

Christchurch u3a Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Somerford ARC, Christchurch

Present: John Bell (JB) (Chair), John Fairbairn (JF), Sue Fillery (SF), Kathleen Smith (KS), Ian Peterkin (IP) Eileen Lancaster (EL) Rosemary McCulloch (RMcC), Sue Crosoer (SC), Paula Watton (PW), Jackie Sherman (JS)

Apologies: Elaine Trayler (ET),

JB welcomed Alison Hearn, Dee Luscombe and Gillian Walker to the meeting. Alison will help SC with Venues, Gillian Walker is assisting JF with the New Members role and Dee Luscombe may become Minutes Secretary.

Minutes of meeting 8 April 2025 were approved. Proposed by RMcM, seconded by JF.

Matters Arising

1. It was decided to take no further action regarding ownership of the Epicentre.
2. Issues with Groups using Christchurch Library as a venue have been resolved.
3. After further consideration it was agreed to call the Committee a Group as this would give visibility to the Committee on the website and make the committee members' email addresses readily available.

Agreed

Treasurer's Report The budget forecast is on track in accordance with the financial decisions made at the February committee meeting. Venue costs have not increased substantially mainly because energy costs have not risen again. However, some venues have not yet submitted their prices for next year.

Gift Aid donations have reduced due to fewer subscriptions. KS reported HMRC has stopped Gift Aid donations to some u3as; this may need to be considered for future budgeting.

KS will consider closing the bank accounts which are losing interest.

Chair's Report

1. Recruitment. JB reported good progress has been made with possible candidates for the Chair, Vice Chair, New

<p>Members and Minutes Secretary roles. A conscious effort should be made to change the key committee positions on a regular basis. JB will advertise the key committee positions again.</p>	JB
<p>ET is going to assist PW with Publicity. Gill Kennedy will take over ET's role as Epicentre Manager but will not attend committee meetings.</p>	
<p>A couple of volunteers in the Epicentre are assisting EL with membership.</p>	JS
<p>2. <u>Group Leaders lunch</u> JS will email an invitation to group leaders, deputies and volunteers on behalf of the committee. Replies to be received by the end of June. It was confirmed the invitation does not include partners. KS and SC are responsible for organising the lunch and will require help on setting up the venue on the day.</p>	KS & SC
<p>3. <u>Programme launch</u>. An email will be sent next week to let members know the new Programme will no longer be sent by post and should be collected from the Epicentre. Members without email will be posted the Programme this year with a letter explaining the new procedure. PW will invite new group leaders to speak about their group at the coffee morning on 21 June. PW to let EL know who will be speaking.</p>	JB
<p>4. <u>Programme and Venue planning</u> IP and SC have done a remarkable job in producing next year's Programme. A considerable amount of work is involved and it has become apparent that additional administrative support is needed.</p>	PW
<p>Committee Members Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venues SC said initially The Runway will be a more expensive venue but a day rate has been negotiated and by the autumn the costs will be clearer. Group Leaders have been reluctant to use the Epicentre as it is not an agreeable venue. To ensure the Epicentre is used as a venue it was agreed it needs refurbishment to make it a more pleasant environment. • Active News RMcM had received a good response for the latest edition. • Publicity PW thanked IP and ET's son for help with producing the flyers and promotional material. PW said the Christchurch market stall was proving to be successful with 10 new members recruited last week. U3a articles have featured in local magazines 	Agreed SC

- **Programme** There are now 93 Groups including a new History group. IP was concerned about publishing the Programme without a group leader for the u3a Singers. JF, as a member of the Group, was asked to ensure the Choir understand they will not be able to continue as a u3a group without a leader.. It was agreed IP should go ahead with the Programme to include the Choir with a group leader to be confirmed.
- **New Members Coffee Morning** JF said the New Members Coffee Morning on 25 October at 10.00 at Druitt Hall.
- **Groups** An enquiry has been made as to whether groups run from home should receive recompense as no venue costs are incurred. The cost of electricity/heating was estimated at approximately £1 for a 2 hour session. It was agreed not to make recompensation by a vote carried 9 to 1.

A.O.B.

Coach visits, theatre trips, group holidays. It was confirmed the in case of emergency contact details for members on u3a outings should be held by the Office Manager, the Chair and the Group-Co-Ordinator. JB will amend the Christchurch u3a Policies document accordingly.

JB

Date of Next Meeting. 22 July 2025 at 14.00 at Somerford ARC, 20 Southe Road, Christchurch BH23 3EH