

## The Open University Club

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 12.30 p.m. viaTEAMS.

**Present:** Natalie Mott (Chair), Brandon Cook & Tracey Bean-Williams (Co-Treasurers), Joy Cook (Secretary), Ed Daynes (Sports chair), Andrew Braidley, Louise Thomas, Page Munro and Stephen Cafferty (Committee Members), and Affiliated Club, Nations, Manchester and Nottingham members.

**In Attendance:** Noel Fernandes (Business Services & Planning Manager Estates representing Director of Estates) and Susan Scimè (Club Coordinator)

**Apologies:** None received.

### 1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Noted: The Chair welcomed all present.

### 2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Confirmed: That the minutes of the fiftieth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020, were approved.

### 3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Noted: There were no Matters arising.

### 4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT (NM)

4.1 Noted: Chairs report attached.

4.2 Noted: NM thanked everyone for their time for supporting their clubs and members of the committee.

4.3 Noted: MN thanked Events, Estates and Health & Safety for their hard work for the Clubs.

4.4 Noted: Covid 19 advice added to report.

4.5 Noted: The Sports Pavilion is currently being refurbished.

### 5. TREASURERS REPORT (TBW))

5.1 Noted: Treasurers report attached.

5.2 Noted: Bids may be accepted from Affiliated clubs after their AGM's.

5.3 Noted: Late bids may be accepted but may not be fully funded dependent on funding residue.

5.4 Noted: The timetable for bids is to be reviewed after many clubs expressed a later date may be more prudent for them. Some clubs advised that a later submission date would not be appreciated.

5.5 Noted: Noel Fernandes advised that later bids equate to later funding dates, especially with the new Finance systems now in place.

5.6 Noted: Noel also advised that a standalone screen is being installed in the Church, with WI-FI availability to be reviewed.

**6. SPORTS REPORT (ED)**

6.1 Noted: Report attached

**7. AFFILLATED CLUB REPORTS presented by Louise Thomas**

7.1 Noted: All reports were highlighted and are attached.

7.2 Noted: That Nations & Regions reports were included.

**8. Business Services & Planning Manager Estates (NF) on behalf of Director of Estates**

8.1 Noted: Report attached.

8.2 Noted: Many thanks to Susan Scimè for her work in updating the website.

**9. ELECTIONS**

9.1 Reported: That at the closing date, nominations for Officers and Committee Members, to serve on the Club Committee for the year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 had been received as follows, and that all those nominated were elected unopposed:

<b>Club Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
CLUB CHAIR	Natalie Mott	Andrew Bradley	Tracey Bean- Williams
TREASURER	Tracey Bean-Williams	Brandon Cook	Noel Fernandes
SPORTS CHAIR	Edward Daynes	Andrew Bradley	Brandon Cook
Committee Member	Louise Thomas	Joy Cook	Tracey Bean-Williams
Committee Member	Paige Munro	Louise Thomas	Stephen Cafferty
Committee Member	Stephen Cafferty	Noel Fernandes	Joy Cook
Committee Member	Andrew Bradley	Joy Cook	Tracey Bean-Williams

**10. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

10.1 The Chair advised that there are committee spaces available, plus the role of Secretary, so please do get in touch and talk to current members if you are interested in joining.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 Andrew McDermott – can club equipment be stored while its activities are on Hold? Noel advised that the Campus is currently closed so permission to do this would need to be gained and possibly a Risk Assessment approved.

11.2 Jennifer Fung – can clubs meet offsite for activities? Noel advised that currently up to 30 people may meet up outside. Risk Assessments are still required for this. Forms are available from the OU Club Office. RA's previously submitted may need to be updated and resubmitted where there have been any changes.

11.3 Dasher McDonald – thanked Louise Thomas for her outstanding work for the OUTGBC, including processing £20K in refunds for people.

11.4 Louise Thomas thanked Claire from Health & Safety, Noel Fernandes and Susan

- Scimè for their assistance with Risk Assessments.
- 11.5 Lisa Holland advised that the Hub refurbishment included new double-glazed windows, Air-Conditioning being installed, new curtains, plastering of the brick wall between the Theatre and the adjacent meeting rooms, a regraded floor, new seat coverings and electric blinds.
- 11.6 Victoria Stead asked about the possibility of singing outside under cover – Lisa Holland advised this may be possible.
- 11.7 The Chair advised that the Club is nor currently aware of any future OU actions, but will notify all affiliated clubs once any are known.

