person to lead that game. (20 games x average of 4 players = 80 members (approx attendance at monthly meetings)).</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HQ agreed to co-ordinate which games to be offered, who would lend them for the afternoon and who would lead each one. Will email committee members this week asking for 6 suggested games that they can lend/lead. HQ will then compile a master list (removing inevitable duplicates), choose 15-20 (in addition to our existing games groups) and re-circulate the list asking for a volunteer to lead each game. Once the list is confirmed, HQ will send the list of games, lenders and leaders to HJ. HQ will then step back.</li> <li>• Our Canasta, Bridge, Mah Jong and Whist groups will be there. Scrabble yet to be confirmed. Chess, Backgammon, Dominoes and Crib were suggested.</li> <li>• MB confirmed that the Foakes Hall booking had been extended to 5pm and the games could be played from 2pm-4.30pm.</li> <li>• It was suggested that refreshments could be served all afternoon. MB to talk with Margo Rogers as she might need more helpers that afternoon.</li> <li>• It was primarily for existing Du3a members (not a recruitment afternoon), though potential new members were welcome, as per any other monthly meeting.</li> <li>• It was felt that a raffle would be good, possibly with a games theme. MB to talk to Pat Kelly.</li> <li>• IM offered his apologies - he wouldn't be at the September meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>HQ</p> <p>HJ</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
7.	<p>Treasurer's report (IM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foakes Hall hire rate had increased again without any notice, just an increased rate on the invoice. IM has tried to contact the Town Council to raise this but hasn't heard back as yet.</li> <li>• It was agreed to order the Poppy Wreath (c) with the u3a logo for Remembrance Parade/Armistice in November. IM to sort.</li> <li>• A payment for £10 was returned from the bank with minimal details. IM contacted TSB and established that it was from David Jones who had sadly passed away.</li> <li>• There is an unknown payment of £13 received from a Patricia Geraghty. Presumed to be a membership fee but TP hasn't received any accompanying paperwork. IM to ask PG to mention it at the monthly meeting next week. Patricia Geraghty might be there or someone might know her.</li> </ul>	<p>IM</p> <p>IM</p> <p>IM/ PG</p>
8.	<p>Group Update (RJ)</p> <p>Pickleball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 16 members interested in this new group and Selva Govender has agreed to lead the group with Debbie Miller's assistance.</li> <li>• Two badminton courts have been booked at Helena Romanes School, though the days and times won't be confirmed until the school timetables have been finalised.</li> <li>• RJ has completed a Group Equipment Fund request for 16 paddles (£22 each) and 16 balls (£2 each). There was much discussion about whether Du3a should buy and own the paddles, or the players would be invited/expected to buy their own paddle, or whether they could try the sport before committing. References were made to the Gentle Exercise equipment and the mallets from the Croquet group of many years ago.</li> <li>• It was agreed that Du3a would buy 16 balls and they would remain the assets of Du3a. Du3a would also buy 16 paddles, 12 of which would be available for members to buy (at cost) once they had decided that the game was for them. There would always be 4 paddles retained by Du3a for new members to borrow until they bought their own.</li> <li>• It was also discussed how much the members would be asked to pay per week or month vs the hall hire costs (£15/session) and how much profit was being proposed. Until the days and times were confirmed, it wasn't known how many of the 16 interested members would actually join.</li> <li>• It was agreed that members would pay £10 per month in advance, whether or not they attended every week. This would create a potentially healthy balance (if all 16 members joined) to buy more paddles as and when needed. If the balance rose more than expected, the fees could be reduced.</li> <li>• WAG1 (Wine Appreciation Group 1) It was reported that the WAG1 met last night for the first time since the start of the year. They will consider writing something for the September newsletter (out end of August).</li> </ul>	<p>RJ</p>



