

Sandbach & District u3a Trustees: documents for meeting on 21 February 2022

Item 3 Sandbach u3a Working Group to consider session fees from September 2022

Recommendations to the Committee

The Working Group recommends that the existing policy on fees is still relevant, with some modifications. Our recommended future policy is set out below, with some explanation where this is appropriate.

1. There is no requirement for interest groups to be self-financing, either individually or in total, as long as group costs can be covered in other ways. The Trustees wish to offer the maximum number of groups to members, and a requirement for groups to be self-financing would work against this.
2. All groups, including non-venue groups, incur some costs. Therefore all groups, including non-venue groups, should pay a session fee.
3. Where there is more than one group covering the same activity or subject, the same fee should apply to each of these groups, unless there are good reasons to the contrary.
4. Where a group covers **less than half** of its annual costs an **increased** session fee will be charged. This is to ensure that groups can run on a sustainable basis and to be fair to other members.
5. Normally any surplus created by an interest group is used for the benefit of interest groups as a whole. However if a group covers **more than double** its annual costs then a **reduced** session fee will be charged.
6. Groups using paid tutors must at least cover their costs over the year. Session fees will normally be paid in advance for paid tutor groups. Groups using an occasional paid speaker should arrange for group members to cover the speaker's fee at those meetings.
7. Group Leaders are encouraged to pay session fees for the group they are leading, though this is not a requirement. However it is a requirement that Group Leaders for paid tutor groups should pay session fees for their group.
8. Membership fees and session fees will normally be reviewed annually by the Trustees.

Proposed arrangements for 2022-3

- The membership fee should increase to £12, taking into account the increase in the individual levy for the Third Age Trust which is due next year and costs for Third Age Matters magazine also about to increase
- The session fee for any group covering less than half of its annual costs should increase to £2.00 (or £1.60 discount for advance payment)
- We should ensure that group leaders for any lossmaking groups, especially those covering less than half of their annual costs, know the details of finances for their groups, so they can consider possible action to avoid increased fees for their group in future years

Further recommendations:

If members' meetings are to remain free of charge, Trustees should consider asking members for donations for refreshments.

We know that some members are financially struggling and may have difficulty paying session fees, especially if large payments in advance need to be made. Trustees should consider setting up some mechanism (a 'social fund') to support these members financially and enable them to make full use of membership of our u3a. This appears to be an admirable way to use the recent legacy left by a member to our u3a.

The Fees Working Group should reconvene at the beginning of 2023, or 2024 at the latest, to undertake a further review of fees to ensure that the decisions made are as fair and consistent as possible, and to consider a further set of questions including the following:

- What would be the impact of introducing a tiered arrangement for session fees, where there is a clear relationship between the session fee and the duration of the session?
- What historical anomalies remain regarding session fees, and are these anomalies still justified?

- Should there be a maximum loss per group, in £ rather than as a percentage? If so, what would be the consequence of a group exceeding the maximum allowed loss?

Item 4 Group co-ordinator report

Early Modern History Studies – Linda has spoken to the Group Leaders who feel that this group has now run its course and it's time for it to fold.

Linda will attend the History – Interactive Forum group and speak to their Group Leader to see if we should consider setting up another history group to replace EMHS.

Poetry Together – group will re-start on the 7th April in a new venue, Elworth Cricket Club.

The hire charge is normally £10 per hour but it's been offered to us on a discounted basis, £16 for 2 hrs.

Scrabble – re-starting at Lightley Court on the 25th February providing the covid situation doesn't change.

Ukulele – Will be considering some other venues with a view to relocating to a smaller, cheaper venue with better acoustics and possibly increasing the frequency of their meetings.

Walking - Short Walk & Dine 2 – the group has been suspended since September but due to health reasons the Group Leader is now stepping down. Group members have been approached to see if anyone is willing to take on the role and the other Walk & Dine GLs have been asked if they or any of their group members are interested. So far there have been no volunteers.

There are some vacancies in the other SW&D groups but not enough to accommodate all the members if they wish to transfer to another group. We'll advertise the GL's role in the next update to see anyone from the wider membership would be willing to take this on.

Yoga – we've had a request to investigate another Yoga group on a Monday, we'll need to advertise this to see if there are enough expressions of interest before we can assess whether this is feasible.

Sandbach Football Club – Sharon and I had a meeting with Oliver to discuss their facilities, we've suggested that it might be a suitable space for some of our smaller groups i.e. the Non-Fiction Book Group and Philosophy.

Sandbach Park

Grant approved for the "green" toilet for the lower bowling green

Online payments – has worked successfully for the Keep Fit B and Dance Fit 2 groups

Venues – Sharon, Linda and I are currently working on a "Venues pack" which will contain all the relevant information about each venue which GL's and/or Trustees might need.

Item 5 a) Forthcoming members' meetings

From: "Kate Ashcroft" <ashcroftekate@aol.com>

I need to send my apologies as I will not be attending the next meeting. We are going to Paris to see our daughter and get back on 21st. I will be at the group leaders lunch.

I will also miss the committee meeting on 21st March as we are in Portugal so apologies.

