

Meeting of Winchester U3A Group Leaders on Thursday 23 May 2019 at 2:00 in Littleton Millennium Hall

The meeting began with tea/coffee and cakes. This provided the opportunity for members to chat informally before the business of the meeting.

Present:

Committee members: Julia Whitburn (Groups Secretary), Vernon Tottle, Barrie Brinkman, Roger Warr, Lianne Hill

Group leaders (or their representatives):

<i>Name of group</i>	<i>Leader/Representative</i>	<i>Name of group</i>	<i>Leader/representative</i>
Allotment	Vera Hogg	Modern Novels 4	Norma Goodwin
Architecture Co-ord	Pam Underwood	Modern Novels 10	Robin Anderton
Art Today 1	Joy Watson	Classic Novels	Chrissie Landale
Art Explorers	Tony Sexton	Opera Appreciation	Julia Whitburn
Birdwatching	Janie Penn-Barwell	Photography	Colin Chase
Bridge - duplicate	Mike Slinn	Play Reading	Cheryl Greenwood
Bridge - beginners	Judith Wade	Poetry 1	Eira Parry Jones
Chess	Rose & Steve Saunders	Quester co-ordinator	Angela Housden
Computing –Apple Mac	Nick Vernon	Quester 1	Anne Bristow
Cycling	Colin Chase	Quester 2	Jan Reynolds
Film Criticism	Jan Reynolds	Quester 5	Jean Coveyduck
French Co-ordinator	Francine Weller	Quester 6	Ferne Baxter
French Ameliorer...	Maddie ? (rep Trevor Samphier)	Quester 9	Angela Housden
French O/A level	Francine Weller	Railway Group	Dale Greenwood
French Univ level Lit	Enid Poll0ck	Science & Tech 1	Keith Taylor
German Conversation 2	Roy Weller	Science & Tech 2	David Rycroft
German Improvers	Jennifer Laute	Science Discussion	Roger Warr
History 2	Bob Jones	Scrabble 1	Angela Housden
Knitting 2	Julia Whitburn	Textiles	Toni Weekley
Latin	Alun Parry Jones	Theatre	Pam Underwood
Beginners Latin	Alun Parry Jones	Theology	Keith Anderson
Local History 4	Pam Underwood	Theatre visits	Daphne Poupart
Local History 7	Jacquie Tucker	Walking Group 1	Sue Greenway
Mahjong 1	Ann McBain	Wine Appreciation 1	Rosie Slade
Mahjong 4	Anne Wright		
Modern Novels 1	Vic Stenning		
Modern Novels 3	Sue Greenway		

MINUTES

1. *Welcome:* Group leaders and their representatives to the meeting were welcomed to the meeting and committee members were introduced.
2. *Apologies for absence* had been received from Freda Bates (Chairman) as well as the following group leaders:

<i>Name of group</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Architecture 3	Joanne Morgan
Bridge - rubber	Kate Rogers
Exploring French Lit	Diane Sparkes

German Intermediate	Barbara Anderson
Italian Improvers	Pip Huntingford
Local History Co-ordinator	Alison Henry
Modern Novels 5	Kate Rogers
Modern Novels 9	Jenny Brennan
MOTO(Members on Their Own)	Anna Diamond
Music Recorders 1 and 2	Penny Terrell
Quester 7	Valerie King
Russian	Audrey Atter
All Day Walks 2	Donald Fox
Wine Appreciation 2	Nick Waring
Wine Appreciation 1	Rosie Slade

3. *Clarification of payments to tutors:* Vernon explained that, given the U3A ethos of self-help, if a member of Winchester U3A group provides a talk/instruction, then it must be without payment. This includes the monthly talks. It is quite possible, however, for a group to pay a tutor who is *not* a member of U3A, although it would be advisable to talk to the treasurer (Vernon) about this first. In response to a question, it was agreed that if a group wishes to make a donation to a charity then that is fine if individuals contribute and the payment does not come from U3A.
4. *Update:* new/recently-established groups which include Birdwatching, Russian, MOTO (Members on Their Own) Group and Classic Novels. Disbanded groups include one of the Spanish groups, Modern Novels 7, Cookery 2 and Mahjong 3. The Chess group will leave the umbrella of the U3A as there are only few members and they will continue independently of U3A.
A leader asked if a list of groups and leaders could be printed in Newsletter, perhaps once a year, as it is easier for some to refer to the Newsletter instead of using a computer. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting but it was agreed that details of group leaders would not be included in a printed list.
5. *Communication:* Julia stressed the importance of all group leaders informing her of any changes to the leadership details as it is essential that we have maintain an accurate list. Group leaders/representatives present were thanked for their continued efforts and dedication as without them, U3A would not function. Julia also mentioned that although it clearly did not apply to those present, there was a substantial minority of group leaders who had not responded to invitations to, or reminders about this meeting, and this adds to the difficulty of communication. It was mentioned that participating in the tea rota at monthly meetings was also part of the role of group leaders and their groups. This was raised because recently, for the first time, a group had been unwilling to take a turn on the tea rota and so there will be no tea/coffee available after the talk on 9 July this year. After some discussion of this, including expressions of regret, and also appreciation of tea/coffee after the monthly talks (lengthy journeys were mentioned), three individual members offered to organize the tea after the July talk. This offer was gratefully accepted, although Roger pointed out that the Newsletter, which has already gone to the printer, will state that no tea was planned in July so this can now be ignored.
Also with regard to the groups organizing tea after the monthly talks, one group suggested that £5 was not a sufficient amount to cover the costs of purchasing items. After discussion, the general view was that, if you shop carefully, and since you take unused items home, £5 is an adequate amount. Julia took the opportunity of thanking Rose and Steve Saunders for maintaining the tea rota.