Joy Cook  
OU Club Secretary 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **Chair's report update – COVID**

Until the PM announces anything next Monday I am unable to provide any further update regarding room bookings or on campus club activities for our affiliated clubs and sports clubs. We will have to wait until the University announces its return to campus policy and usage guidelines but this will not be before the start of the new academic year. As and when the Committee hears more we will keep you informed.

we would suggest that reference to Covid and adhering to gov and university guidelines remain within your risk assessments, this should include general guidance of people not attending if they have symptoms or positive test – As covid is here to stay we do need to acknowledge same in the RA.

## **The Open University**

### **Chairs Report 2021 Annual General Meeting**

Welcome to the fifty-first annual general meeting of the OU Club. This year has certainly been a different experience.

The main Club has been active with supporting Affiliated Clubs, Nations, Manchester and Nottingham with events for staff across the Open University. Many of the activities we have seen have been due to the support of this years' committee and I would like to thank them for their hard work in the past year.

Thanks go to the staff that run the Affiliated Clubs and Social Clubs for their time and hard work which helps the Committee to endeavour that all Affiliated Clubs, the Nations, Manchester & Nottingham and Affiliated Clubs can, and will be able to, continue to offer a range of activities to all university staff.

Over the past year it has been good to see that on-line events have been trialled, from pub quizzes to virtual tours of museums. We will hear more about these in a report later in the proceedings.

What does 2021/22 bring?

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for further news from the government as to when all restrictions will be lifted. Due to Covid-19 all club events on campus have continued to be cancelled and we are working with the University to find out how and when events/clubs will be able to restart. We do not expect that any club activities will be able to run on campus before September, and as the Government has suggested that the social distancing restrictions may be likely to continue, we need to plan for changes in how clubs will be able to run and allow for restrictions on numbers because of this. As we know more, we will let you know, however, any activities will only be allowed to run after an updated Risk Assessment has been completed and approved to make sure Government and University guidelines have been taken into account.

We continue to work on ideas for all staff for activities that can be enjoyed remotely to enable social distancing guidelines to be met and have a page on our intranet site for links and ideas for staff and their families.

We are, as always, looking to find ways in which we can engage with all staff, including homeworkers, and promote the various Affiliated Clubs and activities across all University sites. We are also working to provide more National discounts for all staff, and to work with the Nations, Manchester & Nottingham to support local discounts where possible.

The OU Club Committee continues to discuss and work on how what we do supports the aims of the University. We truly believe that supporting OU staff, with the benefits the OU Club works hard to source, remains important to all University staff, and that the connections and good standing we and the affiliated clubs build within our Local Communities are equally important and beneficial to the reputation of the University. With the continued possibility of social distancing and changes in the university to ways of working, the OU Club is investigating ways we can continue to offer online options for our affiliated clubs to enable as many staff as possible to benefit and take part.

I would also like to remind clubs that part of your constitutions allow that all Affiliated Clubs will submit AGM reports on a yearly basis with financial reports where appropriate.

### Risk Assessments

We have continued to work with the University to ensure that Health & Safety measures are met by Affiliated Clubs. We recognise that the additional paperwork does take time to complete and are grateful to those Clubs who continue to complete the yearly Risk Assessment forms in line with University policy. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that this is a mandatory requirement, and all Affiliated Clubs must submit these forms. Failure to complete these may mean your bookings of rooms, or use of equipment, is restricted. Please note that maximum capacities for all rooms used can be found on the Estates Resource Scheduler system and should be adhered to, as should all other University policies when staff are on Campus whether for work or as part of club activities. Please do note that due to Covid-19 restrictions and University policy, clubs will not be able to run on campus until the campus re-opens in line with Government restrictions and they have completed a Risk Assessment and had this signed off by the University.

### Budget

We have submitted our budget request for the next year. As a minimum, we are hoping to retain our current level of funding into the next year, subject to approval by VCE. In the last couple of years, the Committee has had their work cut out trying to distribute the limited funds in a fair and equal manner. I hope that the Nations, Manchester and Nottingham, the Affiliated Clubs and Staff will understand the difficult decisions the Committee faces and will have to continue to face

in light of increasingly squeezed budgets, and we appreciate your ongoing support of our Committee. We will continue to advise on, and support, fundraising by Affiliated Clubs.