Also the 16/5/22 as we are in Greece. Will you please note my apologies for those meetings.

The members meeting in February was well attended with around 90 members having a very entertaining morning. Adam Partridge is booked for the next members meeting in March. I am still waiting for a reply from him regarding the format of his talk. I don't think that he will be doing valuations though.

April meeting is featuring David Wright from the East Lancashire Railways as the guest speaker.

May meeting is Dogs for Good and Mary will be attending with her assistance dog Kingsley.

I have to liaise with Alan as he has asked me to take over the members meetings part of swish. I will see him at the lunch on 26th February.

I have spoken to Adam Partridge and he is going to do a talk around his life as an auctioneer including stories of things found and sold. He will also touch on the TV aspect. Adam has said he is happy to valuations but I think it will be better to steer away from them as that will probably take up too much time and would could end up with an 'antiques roadshow' scenario with long queues. There is one gentleman who has emailed me asking for a valuation. I may tell him to bring the item along (as long as it's not an 8 seater dining table) and he can see Adam at the end if Adam has time. What do the committee think, should I say a blanket no.

I've contacted the Chronicle and spoken to a young reporter named Joe ...had to explain who Adam Partridge is he is going to ring me back.

I've emailed the information about the next 3 meetings to Alan which will take us to May. I've asked if he will very kindly put them on to swish for me. I can then have a meeting with him to take over that duty from September.

There are currently 5 people who have offered to join the working party looking into next years celebrations for the 20th anniversary of U3A in Sandbach. They are myself, Sharon, Linda W, Trish and Jenny. Does anyone else want to join the group or have names of any members who may want to join the group? The next step is to have a meeting to decide the way forward.

Please pass on my apologies to everyone that I will miss the next 2 meetings but I will see everyone at the group leaders lunch.

Regards

Kate x

Item 6 Finance update

Finance Report for January 2022

Account Name	Jan-22	Dec-21	Diff.
NatWest Current Account ^{*1}	£14,264.35	£11,456.79	£2,807.56
NatWest Business Reserve Account	£26,637.06	£26,636.83	£0.23
PayPal	£310.92	£50.46	£260.46
Cash in hand ^{*2}	£1,285.00	£673.90	£611.10
Total	£42,497.33	£38,817.98	£3,679.35

*1 – Current Account Balance excludes unpresented cheques. There are no outstanding cheques

*2 – A small number of groups are not entering/incorrectly entering data on SWISH making this figure slightly inaccurate

General Notes

- January saw a large number of pre-payments
- Current Account balance includes the £2k bequest
- Now that the fees review has concluded monthly Surplus/Deficit calculations per group have stopped

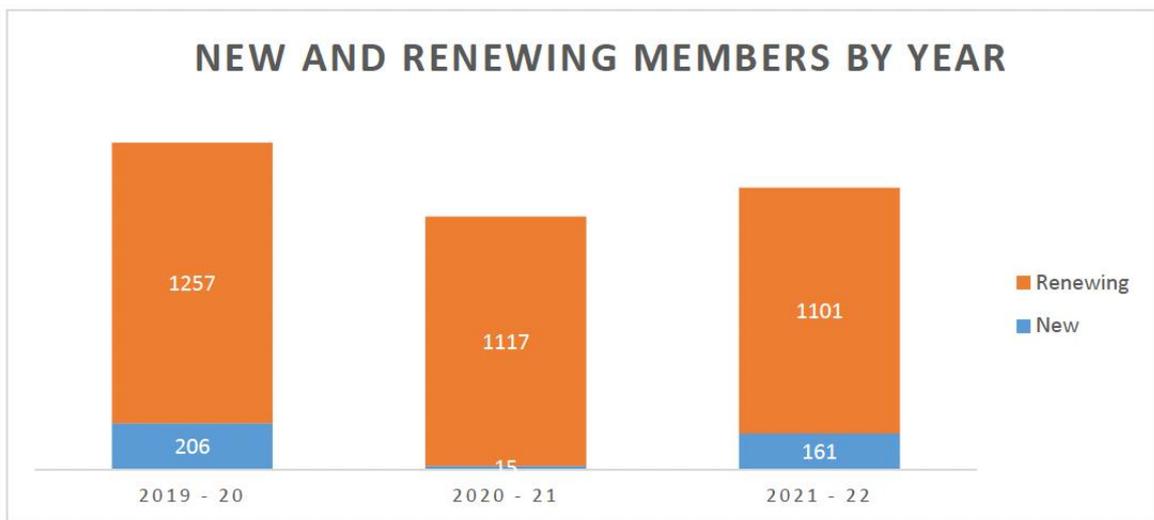
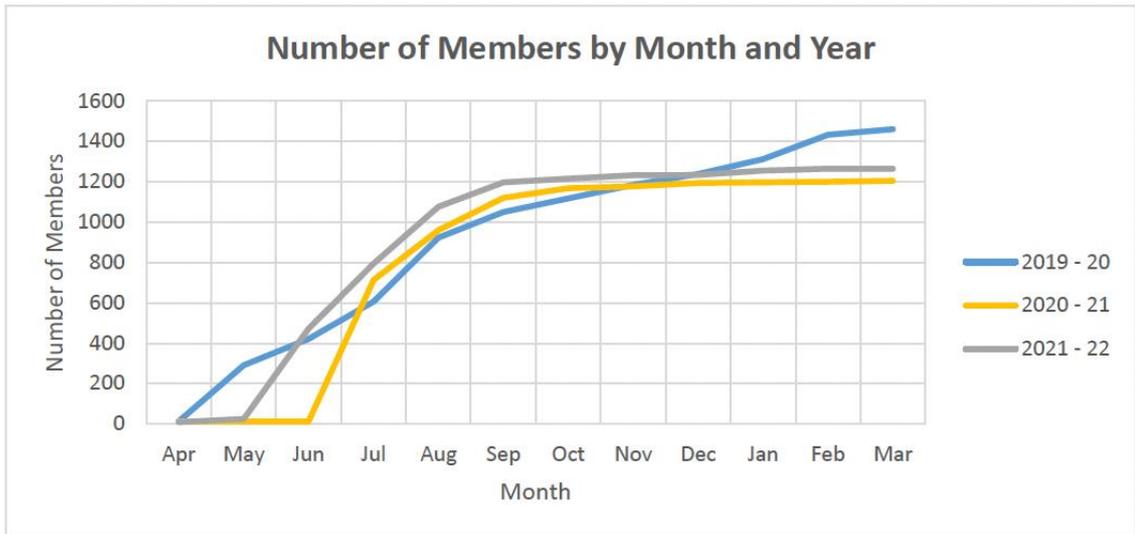
Issues Outstanding

