

**Minutes of the Preston and District U3A Members meeting held on 29th October 2020 at 10am
Via zoom**

| | Hosted by Pat Green | Actions |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. In Attendance | Betty Stevens (BS) - Chair Tony Cheetham (AJC) - Vice Chair Margaret Jones (MJ) - Treasurer Barbara Long (BL) - Secretary Pat Green (PG) – Beacon Coordinator Ann Kenny – Groups Co-ordinator Peter Kitchen (PK)- Membership Secretary Margaret Clarke (MC) – Assistant Treasurer Christine Hughes (CH)– Events and Sound and Vision Coordinator Plus 7 members | |
| 2. Apologies | Sheila Finch | |
| | REPORT | |
| | <p>Betty thanked Pat for arranging this meeting and apologised for the cancellation of the previous meeting which was due to take place on the 15th October as no-one was aware of any problems with the Beacon system. Betty also thanked Margaret (treasurer) for attending and Janice Bennet for all the years she had been serving on the committee in varying roles.</p> <p>Introductions were then carried out amongst all attending.</p> <p>Betty then said it was sad that we couldn't meet face to face, as at meetings there was more interaction and they were friendlier than zoom meetings. It was explained that some venues were open, with restrictions in place. This had been put to the committee, a vote was then taken on this subject and passed unanimously that our groups would not be attending. Betty thanked the Group Leaders for keeping in touch with their members. Some outdoor groups were up and running and there had been a positive response in attendance. All had had risk assessments carried out under the government guidelines. Group leaders were keeping in contact with their members by: email, phone and zoom meetings, which were gratefully received. Thanks, were given to Ken for the upkeep of the weekly newsletter and the members sending him information to pass on.</p> <p>Betty then thanked Pat Green and Peter Kitchen for arranging the on-line voting system for the 2020 AGM.</p> <p>Betty's term as Chair will be coming to an end in March 2021. All the committee have been trying their best to find ways of keeping the lines of communication open for all the members.</p> <p>Pat then thanked Betty for all the work that she had done under enormous stress and how she couldn't have worked harder in these difficult times. Future monthly speaker programmes were going to be discussed at the following Committee meeting.</p> <p>Questions from the members;</p> <p>1) Can the U3A pay the subscription to zoom for members?</p> <p>On practical and financial grounds, the practical answer is no. Anyone setting up meetings needs to be registered which costs £14.39 per month. Any member can use zoom free for 40 minutes. They do not have to download the software if another friend or contact has it installed on their laptop/computer/phone. You will need to exchange email addresses.</p> <p>2) How do I find the details of a member I used to meet up with?</p> | |

With data protection personal information cannot be passed on without members permission. A member can contact the group leader to pass on a message with their contact details on to another member but it was that member's right whether they answer or not.

Any of the committee can be contacted. The Preston U3A website is being updated to make it clearer for members and potential member to find out which groups are running. One member commented that the website and newsletter are helpful. They also praised Pat Hastings for the zoom archaeology success. With the contingency plans in place we are able to fund zoom meetings. The Membership Fee has been reduced and the £4 pays for the TAT capitation, the Third Age Matters magazine and the Beacon system. Unfortunately, those members who do not have the internet are missing out on information and the ability to email or join in zoom meetings. A buddy system is in place whereby the weekly newsletter is delivered by hand to those members, by those who have signed up for this task. The committee was pleased to hear how the group leaders are appreciative of the committee for providing the funding of the zoom meetings. The national website is a great source to contact as it has a wealth of information for members.

Betty thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting with:

“Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's learning to dance in the rain. “

Take care and stay positive.

Following the meeting one member posted:

“It was not a waste of time. It was very interesting and informative and it felt nice to be in touch again. Thanks for being so positive Betty and the rest of the committee”

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD.....

DATE.....