We will see in a few moments the figures for Club spend in 2020/21 and proposed budget in 2021/22. Financially, funding will be tight for all of us, however, the Committee will be working together with Nations, Manchester & Nottingham and Affiliated Clubs to continue to offer support with activities in the social calendar for all staff.

I would like to thank the many staff in Estates that help behind the scenes, particularly to Noel Fernandes for the support he provides to the OU-Club. I would also like to thank the Events team and the Health & Safety team for their support and hard work in this last year. A special thanks goes to Sue Scimè for all the support she has given me and the rest of the Committee, whilst dealing with the day-day running of the OU Club.

**Natalie Mott**  
**OU Club Chair 2020/21**

### **The Open University Club Treasurers Report 2021 Annual General Meeting**

For 2020/21 we were awarded a budget of £46000. This was a significant increase on the previous year's budget as we were very keen to support the increasing needs of home workers and the National and Regional Centres.

During the year the bid Committee have awarded around £9800 to the Clubs who submitted bids.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent curtailment of all OU Club activities has left us with a current surplus of around £13k as at Q3 forecast. The OU Club Committee will determine the best way to use these funds.

We appreciate that many clubs will have unspent funds, we would normally ask for these to be repaid but the Committee have decided to allow clubs to carry these funds forward and use them for their activities in 2020/21. This does not preclude you from bidding for more funds should you need them.

We will go through our normal bidding process, with bid forms sent out in July and returned by the end of August. The Bid committee will sit in September and monies will be allocated but we are fully aware that the future is uncertain, and we are prepared to be as flexible as we can be regarding funding activities. This may include further rounds of bidding later in the financial year if/when things are more certain.

The Committee agreed to fund the purchase of a new U3 upright piano to replace the very old upright in the Hub Theatre and the refurbishment of the C3 grand piano currently housed in the Church. In addition to this the Committee agreed to fund the purchase and installation of a screen in the Church, the Green Room and the Pavilion Activity Room. The screens will allow the rooms to be used more flexibly.

Thanks, as always, go to Sue Scimè and Noel Fernandes for their help and guidance this year and all the Committee members for their support and co-operation over financial decision-making activities.

Brandon Cook and Tracey Bean-Williams

## **The Open University Club Sports Report 2021 Annual General Meeting**

### **OU Cricket Club**

Although outside the reporting period of the current annual report, it is a matter of grave concern that despite all other clubs in our region having resumed cricketing activities, strictly adhering to the guidance issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board, and even though the OU Club has been clear that the University is closed the OU has lagged behind and not been actively communicating about when cricketing activities could resume on the OU grounds. As a result, many of our members have left the club and we are currently just about managing to field a depleted team for Saturday league after having had to pull out from mid-week league and any Sunday friendlies for this season. Also, we have had to rent another ground as our 'home' ground for this season to satisfy league requirements. This is obviously an additional financial burden on the cricket club that we could have done without if we were allowed access to OU grounds. Having said that, I would like to thank the OU Club (especially Susan Scime) for expediting risk assessment from the university health and safety team for the cricket club such that we are at least able to play cricket at external venues.

*Mahesh Anand*

### **OU Cycling Club**

Over the last couple of years, the Cycling Club has lost some of our core committee members who were mainly responsible for organising our activities, and we did not get enough volunteers in 2020 to fill all committee vacancies. Although the bulk of our cycling activity was always carried out off campus, we are still unable to use Walton Hall as a meeting point. So, due a combination of lack of volunteers and Covid restrictions, most organised activities (such as our regular lunchtime training rides) have been suspended. The other main benefit of the club was access to cycle spares and tools on Walton Hall campus for commuter cyclists; many members unable to utilise this benefit have decided not to renew membership in 2021. The club continues in name with a small number of members but if no further volunteers step forward it is likely that we will need to officially close the club later this year.

### **OU Golf Society**

It has been a strange and challenging year for the OU Golf Society, with COVID-19 affecting (like other clubs) the OU Golf Society events for 2020.

