

Minutes of Sandbach & District u3a Trustees Meeting
held at 9.30am Monday 14 April 2025

Item		Action
1	Present: Kate Ashcroft, Linda Bilsborrow, Gillian Curtis, Barrie Hacking, Alice Holmes, Stuart Naylor, Paula Reilly Cooper, Steve Roe, Ken Talbot, Linda Williams Apologies: Alan Casey, Moira Egan	
2	Minutes of March meeting Accepted as a correct record Matters arising Item 9: The first members tea & cake afternoon seemed successful. 29 members turned up, along with 7 RUG members who helped with the organisation. The atmosphere was good, and at least one member who had not been to u3a events previously was present. Ken will get a RUG member to do a short write up for an update. This led to a discussion about how many members don't attend u3a events, and whether we should do anything specific for these members. Barrie will find out this number and report back. Steve will collate any available information so we can reach a more informed view about the needs of these members. Item 12: The Third Age Trust have no objection to a u3a member being an independent auditor for their own u3a, but trustees were not happy with this idea. Linda B is exploring other options, including the possibility of paying for an external auditor. Kate will check the likely cost for her accountant to do this.	Ken Barrie Steve Linda B Kate
3	Proposal for how to reduce the surplus made by paid tutor groups Paula and Gillian have not had the opportunity to meet to discuss this. They will need further information from Alan to progress this. We deferred this to our next meeting.	Stuart
4	Membership renewal in summer 2025 The dates agreed are 23 July and 13 August. Normal library duty days will take place on 9 July and 27 August. Ken will include this information in an update, and mention that information about renewals will be sent out in July. Ken will also describe the events as free summer coffee mornings for members as well as membership renewal. We will need 4 RUG volunteers for each event, plus 2 volunteers as marshals and some to do refreshments. Committee members are available for each date. We agreed to use the Wesley Centre as a venue since this is available. Paula & Moira will book the room and ensure that the Masonic Hall know we will not be booking those dates. Timing will be 10.00 – 11.30 am, with GL training from 12.00 – 13.00, followed by lunch for GLs. Linda W will brief GLs on the new risk assessment in July, but is not available for the August date.	Ken Ken Paula, Moira
5	Consider who might deputise for trustees in their roles We decided that the need for deputies should be mentioned in an update. Linda will create a suitable piece of writing. However face to face conversations are probably more likely to be effective. The role descriptions we created previously will help to inform members about whether they might to deputise for someone. We recognised that RUG might be a useful transition for new members who could take on the role of a trustee in the future. Experienced members of RUG might also provide a short-term stop-gap solution for covering a trustee role at short notice.	Linda B, Ken
6	Update on possible purchase of PA system	

	The Town Hall's new PA system was in use at the recent members meeting, but there were still complaints from members. However Town Hall staff are probably not yet fully familiar with the system, and one of the speakers was unable to use the microphone correctly, so it's too early to make any judgements about the new PA system. The members meeting in June will be a better opportunity to make a judgement. Kevin & Joy Siddall visit in July, and they have offered to give us some guidance.	
7	Making use of multiple copies of Sandbach u3a leaflets We identified the Town Hall, Wesley Centre, Masonic Hall, Lightley Court, Park House, Elworth Methodist Hall, Rugby Club Fitness Studio and most of the venues that we use frequently as possible places to leave leaflets.	Linda B
8	Finance a) The finance report was accepted. b) Trustees unanimously agreed that Louise Lloyd should have access to the Sandbach & District u3a bank accounts held at Nat West Bank. Gillian will liaise with Nat West bank to confirm that they now have all the information they need to implement this change. Gillian will also liase with Stuart about the information needed by Paypal to give access to Louise Lloyd.	Gillian Gillian
9	Membership update The membership report was accepted. In future new member coffee mornings will be replaced by the tea & cake afternoons organised by RUG. Currently we have quite a large number of new members who have not been invited to a coffee morning, so 50% of these will be invited to the May tea & cake afternoon, with the other 50% invited in June. We can set aside a special section for new members. After June, new members will automatically be invited to the next tea & cake afternoon. Ken will send suitable text to Barrie. Barrie will send out invitations. Paula will ensure that group lists are available for new members.	Ken Barrie Paula
10	Update on groups Finding a suitable venue for the proposed new croquet group is vital, so the potential GL is currently exploring possible venues that have a suitable lawn. If we affiliate to Croquet England when the group starts then they usually donate or lend equipment to new groups. Sandbach Library is increasing the cost of meetings outside their normal working hours from £17 to £25 per hour. The book group that meets there on Thursday afternoons will probably change their venue. The Spanish group has finished until September. There are some vacancies in the petanque group. Lou Lloyd does not have access to SWISH for sending emails to GLs. This needs to be followed up with Alan.	Paula, Alan
11	Trustees admin No information to add	
12	AOB There was no AOB.	
	Meeting closed at 11.05 am. Next Trustees meeting on Monday 19th May at 09.30 am	