



Third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Bray Heads U3A Group
Conducted Remotely Via ZOOM
Thursday, 9 December 2021, 10:30 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Item 1: Welcome

Jane welcomed both full and temporary members to the AGM.

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Jane requested approval to change the order of the Agenda, taking Item 10 Elections to the Group's Co-Ordinating before Item 9 Chairperson's Report. **Agreed.**

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes AGM 3 December 2020 & Matters Arising:

- Minutes were Approved
- No Matters Arising.

Item 4: Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report was given by Mary Mullen and had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report and approval of the audited accounts:

The Treasurer's Report was given by Ian Ring .

Ian expressed thanks to Anne Byrne, previous Treasurer, and to Colm Fagan who had yet again kindly agreed to audit the accounts. He also expressed thanks to Bank of Ireland who had agreed to give our group two years free internet banking.

- There was no income from attendance at Bray Golf Club due to the pandemic
- No expenditure on Bray Golf Club.
- All income was from subscriptions from members and temporary members.

- Expenditure was on IT, book tokens and Zoom license.

Colm Fagan expressed gratitude to Ian and recommended the accounts to members as a true and accurate account.

a. Approval of accounts – given

b. Approval of donations of €200 each to Five loaves and Vincent de Paul – given.

Jane explained that in previous years members had brought gifts for children to the Christmas Celebration which were then given to Vincent de Paul for distribution. As this is not possible during the pandemic, she suggested that individuals might consider making donations directly to their chosen charities instead.

Item 6: Membership Co-ordinator’s Report – Nikki Gordon

Nikki reported :

- 164 full members in the Group
- 73 are on the waiting list; 41 of whom are temporary members
- 17 members have not re-joined since we started

Attendance at Zoom Meetings January 7th – November 25th 2021

- An average of 50 people at 28 meetings
- Highest attendance was 80
- Average attendance January to June was 60
- Average attendance September to November was 33
- There has been a noticeable drop off in attendance since June.

Item 7: IT Co-ordinator’s Report – Joe Murray:

- The Bray Heads U3A website address: www.thebrayheads3a.ie
- Website Member ID : Member
- Website Password: lockit!down

Joe reported from April 2020 that of the 48 events, 41 were recorded and uploaded to the website. We will continue to use Zoom into 2022.

Suggestions from members: joseph@jma.ie

Jane told the meeting that Joe is stepping down and she wanted to acknowledge his incredible work. Recording takes a lot of hard work to edit and put on website.

Item 8: TBH-U3A Sub-Groups:

a. Climate Action Sub-Group- Jane Grimson

Jane reported that the Climate Action Sub-group had held 2 Zoom talks:

- The Water Beneath Our Feet, Groundwater by Bruce Misstear
- The Role of the Oceans in Earths Climate by Peter Croot.

b. History & Archaeology Sub-Group – Mary Kelly

Mary asked members to look at interesting things in their family or locality to talk about at future meetings of the Sub-Group. 12 members had shared their stories between March and June and she encouraged more members to volunteer.

c. Writers Sub-Group - Isolde Moylan

Isolde reported that the Writers group was set up in May 2020, led by Michael Gordon and was conducted in a workshop format.

- Two 10-week sessions were held last year, and in 2021 there was another 10-week session from January to June, and one 8-week session from October – November.
- The group is limited to 10 participants to enable the members to read their work each week. Two new members replaced previous members in the most recent session.
- The focus is on developing creative writing skills – short stories, poetry, and memoirs (some of the pieces are to be read at our Christmas event on 16 December)
- Some of the work written by the group has been published and one member has been short listed and her short story is to be published
- The group hopes to continue in 2021 and is encouraging others interested in writing to form another group, with support from this existing group.
- Huge appreciation was given to Michael as he puts in a tremendous amount of work and gives great advice and shares information about writing techniques.

d. Walking Sub-Group – Margaret Merne.

- The walks were led by Margaret and also on occasion by Ian Ring.
- The group meets every second Friday and there were 18 walks.
- 25 people signed up at the beginning but some of those have never attended.
- Best attended walk consisted of 8 people.
- In December 2020, the walks were restricted to within county.
- In January 2021 5 km restrictions were imposed.
- 4 walks were cancelled due to bad weather including one in July due to extreme heat.

- Margaret has 26 walks listed for next year, one walk every 2 weeks giving a full year's programme of walks.

Item 10: Elections to the Group's Co-ordinating Team: - Jane Grimson

Continuing Members of the Co-ordinating Team:

- Mary Ashall
- Jane Grimson
- Nikki Gordon
- Isolde Moylan
- Mary Mullen
- Leonie O'Toole Bates
- Ian Ring

Members elected for 2022 – 2024:

- Aoife Nic Réamoinn
- Mary Kelly

Jane said we would like more members to come forward to be co-opted to the co-ordinating team. It is important to get new people on the committee.