We were perhaps lucky in that we were able to play some golf towards the end of the year at Woburn GC, Bicester GC and Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands GC. All followed the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time at the respective clubs, but this did not prevent us from having some good days out playing golf. Our last event of 2020 at John O'Gaunt fell victim to the second lockdown and sadly did not take place.

Like many clubs we were unable to hold an AGM for 2020, although Chair's and Treasurers reports were circulated. Additionally, suggestions for 2021 venues were sought in the event that COVID restrictions would be gradually lifted.

With the gradual easing of COVID restrictions the Society has been able to play two events this year (subject to the COVID restrictions in place at the time), but our yearly coaching session fell victim to lockdown. We currently have further society days planned these being subject to any ongoing COVID restrictions in place at the time of the event.

*Tony Coyne*

## **OU Running Club**

Until very recently, members of the OU Running Club have not met up officially since the pandemic began. The annual Relay Race was cancelled in 2020 and there are currently no plans to stage it this year. The monthly lunchtime races (5k, 5m and 10k) have been held virtually with members running a course of their choosing and submitting their time online to add to the monthly results. The OURC 'Tour', where 5k, 5m and 10k races are run in one week in October, was also run in this way last year, i.e., as monthly virtual races.

Two weekly training sessions run by members have restarted, initially with instructions for runners to follow on their own runs, but more recently, members have started to run together off campus as we edge back to normality.

We now have a new club t-shirt and vest, which over the last few months was designed, ordered and mailed out to some 45 runners who placed orders. We are grateful to the OU Club for subsidising the cost of these garments.

In July, we'll be holding our AGM, at which we'll discuss what the new 'normal' for the club might look like. Certainly, a positive aspect of the virtual races is that staff and students living away from the MK campus have been able to participate, and that's something that we would like to see continue, integrated with the group races on campus.

The Running Club does not have a membership as such, but we do maintain a mailing list which currently has 178 subscribers.

## **Table Tennis**

The table tennis club has been dormant since March 2020. All sessions have been cancelled and no membership fee has been collected for 2020-2021. The local league matches for 2020 to 2021 season have been cancelled too. It is hopeful the 2021-2022 season can be resumed in September 2021. However, if the OU campus is not open for club uses then, we'll have to hire an external hall for our home matches, which will cost about £500 for the season.

## **Tennis**

The past year has been difficult for the club. Since March 2020, the courts have been closed and we have been unable to offer any club sessions; the coaching sessions that we normally offer between April and July each year were cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. There have been no Tennis MK summer league matches or recreational tennis.

The committee have continued to meet via Microsoft Teams to discuss various club communications and to consider aspects that have been affected by the pandemic such as membership fees, club finances and risk assessments. One of the key decisions made by the committee was to roll over the memberships from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021 due to the fact that no Tennis was able to be played. The decision was also made to not accept any new members until further notice, which would not be before the courts re-open. Subsequently our membership numbers remain very similar to the previous year.

Our future plans are to complete the relevant paperwork and communications to enable the courts to re-open in alignment with the Universities re-opening timeframes. Our court surfaces may also need some maintenance due to the lack of playing on them and prolonged exposure to the elements.

We hope to be back playing soon!

### **Ultimate Frisbee**

Unfortunately, we have not been able to play Ultimate at all this past year. We have a risk assessment awaiting approval from the OU's Health & Safety team and hope to resume play soon.

## **The Open University Club Affiliated Club Report 2021 Annual General Meeting**

NB: Sports clubs are NOT included in this report – they form part of the Sports Chair Report

### **OU Amateur Radio Club:**

Obviously with not being able to visit campus through most of 2020 for maintenance a lot of the outside equipment is starting to look rather sad. With help of the OU club office and Estates division we eventually managed to get a risk assessment in place to allow committee member to visit the site for essential maintenance. There are a number of outstanding tasks so the committee will work together to see how best to action these. As Amateur Radio can easily be a solitary activity, we are optimistic that the club can start up again once campus restrictions begin to ease. *Paul Maher*

### **Christian Forum**

The OU Christian Forum has two main (weekly) activities – both of which have flourished during the past year.

