Kent u3a network **AGM 2023**

Monday 10th July 2pm on zoom

**MINUTES**

Attendance:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **U3a** | **Representative** | ***Apologies*** |
| Ashford, Wye and District |  |  |
| Bearsted and district | Graham Gibson vice-chair |  |
| Canterbury | Proxy | Robin Terry |
| Cranbrook | Proxy | Laureen Rodwell |
| Dartford | Vanessa |  |
| East Medway |  |  |
| Edenbridge |  |  |
| Faversham |  |  |
| Goudhurst and District | Ian Agnew |  |
| Gravesend |  |  |
| Hawkhurst |  | Julia Newman |
| Isle of Sheppey | Heather Thomas-Pugh, chair  Sally Charnock, membership secretary |  |
| Kings Hill and District | Proxy | Melanie Blewer |
| Knole | Debbie Magness |  |
| Maidstone | Proxy | Stephen Bush |
| Maidstone Invicta |  |  |
| Malling District | Chrys Short |  |
| Medway | Proxy | Kevin Booth  Marilyn Curtis |
| Meopham | Proxy |  |
| Orpington | Janet Howe | Sue Howe |
| Paddock Wood | Michelle Sinclair |  |
| Pembury | Roger Gardner, vice chair |  |
| Saxon Shore |  |  |
| Sevenoaks | Ken Brown, Chair  Beryl Mansell, Vice-chair |  |
| Shepway and District |  | John Hubbard |
| Swanley and District | John Baker |  |
| Tenterden |  |  |
| Thanet | Meg |  |
| Tonbridge | Frani Hoskins |  |
| Tunbridge Wells |  |  |
| Westerham | Tony Pearson |  |
| White Cliffs Country | Eleanor Brooks | Sue Edwards chair |
| Plus Committee | Frani Hoskins, vice-chair | John Russell |
|  | Jenny Akehurst, Beacon administrator | Carole Dickenson |
|  | Rob White, publicity | Angela Howe (treasurer) |

1. people but including proxy votes = 21 u3as represented out of 32 = 65%
2. The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as an accurate record.
3. Chair’s report. Chris Short reported that the highlight of the year was the Study Day held at Aylesford Priory which gave attendees lots of ideas for their own u3as. The other major development was the peer-to-peer groups which now run to support different officers.
4. Treasurer’s report. Angela reported that the major outgoing this year was the Zoom license and the Study Day. We have not needed to charge membership fees this year.
5. The accounts were accepted.
6. Our Regional Trustee Suzie Berry sent a written report which was read out. It covered changes to u3a structure to enable it to be more reflective of its diverse membership in the form of a pilot council. Suzie also drew our attention to the proposed Festival in July 2024, and encouraged us to participate in u3a week this September.
7. Report on website. Rob White reported that there should be local support for those u3as wishing to move to Site-Works. There are 70 volunteers working on the project and 30 pioneer sites have been set up. Training material is being finalised. In terms of our network web site, we are very grateful to Joy Podbury for keeping it up to date. However, as we move to Site-Works we are looking for an enthusiast to set it up for us. Experience of WordPress would be an advantage.
8. Elections

Nominations were:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chair | Chrys Short | Malling | Frani Hoskins | Rob White |
| Vice-chair | Frani Hoskins | Tonbridge | Angela Howe | Rob White |
| Vice-chair 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Secretary | Eleanor Brooks | White Cliffs Country | Frani Hoskins | Rob White |
| Deputy secretary |  |  |  |  |
| Treasurer |  |  |  |  |
| Deputy Treasurer | Angela Howe | Medway | Rob White | Eleanor Brooks |
| Beacon Administrator | Jenny Akehurst | Bearsted | Eleanor Brooks | Chrys Short |
| Publicity | Rob White |  | Chrys Short | Eleanor Brooks |
| Web-site |  |  |  |  |

As no further nominations were received at the meeting, all nominees were appointed.

*Our Trust Volunteers are ex-officio members and are Carole Dickenson and John Russell and we invite the South East Region PR officer, Terry Beavis. The South East Region representative Susie Berry our Trustee is invited to our general meetings.*

1. Notices

Cyber security talk. A u3a member has started running talks on cyber security. Hawkshurst u3a held it for their members as an extra event rather than at their monthly meeting and said it was very well received. They have even put top tips on their website. We will add it to our list of speakers and will attach details to these minutes.

Other members also brought our attention to

<https://www.compaid.org.uk/about-us/> who cover the same topic but work with small groups.

**Conclusion of the AGM**

Part Two

**Feedback from Study Day**

Well worth doing again next year.

**Location of meetings**

Some time was spent on discussing the best places to meet. It was agreed that whilst the Maidstone area was probably the most central, it still left some u3a’s with a long journey. We are interested in holding some meetings in other areas and would like suggestions especially from those u3a’s that would rather have something closer!

Several u3a’s expressed that they would much rather have face-to-face meetings.

**Ensuring the AGM is quorate**

However, this AGM would not have gone ahead as purely in person as we could not get a quorum. We know that we clashed with 2 big events this year but we explored options for the future:

1. Changing our constitution in some way acceptable to Third Age Trust
2. Holding it as a short Zoom
3. Holding it as part of a meeting that will attract people.

Hybrid meetings were discussed. We have struggled both in many individual u3a’s and in the Network and agreed that the quality of the equipment provided is key. We are very interested in hearing from locations we could use in the future suitable for quality hybrid meetings.

**Publicity**

Can the Network help with major events across Kent?

**Responsiveness of National Office**

One u3a shared their concerns that they did not get a response to emails and queries to Trustees and to National Office. Another said they thought the Beacon Forum (intended to be for Beacon queries only) was being used to fill a gap. It was queried whether TAT is sufficiently customer-focused.

**Other ideas for topics**

Newsletter production and content

Publicity – letting people hear about the u3a **Meeting closed 3.30**