Item 9: Chairperson's report: Jane Grimson.

Jane reported that the transition to Zoom meetings went very well and it was good to see so many members participating. As we had very little expenditure during this time, we were able to extend the membership to March to include temporary members.

Member's survey:

The results of the members survey showed:

- 87 responses
- Some duplicates
- Number of couples submitted joint responses
- Total of 101 individual responses i.e. approximately 63% of Full Members.

Question 1:

Do you intend to renew your membership of the Bray Heads U3A group for 2022?

There were 85 responses. All were positive.

Question 2:

Assuming that the public health guidance and the Bray Golf Club Rules permit us to return to in-person meetings in the Club would you prefer to :

There were 86 responses.

- 48.8% return to in-person meetings as soon as possible
- 39.5% Stay on Zoom initially
- 9.3% Stay on Zoom for longer

Jane said it will take careful planning, risk assessment in accordance with Health guidance and rules for future in-person meetings.

- We will be starting off on Zoom.
- There will be issues to address including how to combine in-person and Zoom which will present technical challenges.
- Numbers may need to be restricted at Bray Golf Club so we may require members to register in advance, for example using EventBrite.
- A Risk Assessment will give us some guidance as to what measures we will need to take for example: wearing of face masks, attendance only if symptom-free and not a close contact of someone with Covid
- Tea / coffee may not be possible.

Jane returned to the subject of Joe Murray stepping down:

Joe has been our webmaster and IT co-ordinator from the very beginning. He has done a fantastic job, the website is terrific with so much information available to members. Fortunately, Joe has agreed to continue in that role of webmaster. He was solely responsible at the beginning for AV and microphone technology etc. He conducted the transition to Zoom single handedly and put in hours and hours of work for which we are very grateful.

Jane said she was delighted to announce that Joe was to be awarded honorary life membership of The Bray Heads U3A. He will be the first honorary life member and it is so well deserved for the wonderful work Joe has done.

Item 11: Forward Planning for 2022.

Jane invited any comments for future planning from members.

Suggestions from the floor:

- Margaret Merne suggested a speaker from the Wicklow Mountains National Park to give a talk on conservation and climate change and its effects on the park. The suggestion was welcomed, and Margaret will try and organise a contact.

- Brian Whyte proposed: a talk on local broadcasting and local radio and a talk on the proposed greenway in the river area of Bray. He indicated that he would source the contacts.
- As Dublin Bay is the only biosphere in Europe, Brigid O'Brien proposed a talk on the topic. She will source a contact.
- Isolde introduced the topic of the Waiting List and temporary members who have been very active participants in the Zoom meetings. We are not in a position to decide what to do given the uncertainty regarding returning to in-person meetings in the Golf Club and the trajectory of the pandemic. But in the meantime, temporary members are most welcome.

There were no further suggestions from the floor.

Item 12 Group Programme January – June 2022 – Isolde Moylan.

Meetings will initially be exclusively on Zoom.

- **January 6** Dr. Rose Ann Kenny Professor of Medical Gerontology TCD on the subject of Ageing
- **January 20** Dr. Patrick Geoghegan, Professor of Modern History TCD: Daniel O'Connell
- **February 3** Ian Lumley An Taisce: The COP 26 Climate summit in Glasgow.
- **February 17** Cecelia Hartsell: President John F. Kennedy's visit to Ireland 1963
- **March 3** Jim McNicholas, Chairperson of the Camino Society Ireland: An Introduction to the Camino de Santiago
- **March 10** Michael Roddy former Reuters correspondent: Fake News
- **March 24** Dr Jim Malone , Robert Boyle Professor of Medical Physics TCD: From sorcery, Alchemy, Science, Prayer, Art and Evolution to Mystery
- **April 6 Wednesday:** Dr. John McCullen Former Chief Park superintendent and author: The Phoenix Park
- **April 29** Barry O'Loughlin Bray Heads Member: Aspects of Indian Culture.
- Isolde Moylan to give a further talk on the Middle East which is not scheduled yet.

Isolde said it is a team effort putting the talks and subjects together

Jane encouraged members to put forward suggestions for interesting speakers and talks

AOB:

Jane invited members to add to the discussion.

Richard and Margaret Webb asked whether it would be possible for them to continue as members from afar as they are no longer resident in Ireland. Jane said we hadn't thought about the possibility

of having overseas members, but she was sure it would be possible. On Zoom it would be easy but if Zoom fades out we would have to consider how this could work. She added that Richard and Margaret's involvement in The Bray Heads has been very much valued, to which Richard and Margaret said the quality of our talks was so high they didn't want to lose that participation.

There were no other items and Jane formally closed the AGM meeting.