

TRING U3A COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

1 October 2020

Time: 19.00hrs Virtual - Zoom

1. Present:

Rob Jones (Chairman), Jill Collinge (Vice Chair) & Paul Simmons (Treasurer)

Committee Members: Jennie Scott, June Courtney & Mike Perry

Non Committee Members: Liz Murray (Newsletter Coordinator), Sue Williams (Speaker Secretary), John Cameron, (Membership Secretary) and Barry Salmon, (Group Coordinator)

Joy Petticrew (Secretary)

2. Minutes of last Meeting held on 3 September 2020

The Minutes were approved and digitally signed by Rob.

3. Actions arising from the Minutes

7(d) Mike Perry to provide some information for the Newsletter regarding the National Wildlife Competition that he is encouraging his group to submit photos to.

At this meeting Mike confirmed that he is continuing to encourage his group members to submit their photographs to this competition. When the exhibition of photographs is open in 2021 he will let the Committee know and we will advertise this in our monthly Newsletter.

8 a) High Street Research Project - U3A Trust - Project Leader, Mike Perry

Mike sent the weblink of the Tring Image Archive to the U3A Trust Project Leader, Jeff Carter on 11th August.

Mike confirmed at this meeting that he had not heard anything further from Jeff Carter, so assumes that they are happy with the archive of photographs of Tring for their project. If they do require any more up to date photos Mike will ask some of his group to take some.

4. Treasurer's report (PS)

(a) Bank balances as per Bank Statements received in September 2020

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried forward
Main account	20,501.93	0	539.17	19,962.76

(b) Represented by

Cash	0
NW1	12,673.58
CAF	7,289.18
Total	19,962.76

Paul confirmed that most of the expenditure this month is for speakers and Zoom costs. Next month, the HMRC approved Gift Aid sum of £1,425.00 will appear on our bank statements. Rob thanked John and Paul for processing the Gift Aid income. Paul expects the bank balance to reduce on a monthly basis whilst we are in this lockdown period by approximately £500.

(c) Beacon Software (Finance)

None.

5. Membership Secretary's report (JC)

(a) Membership stats and 5th Isolation Newsletter circulation

September Isolation Newsletters sent by email to all members with an email address (4/9/20)	475
Actual Isolation Newsletter emails sent (allowing for people with the same email address)	438
Virtual single attendees at September Monthly Meeting	50
Virtual Dual attendees at September monthly Meeting	14
Total virtual attendees at September Monthly Meeting	64
Booked virtual meeting but did not attend	9
Newsletters posted	65
Current Membership	547
New members who have joined so far in 2020	26
Queries logged in 2020	132

(b) Members joined since last Committee Meeting

Liz Mitchell has joined and will have free membership until the membership renewal process commences. Liz is happy to teach German so Barry will look in to this.

Since the meeting Joy has been in touch with Liz and invited her to the Monthly meeting on 8th October, which she has accepted.

(c) Membership Renewal

As confirmed at our previous meeting, there will be no new membership cards for existing members who renew their membership this year. John does not want to take any cash for membership renewals, either cheque or online bank transfer payments only. The membership fee for 2020/2021 is £5.00.

(d) Newsletter distribution in Tring

Jane Legge has informed John that her Newsletter distribution volunteers have confirmed that they are happy once again to distribute our hard copy Newsletters in Tring. So we will only need to post out those in outlying villages.

(e) Beacon Software (Membership)

None.

7. Group Co-ordinator's report (BS)

(a) Recorder Group

Nell Gregory, Group Leader is moving out of the area this month. A friend of one of the group members has expressed an interest in taking this group on. There are between 10 and 12 members in the group, so meeting in person is not possible currently, however it is hoped that the group may continue via Zoom.

(b) Zoom Group meetings

The Architecture and Science & Technology groups have recently both had meetings via Zoom and they were both very good. Barry thanked John for setting these meetings up and his technical support. It is hoped that these groups may now continue via Zoom. Art Appreciation, History, European Studies and possibly the Gardening Group may soon be running Zoom meetings too.

(c) Table Tennis Group

The Table Tennis group have successfully resumed sessions in Victoria Hall with a strict cleaning regime and social distancing measures in place using a rota of members who can play. Only 12 people playing singles each week.

8. Speaker Secretary's report (SW)

Whilst Sue was present at the meeting, she was unable to speak to us, so provided her report in advance of the meeting.

- Our September speaker James Taylor did a good talk on postcard art
- The October speaker is Simon Michael, author of crime novels
 - The November speaker is Bob Sinfield, radio presenter
 - I have not found a speaker yet for December's Christmas theme – still looking! The 30-minute talk length is short - most do at least 45 minutes (see section 9b)
 - There is a potential speaker for January who does a virtual tour of Shakespeare's London. Having viewed a clip, it's lively and interesting
 - Fortunately speakers still seem to be approaching us with Zoom talk suggestions – this is a valuable source

Joy confirmed that to date she had got 66 bookings for the October Zoom meeting with 15 partners sharing. John suggested that we should not bother to take bookings for our monthly meetings on Zoom. Just advertise the event to members by email including the Zoom meeting invitation and then perhaps sending a reminder nearer the day, and say that the first 100 members to log in on the day can have a place. However, it was felt that it was better to give some structure to the monthly meeting Zoom bookings and Joy confirmed that she is quite happy continuing to deal with the monthly meeting bookings.

9. Any other Business

a) Committee role description for the newsletter; volunteer please

Sue has given a job role description in the October Newsletter and Rob has asked Paul to do the same in the November Newsletter.

b) Christmas meeting update

Jill confirmed that she had been talking to Sue as a speaker for the December meeting had now been found. Sandy Leong gives a talk called "Santa Claus & All things Xmas." Jill has reviewed the presentation and it seems a good choice, lasts 30 minutes and so will fit with the format of the Zoom meeting. The Ukulele group can provide a recording of some music, it may not be particularly Christmassy, but members will be able to sing along. The Poetry group will provide some readings lasting approximately 5 minutes. Then Jill plans to fill out the hour with a Christmas toast to everyone from the Committee. Invite members to wear Christmas jumpers and have a glass of sherry/mince pie to hand. She wants to keep the Christmas monthly meeting as simple as possible, using Zoom, as it needs to give our members a good impression of better things to come in 2021.

If members want to have an online event with a group review of what our groups have been doing this year whilst meeting remotely then another Zoom event could be organised at some point.

c) Who the Committee are

Rob noted that he is aware that probably a lot of our members do not know who some of the Committee Members are. Most people know John and Liz but some of the newer members may not be known. Therefore it was suggested that Committee Members photos could be put in the monthly Newsletter and up on the Website. Liz will look at this project.

10. Date of the next meeting: Monday 9th November, at 7p.m. via Zoom.

g → Collinge

Approved at Committee 9 November 2020
Vice Chair