

MINUTES
MAGHULL & LYDIATE U3A
Held at Lydiate Village Hall on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 1:30pm

Present: Jane Jones – Chair
Linda Simms – Secretary
Irene Edwards
Ev Craig
Chris Dalziel – Treasurer
Joan Martin
Nigel Burrows

1 Apologies:

Carol Westall, Alan Carr, Chris Chua-short, Ken Moulton, Geoff Heaps

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes agreed and approved by all.

3 Actions and matters arising from previous minutes

6.5 - Advert for secretary post – JJ looking at splitting the role into a “minute secretary” and an “admin secretary”. Advert to go out shortly.

4 Committee reports

Treasury – CD had produced a summary of our expenses. As can be seen we have £24k in the bank. We had also received back into the bank from ceased groups a total of £1,400. CD was unsure whether we had been charged by Sefton CVS for auditing our accounts. JJ was in the process of getting the contact details for a different auditor and will let CD know the details in due course.

HMRC had sent a Gift aid payment of £1,098.29 although CD thinks this is not correct. Next year our database will be more or less 100% accurate and she can calculate the exact amount that we should receive from HMRC. JJ thanked CD for all the hard work she had done so far. PayPal for membership renewals was discussed. JJ had met with Aughton & Ormskirk u3a to ask how it worked for them. There is a 49p transaction cost but is easily set up via Beacon. It was agreed that our u3a would absorb the 49p per person charge as there was enough monies in the bank to do this.

VOTE – That we set up PayPal for the following years membership renewals and that our u3a will absorb the 49p transaction fee for each member using the service.

All Agreed. Carried unanimously.

Membership – 672 members so far. 679 was the peak at the end of last financial year. We should hit this peak quite soon. The Pre-Covid peak was around 900. Group numbers are declining but physical activity groups are increasing.

Beacon and Website – no further updates. Peter Duffy has now been set up to run his group with Beacon group members information. Only a few of the leaders are actively using Beacon. Facebook – 88 members so far. JJ will tweak the Policy as some members have tried to upload photos which are not appropriate e.g., execution tools etc. JJ will also request that Group Leaders push Facebook.

Health & Safety – No report from AC. JJ was continuing to update Venue specific forms. AC had attended Maghull Parish Hall but there was no evacuation plan. AC has now drawn up one and will give to JJ. JJ would like all venue specific forms to be ready to hand out to Group Leaders at the next GL meeting due to take place at the end of November.

5 **Constitution update**

This is more or less complete and will be presented at the next Committee meeting in November. JJ however concerned with the majority of the Committee coming to the end of their terms and no one left to run our u3a. We may have to close down if no new members on the Committee. We have to amend the constitution to take this into account so that Committee members can serve for a further 12 months if it is felt appropriate at that time. JJ concerned that our blanket statement that in 2025 if no new committee members are forthcoming we will shut down the u3a seemed very final. EC suggested we use the phrase 'we will be forced to look at the possibility of closing down our u3a'. All thought this was fine as it left the door slightly ajar.

6 **Update on Possible New Groups**

JJ has contacted Margaret Kendall regarding proposed curling group. Not enough members have put their names on the list, there needs to be 24 people. She has received no response.

CCS gave details of a Bowling for Fun group which will commence next April. All annual fees of £30 to be paid via u3a.

VOTE – Committee agreed unanimously that this will go ahead as long as fees are paid to our u3a for us to pay the ground rent for the venue.

7 **Update on Christmas Concert – Tuesday 12 December**

EC/IE updated the Committee. They have booked St Georges school choir. Numbers to be confirmed in due course. Via Singing for Fun group, they have found a Fiddler, Tony Goodfellow who is happy to perform a few carols. JJ has written a script on the theme of "firsts", this will take approximately 15 minutes. Timings to be confirmed in due course. JJ was thanked for all her help. We need buckets from Woodlands for collections. Contact has been made with the pianist and Ralph Davies who will give the blessing at the end of the service. Need to contact David Ruddle regarding sound system as we may need microphones.

8 **U3A Christmas Party plans – Friday 15 December**

JJ had been contacted by Sue Quinn who wanted to organise a Christmas Party. We need 80 members to break even. The "Venue" was available at £60 per hour with an initial rental charge of £300, £100 of which was non-refundable. Catering would also need to be arranged. Plus raffles. The tickets would cost £25 each.

After a discussion, it was felt that it was too late to organise an event like this to take place the Friday before Christmas, most people would already have plans in place and it might be too late to sell 80 tickets. Sue is to be thanked – we felt it was a good idea but it is too late for this year and we will suggest to Sue that she arranges it for next year but with more notice.

VOTE – all agreed that it was too short notice and to arrange it for the following year with plenty of notice would be more beneficial.

9 Update on Welfare team and Policy

Still in process of setting up a WhatsApp group consisting of Lil Boyle, Joan Martin, Carol Westall and Jane Jones. We need to set up a structure of who sends out cards (sympathy, get well and thank you) to members. Ongoing.

10 Any other business**10.1 Treasury Timings**

The treasury team had sent out a reminder to all Group Leaders to state that if they needed an appointment with the Finance Team, the time would be between 9:30 – 10:15. It was questioned whether this was correct as it seemed too early. CD stated this was correct but there would always be exceptions to the rule which would be taken into account but if the majority of the Group Leaders could make appointments for this time period, then it would be a great help to the Treasury team.

11 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 1:30pm – Lydiate Village Hall