

TRUSTEES' REPORT 2019-2020

Trustee name	Office	Notes
Lionel Patterson	Chair	Appointed July 2019
Lynda Bolton	Vice Chair	Appointed July 2019
Ken MacEwan	Treasurer	Retiring 2020 TBC
Ann MacEwan	Secretary	Retiring 2020 TBC
Laura Adams	Assistant Treasurer	Appointed July 2019
Dianne Fenton	Membership Secretary	Appointed July 2019
Alison Hillman	Speaker Secretary	Appointed July 2019
Lesley Reid		Appointed July 2019
Heather Wright	Groups co-ordinator	Retiring 2020 TBC

Meopham U3A is governed by the Trustees who operate within the Constitution of Meopham U3A. A copy of the constitution can be seen on our website. This document lays out that the trustees of Meopham U3A (namely the Executive committee-hereafter referred to as the Committee) are formally elected by a quorate of the membership at the AGM.

Introduction

The Committee submit their 2019-2020 Annual Trustees Report and financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2020. Due to exceptional circumstances (Covid -19 Pandemic) This was delayed.

The charitable purpose of our U3A

The charitable purpose of Meopham U3A is: *the advancement of education and, in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Meopham and its surrounding locality.*

The committee, when making decisions about what Meopham U3A must do in order to ensure it carries out its stated purpose, have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, when appropriate .

HOW WE CARRY OUT OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSE

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Meopham U3A is welcoming and inclusive to anybody within the criteria set out in the constitution. We do not operate any form of waiting lists and aim to enrol new members swiftly so they may begin to take advantage of their membership as soon as possible. Membership subscriptions have been reduced to £15 for 2020-2021. Membership numbers have continued to grow and currently stand at around 440, showing an interest in our charity and that a local need is being met. Members report that belonging to Meopham U3A has enriched their lives, prevented social isolation and promoted both good physical and mental health. This contact has been maintained in spite of the Pandemic by remote means, with virtual meetings and social web contacts, many of our groups are continuing their interests by these methods. Those without the available technology have been contacted by telephone and post to ensure that they are well and to keep in touch.

NATIONAL U3A

Meopham U3A is part of the national U3A movement. There are over 1000 U3As in the UK, over 30 in Kent alone. Our links with the central organisation and more local groups such as the Kent U3A Network are supportive and helpful, sharing ideas and good practice while ensuring we run our U3A legally as well as successfully. National, Regional and Area information is advertised to members via our monthly bulletin and on our website.

GROUPS

Meopham U3A has over 60 Interest Groups and are always looking to add more. Groups pursue a wide range of topics, some academic, some practical and others recreational and many of these involve learning and applying new skills, often from scratch. Our aim is that our groups are interesting, stimulating and fun, providing a great way to socialise while sharing and exploring a common interest. All members are actively encouraged to be involved in the forming and organising of our interest groups in order that, through sharing their knowledge, skills, understanding and experience, they learn from each other. Groups are supported and new groups arranged by our Group Co-ordinator and a small team. More formal meetings with Group Contacts are arranged at least twice yearly when successes can be shared and any issues addressed. Information about current groups is available on our website, in booklet form and a Groups' Show Case is presented to members during at least one monthly meeting each year. We hold an annual meeting, known as the 3R's, where members can sign up for the groups they wish to be part of for the following year. Group size is sometimes limited by the nature of the group or the size of the venue. In this case members are encouraged to start a new group to meet the demand. During 2019/20 additional groups have been set up for French and books while new groups for keep-fit, modern jive, archaeology, men's singing, National Trust visits yoga and meditation have been formed.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our Monthly Meetings (Currently suspended due to Covid-19 Virus, no plans to recommence until safe to do so) are a key event and are held centrally within the locality, where parking is available and local bus routes are close by. We endeavour to ensure that our meetings are friendly and sociable occasions. We have a group of Greeters for every meeting and they try to ensure everyone is greeted, queries addressed and that people who arrive alone are introduced to someone else to sit with and chat to. Members are asked to check-in on sign-in sheets so that attendance can be monitored. Our membership secretary is on hand to enrol new members. There is usually a speaker at our Monthly Meetings and we aim to cover a wide range of topics. Announcements regarding outings, groups and any other current information are also dealt with. There is also an opportunity for members to socialise. During 2019/20 monthly meetings have been attended by approximately a third of the membership each month.

This year we have experimented with some occasional meetings on topics that are of general interest but not necessarily suitable for a Monthly Meeting. Talks on Cyber Crime and Advanced Driving were well attended and it is intended to continue with these extra meetings. (subject to Lockdown rules)

WEBSITE AND BULLETIN

The Committee recognise the importance of good communication between themselves and the members. Our website is kept updated and a bulletin of news and updates along with a monthly diary of events and group meetings is emailed to all members. Extra Bulletins, quizzes and any other useful news/information is currently circulated during the crisis. A buddy system exists for those members (less than 2%) who do not have access to email. Copies of policies, our constitution etc are also available for members to access on our website. Members can contact the Committee and Group Contacts via our Website. During 2019/20 a small group of members has been hard at work designing a new custom built website, which went 'Live' early 2020.

SOCIAL MEETINGS

Coach outings are organised for members on a regular basis and they are made available to all members on a first come first served basis. During 2019/20 visits were arranged, unfortunately the planned 2020 visits had to be cancelled due to the introduction of 'Lockdown'; all monies were refunded to the Members. We hold regular coffee mornings and pub lunches and an annual Quiz Night.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

These are mainly covered by the Treasurer's report. In line with the guidance offered by the National U3A, we maintain 6 months' worth of annual expenditure in reserve. Our main source of funding is our members' subscriptions. The membership fees have been reduced for the 2020/2021 period to ensure our Members benefit from the growth of our U3a. Main areas of expenditure include our membership fee to the Third Age Trust, our monthly meeting costs including venue hire and speaker fees, paying for the direct mailing of the Third Age Trust Magazine, our Beacon subscription and our website expenses.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	Lionel Patterson
Full name	Lionel Patterson
Position	Chair
Date	1st July 2020