



Committee Report to Members 2022/23

Introduction

Thank you for renewing your membership of Melbourne Area Derby (MAD) u3a; your support is vital if MADu3a is to continue to flourish. Over the past year we have continued to see a slow but steady growth in members, activities and groups.

Particular thanks go to those members who are able to volunteer their time and enthusiasm. There are too many people to thank individually, but every group leader and committee member is vital to ensuring that MADu3a continues for years to come.

Two members of the MADu3a Committee are stepping down after many years in post. Sharon Clark was a founding member and runs both the Art Appreciation and Walking groups; she will continue to be a group leader but we will miss her insight on the Committee. Linda Upe has been vice-chair for the past two years and chairs the events sub-committee. Linda has organised many MADu3a social events and has been responsible for producing and distributing advertising posters. Luckily, Linda has kindly agreed to continue to sit on the events sub-committee so we can look forward to benefitting from her ideas and enthusiasm. Both Sharon and Linda have been a great asset to MADu3, devoting considerable time and effort for which we are grateful. Finally, Alison Keay is standing down as membership secretary having overseen a significant increase in membership numbers; we will miss Alison's rigor and patience in the role but fortunately for us she has agreed to stay on the Committee.

New volunteers are always needed, please consider offering your time if you are able.

Activities

The Committee, with the help of members, aims to continue to offer as wide a range of fun activities as practicable. In the past year, three new groups started (Short Breaks, Whist and Walking Netball) bringing the total number of groups to 23 (listed below). Monthly all-member meetings continued, featuring speakers on a wide range of topics (listed). Occasional lunches and other social events provided the opportunity to meet outside of group activities.

Membership

Membership grew to over 200 and the proportion of members renewing has been healthy, with at least 12 new members joining since April 1st. The Committee continued to increase awareness of MADu3a, including in the local press and on social media but has also worked with other Derbyshire u3as to raise the u3a profile. This included taking part in an around Derbyshire baton relay walk and featuring in an edition of Derbyshire Life. The Committee will continue to work to retain current members, whilst recruiting new members, to help maintain a vibrant, sustainable membership.

Finances

Finances continue to look healthy. There have been many financial uncertainties this year, not only due to the cost of living but also due to a lack of clarity from the national u3a Trust about the cost of subscriptions. As a large proportion of the membership fee is allocated to the national u3a, but not knowing what that proportion would be, the Committee made the difficult decision to change the membership fee structure whilst ensuring that current members need not pay more. The Committee will review the impact of this change and continue to manage expenditure prudently.

Committee business

Members of the executive committee work well together as a team, aiming to balance the rigor of good governance with continuing organisational development. Monthly meetings of the executive committee continue to be well attended. Committee roles include supporting membership and groups; managing the website, data management system (Beacon) and finances; organising events, speakers and meetings; publicity and communication; liaising with other u3a's, the U3A Trust and other organisations. Terms of office are strictly limited by our Constitution to encourage fresh faces and new ideas. We encourage members to get involved in the work of the committee and/or groups, either by volunteering to take on a role or by supporting a role-holder.

As well as focusing on the ongoing priorities of financial prudence and recruiting / retaining members by offering and publicising a wide range of activities, the committee has decided to focus on additional development priorities, including;

- Migrating the MADu3a website to Wordpress
- Streamlining the membership renewal process
- Supporting additional activities in villages surrounding Melbourne
- Recruiting a new Chair and Secretary for 2024

Members of the 2022/23 Executive Committee:

Alison Keay, Membership Secretary

Allan Randall, Committee Support

Diana Wilkins, Minutes Secretary and Monthly Meeting Coordinator

Geoff Dowell, Data Support, including Beacon, GDPR and membership renewals

Jackie Lane, Business Secretary and social media

Linda Upe, Vice-Chair and Events sub-committee Chair

Lyn Hackett, Committee Support

Margaret Whitehead, Chair, website and press

Marjorie Tunnicliffe, Committee Support

Robert Anderson, Treasurer and Finance sub-committee Chair

Sharon Clark, Committee Support

Sue Kerr, Groups' Coordinator

Vicky Angus (co-opted), newsletter

Groups and Leaders 2022/23:

Art appreciation; Sharon Clark & Elsie Probert
 Book Club 1; Lyn Hackett
 Book Group 2; Maggie Swan
 Bowls; Lyn Hackett
 Bridge; Steve Hollingsworth/Linda Upe
 Crafting; Barbara Chawner/Lyn Hackett
 Current Affairs; Margaret Whitehead
 Family History; Sue Webster & Lorraine Dowell
 French dancing; Diana Wilkins
 Garden Visiting; Joanne Lepine/Alison Keay
 German conversation; Jackie Lane
 History; Margaret Gildea & Frances Johnson

Photography step-by-step; Lorraine Dowell
 Poetry Appreciation; Rosie Allum & Judith Baron
 Road Cycling; Chris Brown
 Scrabble; Frances Johnson
 Short breaks; Jackie Lane
 Shorter walks; Jackie Lane
 TV Art; Sharon Clark
 Walking; Sharon Clark & Frances Johnson
 Walking Netball; Diana Wilkins & Linda Upe
 Weekend Literary Group; Jackie Lane
 Whist; Marjorie Tunnicliffe & Linda Upe

All-member / non-group events June 2022- May 2023

June 2022	Tennis taster Bowls evening Vineyard visit	Jan 2023	Guest speaker, 'Behind the scenes'
July	Speaker on history Melbourne Carnival Parade	February	Guest speaker, Kate McRae, wildlife photographer Wine evening Theatre outing
August	Lunch at the Milking Parlour Lunch at Weston	March	Melbourne Quiz CPR demonstration Weston Coffee Morning
September	Guest speaker, The Plague Doctor Melbourne Festival stand Derbyshire Network walk Melbourne Connections Zoom meeting with Australia,	April	Guest speaker on Thomas Cook, Danny Wells Melbourne Coffee Morning Pickleball Taster Ticknall historical walk plus lunch Zoom with Melbourne Australia
October	Open Afternoon Whist evening	May	Guest speaker, Paul Adey, History of British Motor Industry part 2 Curated tour of Hogarth exhibition Barrow Historical Walk
November	Guest speaker, John Kinderman, Home Energy and Climate Change Guided tour of St Helens, Ashby		
December	Christmas social Lunch, Spirit Vaults		