



**Annual General Meeting of The Bray Heads U3A Group
Thursday, 19 September 2019, 10:30-1.30 am, Bray Golf Club**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Ann Acton, Mary Ashall, Anne Burke, John Casey, Noreen Casey, Margaret Clerkin, Finola Condren, Michael Condren, Fergus Curran, Esther De Groot, Crozier Deane, Patricia Delehanty, Anna Deveney, Judith Devlin, Ann Dillon, Ciaran Driver, Colm Fagan, Gerald Gilmore, Sheila Gilmore, Nikki Gordon, Jane Grimson, Mary Hargaden, Ray Hester, Brenda Kearns, John Keogh, Phil Keogh, Ros Lane, Catherine Lawlor, Fiona Mantle, Tim Mantle, Harry McAlinden, Des McGarry, Ita McGarry, Liz McManus, Tom McNally, Margaret Merne, Gillian Misstear, Deirdre Morrissey, Isolde Moylan, Patti Moynihan, Mary Mullen, Aoife Nic Réamoinn, Mary O'Brien, Léonie O'Toole Bates, Mary Price, Carol Pye, Ian Ring, Sylvia Ring, Maeve Rogers, Marian Rushe, Pdraig Rushe, Helen Ryan, Allan Searles, Bernie Searles, John Sheehan, Rita Sheridan, Rita Stafford, Josephine Sullivan, Brendan Thornhill, Toinette Tunney, Yoshiko Ushioda, Richard Webb, Deirdre Wolahan

1. Welcome to Members & Expression of Appreciation to BGC

Group Chairperson, Isolde Moylan, welcomed members to this first Group AGM and introduced the Committee members. They and members expressed their warm appreciation to the Board, management and staff of BGC and conferred Honorary Group Membership on the serving Club President.

2. Adoption of The Bray Heads U3A Constitution

https://www.thebrayheads3a.ie/documents/35_Document.pdf?1599039981

Committee member Jane Grimson presented the Group's draft Constitution. Members agreed to its adoption.

3. Group's Privacy Policy

https://www.thebrayheads3a.ie/documents/23_Document.pdf

Jane Grimson outlined the main provisions of the Group's Privacy/Data Protection Policy for Members' information.

4. Secretary's Report

The Group Secretary, Mary Mullen, reported on the Group's start-up and activities in its first year in operation. Member's expressed appreciation to the Committee for its role in this [See Appendix I, below].

5. Treasurer's Report and approval of the audited accounts

https://www.thebrayheads3a.ie/documents/24_Document.pdf

The Group Treasurer, Anne Byrne, presented the audited Group's audited accounts to end June 2019. - which had also been circulated in advance to members. These were confirmed by Colm Fagan, who had carried out the audit, and approved by members. Members were informed about U3A's minimal fees and charges policy and of a slight increase in the registration fee for the year ahead to cover costs. The issue of the value of book tokens given to guest speakers was raised by one member who proposed increasing the level and there was short discussion on this, with the chair agreeing that the Committee would consider this further.

6. Membership Co-ordinator's Report

The Group's Membership Co-ordinator, Nikki Gordon, reported that we now had 145 Group members and 80 on our waiting list. She also outlined the results of the Member Survey which had been carried out before the summer break and which conveyed a high degree of satisfaction with the Group, its activities and its organisation, with a few small issues noted for follow up.

7. Report from the Climate Action Sub-group (CASG)

Jane Grimson, Secretary of the CASG, not long set up, reported on the agreed mission, initial programme, activities and future plans of the sub-group

8. Chairperson's Report

Group Chairperson, Isolde Moylan, highlighted some aspects of the Group's very successful first year and plans for the year ahead as set out in the Group's programme to the end of the year. She welcomed the very positive feedback which Group members had recorded in the Member Survey carried out before the summer break, summarising some of the key responses (as outlined in document), including a few issues which the Committee had noted and on which there would be follow-up.

Noting that the election of Committee members is a standard part of AGM Agendas - and that this will probably be the case with future AGMs of our group in line with Section 7 (a) of the Group's Constitution - the Chairperson explained that elections to the Committee were not taking place at the end of this first year, as existing members had undertaken to serve for a two-year term (also in line with the same Section of the Constitution) and all 9 members had agreed to remain on the Committee for a second year, leaving no vacancies to fill at this time. The first Group elections are therefore expected to take place at the 2020 AGM.

[Link to Member Survey Summary: https://www.thebrayheads3a.ie/documents/18_Document.pdf

9. Proposed Group Affiliation with the Wicklow Public Participation Network (WPPN)

The Chairperson reported briefly to members about the WPPN umbrella organisation and sought agreement to The Bray Heads U3A applying to join it. Members agreed.

10. AOB

No other issues were raised but, in the general discussion that followed, there was very positive feedback from the floor about the Group's first year's programme and the one planned to the end of the year, with appreciation expressed in particular for the quality of speakers, the wide range of topics and the Group's organisation. There were also positive comments on the additional external activities which had been added to the Group's programme and the recent visit to the Seamus Heaney Exhibition.

