

<p>2</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Mansfield & District u3a Committee Meeting held on Friday 14 February 2025.</p> <p>Sheila had requested that the minutes be reviewed and amended as follows:- The draft minutes stated that 2 accounts would be opened for the Pilates groups but only one is required. Amendment agreed.</p> <p>Draft minutes identified specific groups with excess funds in their account – this has been amended to a more general comment. Amendment Agreed</p> <p>Draft minutes stated that excess funds can be transferred to the main account – can this be checked for accuracy. An Amendment was agreed to clarify the guidance and explain that the Committee has the discretion to move excess funds to the main account unless a case is put forward to support the need to hold more. Excess funds are always transferred to the Main Account if a group folds permanently.</p> <p>Further discussion then followed:- It was explained that excess funds in some Group accounts are held to cover future payments which have already been committed to as some speakers have to be booked in advance and can be very expensive. Group Leaders are pleased to be sent statements each month now but would like more information to show which payments have been made so they can see if there are any outstanding invoices.</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting were then AGREED to be an accurate record, signed off and placed on the website.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Philip Tucker and seconded by Irena Dubowski.</i></p>	<p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Mansfield Community Centre <p>Sheila was able to give us feedback as follows:- The building is in need of refurbishment and their committee are trying to find a way to raise funds in order to achieve this. At present the premises are shabby – Sheilas Group (not u3a) play bridge there twice a week and the organisers need to be there 40 minutes before play begins to switch the heating on otherwise they have to keep coats and scarves on. On the plus side there is plenty of parking available and there is a kitchen and a sports hall.</p>	

4.	<p>Treasurers Reports:</p> <p>Figures for February</p> <p>Book fig C/Fwd £10,814.31 Receipts for February £1,077.98 Payments for February £817.61 Book Figure £8,918.72 Statement figure £8,938.72 Chq not presented Mansfield B Club £20.00 Statement Figure £8,918.72</p> <p>The Bank have corrected the error. We do not know any details about how or why the error was made or corrected.</p> <p>Liabilities are:-</p> <p>Civic Corner £250 Speaker £110</p> <p>We have paid Cromford Canal £330 for trip and not collected any ticket money yet.</p> <p>January Group Accounts</p> <p>Income £734.50</p> <p>Expenditure £1197.42 (Rents £244, Tai Chi Tutor £360, Garden Group Speaker £136, Cardcraft expenses £75.42, Theatre £332, Deposit for History Group Trip £50)</p> <p>Apologies for lateness in sending the figures due to a technical issue.</p> <p>Two new pages have been created in readiness for the Watercolour Group and the Pilates group.</p>	
5	<p>Business Secretary Report:</p> <p>Apologies from KH as once again she has to ask for cover for both the April and May meetings due to holiday bookings. Fortunately Carole has very kindly stepped into the breach again. Many Thanks Carole!!</p>	
6	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October meeting format Group Leaders have given feedback that they need more time to set up stalls and more time for people to browse to make it worthwhile. 	

	<p>Group Leaders who want to speak have now been told that they need to queue at the side of the rostrum to allow more time for their presentation.</p> <p>Discussion followed about how we might set the timings to allow the meeting to run smoothly and the following was agreed:-</p> <p>9:45 - Open 15 minutes early to allow for extra browsing time. 10:00 - Announcements and Group Leader talks 10:30 to 11:00 – Coffee and browsing etc. 11:00 to 12:00 – Speaker</p> <p>Further discussion followed around the disruption caused by members leaving early and/or collecting up cups – sometimes before 12 Noon. It was acknowledged that some speakers take questions which are not relevant to all and this should be dissuaded. However, Elaine will ask the members to avoid causing disruption and be more considerate and respectful at the meeting on Tuesday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT <p>There have been significant changes to our parent organisation. There is still a Board but a new Council made up of Regional Representatives will now be in place to represent the voice of the members. Our Rep is John Lewis. Their remit is to feed members views on the Annual Plan which should reflect the collective wishes of all. The Council will advise the Board on what is being discussed/proposed/requested at grass roots level and what support they may need.</p> <p>Priorities will be set in September to develop the Strategy in April. We expect recruitment, of both members and committee members, to be one of the priorities.</p>	EH
7	<p>Membership Secretary Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean reported that it has been very quiet with only one new member at the last meeting and one enquiry since then. 	
8	<p>Speaker Finder’s Report: 2025</p>	