6. *Suggestions for improvements & support from committee.* It was suggested that more help for leaders setting up new groups would be good.

It was also suggested that more detailed guidelines for group leaders would be helpful; at present Winchester U3A provides a one page summary. Julia commented that there is a more lengthy handbook produced by the central office, but she felt that the brief summary we provide covers the important points. One member mentioned a guide produced by the Midhurst branch of U3A which she thought was very good, and Julia promised to look at this and raise it at the next committee meeting. Another member said that she thought the Midhurst group had a good guide. Julia will bring it to the attention of the committee at next meeting.

The role of group co-ordinators was discussed; these exist where there are several groups in one area of interest, for example, Questers and Modern Novels. At present, however, there is no co-ordinator for Modern Novels, and Modern Novels leaders present expressed the view that they did not need one as each group operates independently. In contrast, it was said by a Quester group leader that Quester groups help each other and share information about visits.

Roger asked the Modern Novels group leaders to send him book reviews for newsletter. The first book review is now planned for August.

One leader asked why we do not have centralized list of members of each group. Julia described the difficulties in first, obtaining the information from all groups, and second for keeping it up to date and accurate. She was also uncertain of the need or purpose of such a list. There had been an issue in 2017 over whether all members of groups were in fact members of Winchester U3A, as they are required to be, and so at that time, we had attempted to get lists of members from all groups. This had had only limited success.

One group leader said that when she got an enquiry from someone wishing to join her group, her first question was always 'Are you a member of Winchester U3A?' If the answer was No, she asked them to come back to her later when they had joined.

It was agreed that while possible new members were allowed to attend one 'trial' meeting, they should understand that they would not be covered by the U3A insurance should an accident occur.

7. *Group leaders needed currently and for succession:* If leaders are thinking of giving up, they should arrange for a new leader to take over and keep the Groups Secretary informed of any new arrangements. A few groups mentioned that it was useful to have a 'second in command' in case of illness or holidays.
8. *Accommodating new members:* Leaders expressed their wish to have a meeting in the autumn for groups and recently-joined members. Julia will arrange a suitable date after checking availability of the hall, and will circulate the date as soon as possible. The difficulty of accommodating new members in an already-full group is an ongoing problem without an obvious solution, and group leaders were asked to be as helpful as possible with this.
9. *Reporting on progress of individual groups.*
- Bird-watching:* Janie said it had been challenging getting the new group off the ground but it was up and running successfully. New members would be welcome. They meet once a month but not on a specific day. The next meeting is a puffin-spotting trip on a boat around Poole Harbour. Janie promised a report on this for the Newsletter.
- Latin:* Alun has two Latin groups – an advanced one which has been running for about seven years, and beginners' course which he started recently and is now also full. He mentioned that he has previously run short courses on Greek subjects which

proved popular and suggested that 6-8 week courses are a good way of accommodating new members. The idea of short courses was thought to be a good one; Roger will include an item on this in the next Newsletter.

Classic Novels: Chrissie said that the period covered by the novels would be from 1840 to the Second World War. Authors such as Evelyn Waugh, Aldous Huxley and George Orwell would be included – authors who have ‘stood the test of time’.

Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month, from 3 – 5, and more members would be welcome. The first three novels planned (only one a month) were: *Brideshead Revisited*, *Nineteen Eighty Four* and *A Room with a View*.

10. *AOB:* Lianne asked if we could have a pdf list of groups on the website as it changes and each time a spreadsheet has to be formatted before being printed. Lianne sometimes prints list of groups for new members without access to the internet. Barrie will look into providing this.

The meeting concluded at 3:45.