

**Minutes of GU3A Committee Meeting
held online, through Zoom, due to the Coronavirus lock down
on 28 April 2020**

PRESENT: John Wardill, Brenda Elliott, Brian Smith, Diana Wardill, Peta Margetts, Sandra Davies, Wendy Milnes, Carol Williams, Pam Rayment (Minutes)

Apologies for absence: Hazel Merigold, Norma Richardson, Edna Featherstone.

- 1. Minutes of (suspended) Committee meeting held on 24 March 2020, compiled from Members' reports; and the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 February 2020** (distributed previously for the March meeting)
Both Minutes were agreed and signed separately by the Chair, to be given to the Secretary in due course. **Action JW**

- 2. Matters arising:**
PR confirmed that nobody came to the Hall for the Members Monthly meeting on 1/4/20, which had been suspended by the Urgency Committee.

- 3. Correspondence:**
(1) Third Age Trust – The AGM will be held at 11.15am on 27 August 2020, at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. Noted.

- 4. Treasurer's report:**
(1) Financial update. The Gift Aid sum of £653 had been received from HMRC. A letter from Virgin had been received notifying that the deposit account interest would be reduced to 0.15%, providing a much reduced income of approximately £12 for the current year.
Account balances were: Current account £4656; Deposit account £8193; and Cash £193.

(2) The Annual report and Accounts 2019/20 had been given to the Auditors, Draycott & Kirk, last week with a request that, following inspection, they be returned to the Treasurer electronically to facilitate circulation to the Committee for their approval at the next meeting (in the absence of an AGM). Note an approved signed copy will then be uploaded to the Charity Commission's website.

(3) The Third Age Trust Membership Subscription has been paid: 502 paid up members at £3.50 each = £1757.

5. Membership Secretary's report:

347 members have renewed, including 21 new members. Subscriptions included 331 @ £10 and 16 @ £7. Due to the suspension of activities, renewals had now virtually dried up. It was agreed the Committee would decide what action to take on subscriptions that had been paid prior to the government's lock down, when activities resumed.

6. Report on interest groups:

(1) Potential Speakers at Monthly Members' meeting. Currently on hold, except for the Hearing Dogs' speaker mentioned previously, who is provisionally booked for October.

(2) What activities are the Groups undertaking? Most Members are in touch with their Groups, either by email or telephone.

The Acoustic and Strings group is circulating music suggestions via email.

Creative Writing and Poetry Groups, have invited everyone who wishes to join the groups' activities.

The Gardening Group members have been sharing photos.

The Knit and Natter Group is keeping busy knitting.

Tai Chi is holding three classes a week online, on Zoom.

The Science Group is going to set up virtual online meetings.

The Singing for Pleasure Group is in touch with its 80 members by email.

The Walking Groups are keeping in touch with their members.

SD took over the role of Groups' Coordinator from PM. PM was thanked for her 6 years' service in this role. SD will be contacting the Group Coordinators to introduce herself. **Action SD**

7. Venues and Accommodation: Nothing to report.

8. Links with other U3As: (events deferred)

(1) Border Link Network – Confirmed that GU3A is a member. Noted.

9. Newsletter:

(1) Committee items for next newsletter. PR had compiled an Alternative Newsletter for distribution by email, AG having been stranded in Australia. 421 email addresses had been filtered from the U3A membership applications by DW/JW, including those members who have: a) submitted one, b) re-joined this year, plus c) joined last year but not yet this year.

The data had been put into an Excel spreadsheet and a test had proved the email addresses could be copied and pasted easily. AG having now returned to the UK, he would be asked to distribute the Alternative Newsletter to Members by email, using the Blind copy option. An "opt out" option would be offered for the future. **Action JW**

With regard to paper copies, the numbers would be assessed from the register to see how big the issue was but delivery by hand was not an easy solution and postage might be expensive.

Action

DW

A suggestion that a monthly Newsletter be produced for the time being, to keep in touch with our members was discussed, but no decision was taken. It will remain for discussion at the next meeting.

10. Website: JW would draft a change to the banner with a u3a.org link for activities. **Action JW**
The website version of the newsletter will have a selection of illustrations and photos.

Action PR/AG

11. Monthly Members' Get Together: 6 May 2020 (suspended)

In terms of whether the Committee was doing enough to communicate with and support Members in these challenging times, as noted above the majority of Members are in touch with their Groups. Items 6 and 9 above detail the activities. Assistance will be given to Group Coordinators to set up online meetings, if they wish.

12. Excursions: (suspended)

13. Social Events and Travel: Art Appreciation (suspended)

14. Health and Safety: No reports.

15. Safeguarding:

Two vulnerable Members who had been identified as needing assistance with medical prescriptions etc, had been put in touch with The Bridge, which had volunteers in a position to assist.

16. Northumbria Region: Nothing to report.

17. National Annual U3A Day, 3 June 2020: postponed to 1 October 2020, the International Day of Older Persons. Noted.

18. Any other business:

(1) Clarification of the date(s) on which outgoing Committee Members are retiring. PM is continuing as an ordinary committee member, BE is continuing as Vice Chair and BS is continuing as Treasurer until the Annual General Meeting can be held.

(2) Coronavirus. No change at present. There were 338 hits on the website page last month and 312 hits this month.

(3) The annual return has been completed and returned to the Third Age Trust.

(4) Agreed the online Committee meeting had been successful and would be repeated in May.

Next Committee meeting: 26 May 2020, 4.30pm on-line