	<p>Philip advised that Geoff Harris who will be entertaining us on Tuesday is a very popular and amusing speaker. We have been given a contact for Roy Wood, a speaker who is happy to come along free of charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuesday 14 March – Geoff Harris – The British Eccentric £110 ● Tuesday 15 April – Alistair Littlewood – Japanese Myths £100 ● Tuesday 20 May – Andrew Smart – Nottinghamshire Theatre £70 ● Tuesday 17 June – Roger Browne – Gershwin Brothers £120 ● Tuesday 15 July – James Ellson – Road to Publication £135 ● Tuesday 16 September – AGM/David Skillen - TBC 	
9	<p>Group Convenors Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stella explained that this would be her last time attending the Committee Meeting as she has now, sadly, handed the Group Convenor role over to Linda Kennedy. Due to ill health Stella has also now resigned from the Committee with immediate effect. All agreed that Stella has done an exceptional job for Mansfield u3a and she will be missed. ● Stella confirmed that she will always be available to support Linda as she takes on the role. ● Elaine will update the Members at the Tuesday meeting and introduce Linda. ● Elaine extended sincere thanks to Stella. 	EH
10	<p>Social Group Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The group enjoyed an excellent meal “around the world” on Wednesday evening at Refined. Going forward Irena has only been able to book lunches as the restaurant books up very quickly. Some people are unhappy that numbers are limited but this is out of our hands. ● The bus for the National Arboretum has been booked (£750 for 49 seater) and payments will be taken on Tuesday. ● Cromford Canal Trip has also been booked and due to the high cost of a bus people will be asked to car share. 	
11	<p>Publicity/Facebook Update</p> <p>The Full Report will be attached with these minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Flyers are going well. ● Group videos placed on Facebook and You Tube have ben updated and received good feedback. They are also on the website. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News Journal entries highlighted the new Pilates and Watercolour groups and included a piece about the Gardening Group this month. Banner: The supplier has been able to use the original template to produce an enhanced version. Facebook numbers continue to increase. 	
12	<p>Website/Newsletter/Printing</p> <p>No report received this month.</p>	
13	<p>Beacon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All member details are now on the spreadsheet ready for submission but we still have no feedback from the Beacon Support Team. On Beacon we can identify, and group, members by their role (called Polls on Beacon) and have chosen to identify Committee Members – Social Committee Members – Buddies – Helping Hands – Special Roles. Committee members were able to provide the names of those who should be on these Polls and this work will now continue. Beacon also places different Group Types into Faculties. Our Website currently uses Categories such as Crafts, Fitness, General but this does not reflect the TAT guidance and Linda will now re-designate the Faculties on the Website and Beacon to reflect this. Thanks to Jean and Gill we have been able to identify on Beacon the members who have signed up for Gift Aid and those who are Associate Members. However, the name of the Parent u3a for Associate Members is buried in the archives and KH volunteered to give each one a call to ask for this information as there are not many. We do not currently ask for Emergency Contact details on the registration forms due, we believe, to GDPR. The benefit of holding this information on an accessible but safe centralised site like Beacon is apparent and Elaine will do some further research on this. Meanwhile Group Leaders have been asked to collate Emergency Contact Information for their members. Finally. All the data now needs checking, cross referencing and bringing up to date as no new members have been added to the Beacon Spreadsheet since 31 October when work commenced. Elaine will collate names of new members advised to her since that date and will pass them to Chris Kennedy (Beacon Administrator). Jean (Membership Secretary) will forward her most up to date spreadsheet to Kathryn/Chris for cross referencing. Jean will send the Business Secretary full details (including address and telephone numbers) when a new member joins so that the Beacon Information can be updated periodically. Once we go live this will no longer be necessary as details will go directly into Beacon. 	<p>KH</p> <p>LK</p> <p>KH</p> <p>EH GL's</p> <p>EH</p> <p>JH/KH/CK</p> <p>JH/KH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading on from this discussion it was recognised that many members who qualify do not sign up for Gift Aid. Jean will bring extra forms to the next meeting and Elaine will explain the benefits to the members and ask for their support. This year Mansfield u3a has received £467 from Gift Aid. 	JH EH
13	<p>North Notts Neighbourhood Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting Wednesday 30 July at 1:30 Kathryn will attend but we need 2 reps for Mansfield u3a and it is likely that both Elaine and Irena will be on the Cromford Canal trip for this one. The Group expressed thanks for the NNNG Groups spreadsheet that Stella developed. Some good ideas for “fun” events for members were shared and comparisons of speakers which are useful. <p>Nottinghamshire Network of u3a’s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting 23rd April at 10am @ Ravenshead 	
14	Any Other Urgent Business:	
15	<p>Date and Time of next Meeting:</p> <p><u>Friday 11 April 2025</u> commencing at 10:00am at Mansfield Bowling Club, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 7AP</p>	