- None

Post Month End update

- None

Item 7 Membership update, February 2022



	2019 - 20	2020 - 21	2021 - 22
New Members	206	15	161
Renewing Members	1257	1117	1101
Not Yet Renewed	163	0	0
Total No of Members	1463	1132	1260
%Renewed	86.87	76.35	97.26
Change from previous year	16	-331	128
Total No as % of previous year	101.11	77.38	111.31
Renewed Online	412	555	450
% Renewed Online	32.78	49.69	40.87
Joined Online	90	13	96
% Joined Online	43.69	86.67	59.63
Renewed / Joined Manual	958	566	719
Left	24	20	25
Lapsed	163	326	70
Re-Activated			8

No. of New Members
since last New Member
Morning Invitation

46

Item 8 a) Calendar update

SANDBACH U3A CALENDAR 2022 JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

<p>JANUARY 2022 3rd Dr Karen Castle (Members Meeting) 10 – 12noon Sandbach Town Hall 12th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 Kevin Dean <u>17th Trustees Meeting</u> 26th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 Lesley Farrar</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2022 7th Roger Browne (Actor, Singer, speaker, musician, composer, ad writer) (Members Meeting) 10 – 12 noon Sandbach Town Hall 9th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 14th Boundary Mill Colne <u>21st Trustees Meeting</u> 23rd Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 26th Group Leaders briefing & lunch at Crewe Golf Club.</p>	<p>MARCH 2022 Reminder: Swish team website re- view due 7th Adam Partidge Members Meeting 9th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 <u>21st Trustees Meeting</u> 23rd Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30</p>	<p>APRIL 2022 4th Michael Moore East Lancashire Railway talk) (Members Meeting) 10 – 12 noon Sandbach Town Hall 8th Members outing to Halfpenny Green Wine Es- tate 13th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30 13th Members Quiz Night St Mary's Church 7p.m. for 7.30 start. 19th Liverpool –Members visit <u>25th Trustees Meeting</u> 27th Library desk open 9.30 - 11.30</p>
<p>MAY 2022 9th Dogs for Good (Charity set up to supply As- sistance dogs) Members Meeting Town Hall 10 a.m. 10 May York Members visit 11th Library desk open 9a.30 – 11.30 <u>16th Trustees Meeting</u> 25th Library desk open 9.30 – 11.30</p>	<p>JUNE 2022 8th Library desk open 9.30 – 11.30 7th Members Visit to Llan- dudno <u>20th Trustees Meeting</u> 22nd Library desk open 9.30 – 11.30</p>	<p>JULY 2022 13th Members Renewal morning – Sandbach Rugby Club 18th Trustees meeting 27th Members Renewal morning – Sandbach Rugby Club</p>	<p>AUGUST 2022 10th Members Renewal morn- ing Sandbach Rugby Club <u>15th Trustees Meeting</u> 24th Sign up day at Wesley Centre (tbc) 26th insurance renewal date Kay Moston Morris</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 2022 14th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 <u>19th Trustees Meeting</u> 28th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 24th insurance renewal due Caroline Webster</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2022 12th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 <u>17th Trustees Meeting</u> 26th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2022 9th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 <u>21st Trustees Meeting</u> 23rd Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 27th insurance renewal due Jenny Bull</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2022 14th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30 <u>19th Trustees Meeting</u> 28th Library Desk open 9.30 – 11.30</p>
<p>JANUARY 2023</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2023 AGM Followed by members' meeting</p>	<p>MARCH 2023</p>	<p>APRIL 2023</p>