

MINUTES
MAGHULL & LYDIATE U3A
Held at Jane's House on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 1:30pm

Present:	Jane Jones – Chair	Carol Westall – Vice Chair
	Linda Simms – Secretary	Chris Dalziel - Treasurer
	Irene Edwards	Alan Carr
	Ev Craig	Joan Martin

1 **Apologies:**

Chris Chua-short, Ken Moulton, Geoff Heaps, Nigel Burrows

2 **Minutes of last meeting – 11 July 2023**

Minutes proposed by Carol Westall as accurate and approved by all.

3 **Actions and matters arising from previous minutes**

Issues with Calendar – work in progress.

Group Leaders meeting – Facebook concerns have come to nothing.

4 **Committee reports**

Treasury update – update from CD

CD mentioned that TSB had compensated us with £50 with regards to mandate issues earlier this year.

Gift Aid – CD has various piles of membership forms for Gift Aid all in alphabetical order which all need to be checked on Beacon. Some are listed as Gift Aid on Beacon and some are not, some have Gift Aid forms and some do not. JJ will continue with checking these members forms. There is a list of 65 beacon members who we have not got a Gift Aid form for, CD happy to email them all to check and if no reply, we will remove them from Gift Aid. Those new members who have signed up for Gift Aid after the 31 March are in a separate list and will be kept until next year.

Setting up payment via Paypal was discussed for renewing membership next year. Also discussed was printing out membership cards via Beacon account. Some members however, will still want to come to coffee mornings to renew. Ongoing.

JM had received a letter from Maghull Baptist Church regarding increasing the hire charges for the MBC. The main hall was going up from £19 to £30 per hour. Sanctuary increased from £22 to £35 per hour. Broadband up to £8 per month and photocopier up –5p for colour and an extra 1p for B&W. She stated that the prices have not increased since 2016. It was agreed that we do not have any other options and we will have to pay the increases. There is however an issue with the front door and they need to be made aware of it. JJ will speak to George Bullfield regarding this.

Membership and Renewals

663 members with the highest number last year being 679.

Beacon / Website / Facebook

JJ stated that the Website is still in need of updating. The updated email addresses have been changed, wherever possible as it is difficult to locate where they are stored, but if anyone notices any emails that have not been updated to let JJ know. NB in process of writing a "test" website which is running alongside the old Website for the time being. We also need to introduce more Group Leaders into how to access Website.

Beacon OK.

Five new members joined the glass painting group.

Issue with a member attending Singing for Fun and then finding out that this person was not a member of the u3a. Group Leaders must be more vigilant by checking membership cards and ensuring members know the rules of the venues etc. This will also be brought up at our next Group Leaders meeting which is due to take place in October.

JJ/CW/CD at present going through membership forms and checking Gift Aid details.

Facebook now has 82 members.

H&S update

JJ stated she was developing a specific form for each venue which will include Risk Assessments and Group Leaders role. When she has finalised all the forms she will pass to AC and copied to all relevant Group Leaders. These forms will then be reviewed each year.

The Group Leader will then sign the form to agree that he is happy with it. AC stated he would do the Maghull Parish Hall check and afterwards AC/KM will cover the rest of the venues.

5 **Constitution – continued update**

It was agreed that we would form a sub-committee to finalise the updates on the Constitution as there is never enough time at the Committee Meeting. The sub-committee will consist of JJJ, LS, NB, AC. The first meeting will take place after the coffee morning on Tuesday 26 September.

6 **Any other business**

6.1 MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Tuesday 1.8.23, the Committee members present discussed whether we should or should not hold a MacMillan Coffee morning at the headquarters. After a discussion the Committee agreed that this was not our designated Charity and that we would not let it take place.

Vote – The Committee voted unanimously that we would not hold a MacMillan Coffee morning

For info only - There was also a further fundraising event in aid of Woodlands Hospice which took place at Maghull Railway Station on 2 Sept with donations of over £1,100.

6.2 Request to set up an indoor curling group

JJ had received a request to set up this group but the equipment would cost around £400. JJ had sourced it a bit cheaper at £329. JJ thought we should share the cost with Aintree as they were also setting up the same group and then the equipment could be shared between the two u3as. Apparently, this is not acceptable as the equipment is too heavy to carry around in

cars. JJ had researched the weight of the curling stones (made of plastic) which was similar to a bag of sugar. The group would need at least 24 members and to find a suitable venue. At present 16 members have shown an interest in joining this group. In principle we are not against it but more members and a specific venue needs to be sourced first. Also, how is the equipment going to be paid for? Willing to discuss again once better numbers reached.

6.3 Request to set up a second bowling group

JJ had received a request from CCS to set up another bowling group but after discussions it turns out this group is already up and running at St Gregs, Liverpool Road which is not one of the venues we use. This new group was set up by one of our current members and they need to know that they are not covered under the u3a umbrella. The existing bowling group which is held at Kensington House, their bowling fees are paid via u3a once a year and they are then covered by u3a insurance. We need to send these members a letter informing them that they are not therefore covered by u3a insurance.

6.4 Carol Concert – Tuesday 12 December

JJ discussed this and that the time is moving on. She requested that this was organised by EC and IE. In the first instance, schools need to be contacted for a choir. Speaker, handbell ringers, minister to give a few words. Tea ladies for refreshments for members and for children. Christmas Carols need to be picked. It was agreed that we would support Woodlands as in previous years. A representative of Woodlands needs to be present at the concert as only cash is given. The programmes would be £1 each.

6.5 Advert for Secretary post from May 2024

JJ mentioned that we need to advertise for a new secretary but this role could be split into two roles, a minute secretary and an admin secretary. LS will email Job Description to JJ.

6.6 Succession Planning

All members need to know that in May 2025 the majority of the Committee members' "terms of office" will end and we need to ensure we have new members to take on the roles. Otherwise our u3a will cease to exist.

8 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 1:30pm – Lydiate Village Hall