

## Shaftesbury & Gillingham U3A

Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Friends Meeting House Shaftesbury to discuss with Group Leaders the financing of meeting rooms for Groups with effect from August 1st 2018

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### **1.0 THOSE PRESENT**

NAME	GROUP
<b><u>GROUP LEADERS</u></b>	
Steve HALE	BRIDGE
Greer TILBROOK	DAY TRIPS, GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR
Jenny GAVIN	GARDEN INTEREST
Joan ALLSOPP	PHILOSOPHY                      CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES
Richard SIMS	INTERNATIONAL HISTORY
Marion HAMMOND	NATURAL HISTORY
Bill McINTYRE	TABLE TENNIS
Sue WALKER	SPITE & MALICE
Denise SIMS	ANCIENT HISTORY      COSMOLOGY      QUANTUM PHYSICS
Ken BAXTER	GENEALOGY
Andy NEWTON	DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Lesley FROST	MAHJONG                      HERBS & NATURAL REMEDIES
John BALDOCK	ART APPRECIATION
Beryl DeBRETT	FRENCH FOR FUN
Chris DAVIES	LIFE IN GEORGIAN ENGLAND
Margaret BAXTER	EMBROIDERY 2
Tryphena ORCHARD	MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY
Philip GRAY	ITALIAN
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	
Elizabeth Young	CHAIRMAN
Davina BELCHER	VICE CHAIRMAN
Roger LAIDLER	SECRETARY
Helen MEAD	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
John UPSHALL	IN TOUCH EDITOR
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Nic GRIFFIN	TREASURER
Paul ROBINSON	PUBLICITY
Judy Wade	Local History
Joan Stewart	Embroidery
Avril Fletcher	Rummikub
Diane Gibson	Scrabble
Jennifer Anderson	German Conversation
Peter Rolfe	Literature      Writing for Pleasure

### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

Elizabeth Young welcomed everyone to this meeting and explained how important it was that we resolved the issue of paying room hire charges for Group Meetings and she hoped that all those present would make a contribution to the meeting today to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

Elizabeth mentioned that the Committee were hopeful in securing the services of a new Speakers Secretary and details would be announced by the next meeting.

She then handed over to Roger Laidler.

3.0 **ROGER LAIDLER** then gave details on why it has been necessary to call this meeting and explaining why it was essential to increase the subscription for the year 2107-18. Our income does not meet our outgoings and so we have to make some urgent changes to reduce the outgoings.

SGU3A has for the past 18 or so years given financial support to Groups by paying for the room hire cost out of subscription income but we can no longer afford this and some changes need to be made. Two areas where these changes can be made are (a) reduce cost of room hire for Group Meetings which are currently paid for by SGU3A from subscription income, and (b) reduce cost of IN TOUCH especially the distribution costs.

**HIRE OF ROOMS** - we need to make all Groups, where the hire of rooms are involved, to be self-funding with effect from August 2018 and in return this will result in the annual subscription being reduced to about £15 per member for the year 2018-19 depending on the actual financial situation at that time. Having investigated the subscription level of other U3A Clubs in our area this would bring us more into line with what they charge. August 2018 was chosen as the start in order to give all the relevant groups and their leaders' time to work out how to operate the new system and also to consider the rooms they use and perhaps look for cheaper options.

In July/August the Group Leader will work out how many people in the group, where their venue is to be, and agree the fee for this venue for next 6 months. The Group Leader will then work out a per person figure for that 6 months. The Group leader will collect this money (preferably by cheque) and arrange with the treasurer to give a full list of group members and deposit the money into SGU3A account. No other handling of money would be expected. The billing and payment for the venue will still done through the treasurer, not the group leader. This ensures that Third Age Trust back up in the way of help and insurance is fully maintained. This figure will then be reviewed again in February and any adjustment made to suit the circumstances at that time. Note that the committee will always provide funds to help a new group start up and very occasionally may provide some help to any existing groups.

For this year 2017/18 Our treasurer currently is forecasting that we may just about break even. Therefore we are asking all groups who get some funding to look carefully at where they meet and how often. We hope to reduce the current funding by half, Greer has produced a list of other venues in our area which she will distribute and we are actively looking at alternatives to the Father's House for our monthly meetings. Other possible alternative venues in the area mentioned were Shaftesbury Arts Centre, Coppleridge at Motcombe and the British Legion Hall in Gillingham. Group Leaders should find the most suitable accommodation for the group but the booking of this can be done by the Groups Co-ordinator who would arrange for payment of a deposit if required and also payment of the hire invoice when submitted.

A full list of all members' details belonging to a Group must be forwarded to the Membership Secretary at the beginning of each period as it is essential to ensure that those persons are all fully paid up members of SGU3A.

**IN TOUCH MAGAZINE - John Upshall** - The cost of producing this magazine six times a year coupled with the postage sending to members who are not at meetings costs in the region of £2600 for the six copies a year and so we have looked at ways of reducing this cost.

We initially experimented at the end of last year with reducing the issue to four copies a year (every three months) but a number of the groups told us that this was not frequent enough for them to publish details on their activities and so we then reverted back to six issues a year.

However, we have now decided that it is too expensive to maintain and so the December 2017 issue in the present format will be the last and from February 2018 it will change to an A4 sheet printed both sides and without colour as this makes it more expensive. It will be called **IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER** and can be emailed to members, viewed or downloaded from the SGU3A website, alternatively members can pay for the postage to have a copy posted to them or they can pick up a copy at one of

our meetings. However, in order to save on costs, it is hoped that as many as possible will opt to have it emailed, viewed or downloaded on line, so saving on printing

It would be appreciated if Group Leaders would encourage all group members to take this by email.

In addition, a copy will always be available on our new web site and we hope that Group Leaders will encourage members to make use of this new facility which holds comprehensive information on the activities of our club - the web page is: <https://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a>

Information and details from Group Leaders for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor in the usual way and DEADLINE DATES for each issue were given in the October issue of IN TOUCH.

4.0 **QUESTIONS** Many questions were raised by those present including the following:

- U3A Insurance covers what? (Marion Hammond)  
A copy the U3A PUBLIC LIABILITY to be forwarded to all Group Leaders.
- Reference to telephone numbers for all Group Leaders to be removed from IN TOUCH and WEB SITE
- Suggested that a copy of IN TOUCH is placed to Shaftesbury Library (Lesley Frost)
- The seating for monthly meetings at Father`s House could be positioned in a more friendly layout. (Sue Walker)
- Adequate time should be allowed at the AGM for proper discussion on items. (Sue Walker)
- Important that adequate time is allowed at each Monthly Meeting for Notices etc and that the speaker is advised accordingly (Sue Walker)
- Consider subsidising part of costs - bad to go below level of subs being paid at present (Tryphena Orchard)
- Pity a General Meeting had not been called so that the whole club could discuss (Denise Sims)
- Difficult to find accommodation suitable for Table Tennis consequently expensive (Bill McIntyre)
- Bridge Group requires space for 4/5 tables but will look at smaller room at Friends Meeting House (Steve Hale)
- Greer Tilbrook will visit Father`s House to see if any better prices can be negotiated for rooms.

Finally Roger agreed to circulate all the information on the new self-funding system and how to operate it to all group leaders. He will include the full U3A insurance details.