The AGM was followed by coffee, tea and sandwiches.

Mary Mullen
Group Secretary

Appendix I

The Bray Heads U3A AGM Thursday 19th September, 2019 Secretary's Report

The Bray Heads U3A Group Creation 2018:

Our co-ordinating team started with eight in number early in 2018. We had come together as an informal group and we began discussing the idea of perhaps setting up a new U3A group in Bray. Most of us are originally from Bray and had known each other and our team grew to nine members during 2019.

This addition to our numbers was a huge help when some of the team are away, leaving us almost always with seven team members present to set up, prepare and meet and greet our Members at our Meetings.

The mission of The Bray Heads U3A is to promote and practice life long learning and active, creative ageing for people entering their 3rd age. The aim of U3A groups is through local communities to promote learning and doing new things, meeting new people, having fun and sharing skills, experiences and interests with others.

Let me introduce our Committee, which we generally call the Co-ordinating Team, the members of which are:

Chairperson/Team Leader	Isolde Moylan
Secretary	Mary Mullen
Treasurer	Anne Byrne
Team Members:	Nikki Gordon (Membership & Relations with BGC)
	Leonie O'Toole Bates (Meetings)
	Joe Murray (IT/Website)
	Jane Gibson (also IT and specific projects)
	Aoife Nic Réamoinn
	Mary Kelly

Group's First Year Programme/Activities

Group Preview

The Bray Heads U3A group started with a group preview on 21st June, 2018.

We launched a preview to see what interest was out there and much to our surprise we filled our capacity at that meeting.

Our co-ordinating team as held 16 team meetings since we first convened and we also co-ordinate by email and a what's app group on an almost daily basis.

Inaugural Meeting:

The inaugural meeting of the group was on 6th September 2018.

Group Programme 2018:

We started with a talk by Fionnuala Ardee on 400 years of the Brabazons at Kildruddery.

We continued with fortnightly meetings with talks on a diversity of topics:

For example

Science – the Role of Nature's Pharmacy in Modern Medicine

Politics – Women and Politics in Ireland

- The EU & Brexit
 - The Good Friday Agreement
 - Joyce's Ulysses
 - Tracing our Ancestors.
- Literature**
- Genealogy**

We ended our first semester on 13th December with Christmas Carols , Readings, mulled wine (albeit it non-alcoholic) and mince pies.

Second Semester Programme 2019:

Our 2nd semester commenced in January 2019.

Again we had a great diversity of speakers :

Examples:

Sport

- the GAA

History/ Political

- 2nd generation Holocaust family
- The origin of our world
- Palestinians in 1948
- The Cochranes of Woodbrook House and Beirut

Travel

- Antarctica, Alaska

Health & Wellbeing

- The Confidence Trick

Art

- Brian Maguire's Art
- Harry Clarke and other Irish Stained Glass Art

Botany

- The Botanic Gardens

Climate

- Climate Change (which led to the formation of our sub group on Climate Change)

Outings / Extra Activities:

-

Member Survey:

Before we ended for the summer we conducted a Members Survey with a questionnaire.

Members Feedback:

We got very good responses, which were overwhelmingly positive and I will just give you a taste of some of the feedback on issues which we will endeavour to address.

- Some members were finding it not so easy to make new friends.
- The aim of the U3A groups is not just to provide lectures but to encourage social interaction. We therefore would ask each member to start a conversation during tea / coffee or before the talks begin with someone they have never spoken with before.
- Members are encouraged to take a chair and create a sit down group to chat with at coffee.
- We gladly welcome ideas from members too on how to make this a more positive experience for our fellow members.
- **Difficulties with hearing speakers and questions and seeing slides**
- We are working on the technical issues with this, but it would help enormously if members were to fill up the rows in the main seating area. Moving into the rows and leaving the aisle seats to fill up as people arrive.
-
- **Group emails** – 6 members mentioned these group emails could be rather lengthy and we will aim to shorten these, although they do also serve the purpose of a type of Newsletter.

Website:

We have the impression that not many of our members may be regularly checking the website. We would urge greater use of this as it is the centre piece of our Group's communication. If anyone has problems with this please let us know and we can see how we can help.

- **Preference for meetings** – the majority opted for fortnightly meetings with some additional activities on alternate Thursdays.
- A large number had a preference for meetings to continue into June.

- **Members proposed talks and activities**
- Some members have suggested the formation of sub groups with interests such as music, books, cinema, theatre, languages history and architecture.

- Anyone who wishes to be part of forming these sub groups please talk with Isolde or Jane.
- Members who wish to volunteer to give a talk likewise speak with Isolde or Jane.

- Those suggestions put forward will be discussed and added to our 2020 programme.

- **Climate Action** – a large majority of members have agreed to the Group promoting and engaging in climate action.