

## **Notes for Group Leaders for Autumn 2021 Reopening**

As GL Secretary's Email sent to Group Leaders on 13 July 2021.

The Committee met on 7 July to finalise plans for re-opening on the basis that we will be able to meet in person from the start of the Autumn term, as well as continue to meet online where necessary.

**Friday 10 September** is the date of the combined GL annual meeting and lunch at the Victoria Hall in Hartley Wintney. We shall use this date to answer any questions you may still have regarding re-opening and more details will follow. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions that you would like an answer to sooner. In the meantime, highlighted below are some key points:

### **2021/22 programme and GL handbook**

The GL handbook has now been finalised and has been issued to all GLs and is also on the website.

Key points to note are as follows –

#### **General**

- Please remember that full term's attendance fees for all group members need to be paid in advance and no later than by the second meeting of each term.
- Wherever possible, payment should be by BACS or cheque to the GL who will then pass it on to the Treasurer.
- There is a need to comply with the relevant health and safety measures in place at each venue, particularly in relation to covid-19.

#### **Venues**

- Our Venues Secretary will be contacting all venues after 19 July to find out what their updated rules and regulations are and will issue an update on each venue's specific opening plans and requirements as soon as they become available.
- GLs should visit their venue(s) to check their specific requirements before meetings start. It is essential that GLs carry out a risk assessment for the venues they use and share it with the committee before restarting their group.
- Group members should bring their own refreshments to meetings until at least the end of the autumn term. Some venues have already stated that their kitchens will not be available in the short term.
- Some of you may be holding hybrid/ blended meetings when we return in September, which combine people attending a venue in person and via zoom or something similar. The following link ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAfduMSe3Pk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAfduMSe3Pk)) will give you an overview of what you may need to consider if you are planning to do this, and some shared practice guidance was also issued on 13 July . If you believe that you will need to incur additional costs in order to set up a hybrid meeting, please contact me as we may be able to re-imburse reasonable costs if approved beforehand.
- All attendees at hybrid meetings, whether planning to be present in person, or via Zoom (or similar), will need to pay the full term's Attendance fee in order to contribute to the cost of the venue.

#### **Enrolment Day**

- Please remember that there will be no "in person" enrolment day again this year. Existing and potential members have been asked to contact GLs if they wish to (re)join your group.

## Other advice

- The Third Age Trust, our umbrella organisation, has published advice about attendance at group meetings and proof of vaccination. It is perfectly possible to require all members to show proof of vaccinations or proof of a recent negative Covid-19 test. Both options must be offered to comply with anti-discrimination rules. However, it is perfectly acceptable to do neither. As a committee, we prefer to let GLs decide what is best for their own groups, knowing your group members as well as you do.
- The national group “u3a communities” has started a Climate Crisis discussion group and are looking for more members. If you or members of your group are interested in finding out more, please use this link – [www.u3acommunities.org/climate/index.htm](http://www.u3acommunities.org/climate/index.htm).

If you have questions on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen Grosvenor  
Group Leaders' Secretary  
[groups@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@fleetu3a.org.uk)