- On Monday lunchtimes our studying the bible together has been enriching. We have been able to use different approaches and most recently been getting to grips with one of the Old Testament prophets, [Ezekiel](#). So much to say to us about how we fit into the bigger picture, along with many encouragements, tips and challenges for our daily living.
- Thursday lunchtimes we share the needs we are each aware of, including any prayer requests from colleagues and friends across the university (and beyond). As we pray we find a great sense of being listened to, and frequently find the things we have been praying for over the weeks being answered.
- Although being online has not been the best option for all of our members, we have been able to meet some new colleagues we had not met before.

As always, we are grateful for the collaboration of people from various groups working together to present the OU Carol Concert – and especially this year to present the first on-line version – we received a lot of enthusiastic and appreciative feedback at a time when many were feeling the challenges of the prolonged lock-down.

For more information or support from the Christian Forum please contact [john.lambert@open.ac.uk](mailto:john.lambert@open.ac.uk)



### **Core Fitness**



OU Core Fitness Club has not been running for the last year, due to the pandemic, although many members have been participating in the online classes that are arranged by our Tutor, open to the general public to book. We are extremely grateful to Hannah for putting these on. Our 4th AGM is scheduled for Thursday 11 November 2021.

*Jess Podd: OU Core Fitness Club Secretary*

### **Craft Club**

No monies spent, no cost to join the club.

We are starting to meet via Microsoft teams fortnightly.

No plans to meet on site or off site. *Debbie Crouch*

### **Gardening Club**

No meetings since March 2020. *Deb Shann*

### **Go Club**

The Go Club has continued to meet on Tuesday evenings, but online at <https://online-go.com/> rather than in person. Perhaps we can gather across some Go boards soon? Members also took part in some of the online tournaments that have been organised, with varying degrees of success. *Tim Hunt*

### **Hula Fit**

Nothing since March 2020, but I am trying to get approval for outdoor classes at my home now that restrictions are easing in areas of recreation, sport and physical activity. *Natalie Coleman*

### **Open Film Society**

The main FilmSoc points to note over the last 12 months:

We have kept the website functioning and up to date over the time of the pandemic.

We have published a monthly newsletter to keep in touch with members.

Some committee members have joined web-based viewing sessions to evaluate films for possible future screening. We have renewed our subscription to Cinema for All (formerly known as the British Federation of Film Societies).

The Society is in good standing with all our external suppliers having no unpaid invoices.

*Peter Twomey OFS Treasurer*

### **Open Theatre Group**

The OTG has been ticking over with various online projects with other groups.

The main issue we have are performing venues and the access thereto, Zoom/Teams/Skype have their limitations. *Michael Spours*

### **OU Orchestra Club**

As with all OU Clubs, the Orchestra has been unable to meet on campus since March 2020. As there is currently no software or app on the market that allows musicians to play together in real time, we have been unable to rehearse together for 15 months and are VERY keen to recommence face to face rehearsals on campus as soon as possible. Despite the many technical problems preventing us from playing together, including the requirement to purchase studio-quality microphones and not exclude members who are not online, the Orchestra committee has continued to meet periodically over the last 15 months, held some very well attended 'social' Zoom get-togethers with members and held our AGM on line in November 2020.

More recently, members of the orchestra have been invited to 'pay to play' socially distanced rehearsals set up by fellow musicians locally which commence in June. Take up from our members has been extensive demonstrating their desire to play again together once campus restrictions are lifted, and to be able to give our concerts for the benefit of the OU and wider MK community and, of course, our local schools. The Orchestra committee is looking to the Club at this AGM to give us advice and guidance as to when the orchestra can book rehearsal space on campus and recommence rehearsals. We would be very happy to work with the Club and Estates on the processes of opening up for larger groups and would be very happy to support Estates in testing the acoustics of the newly refurbished Hub Theatre as soon as it becomes available.

Obviously given the inability to play together the Orchestra Committee has suspended member subscriptions until such time as we can recommence regular rehearsals. *Sue Pearce*

### **OUTrips Club**

Our 4th full year operating as an affiliated club has been somewhat curtailed by the Covid-19 stopping all trips face to face.

However, that didn't stop us! We have held a regular Friday night online meeting every 4 to 6 weeks and we've kept in touch with regular emails.

#### ***What we've been up to!***

We've had 'cocktails and chats' (non-alcoholic beverages were also welcome), quizzes and photo tours around some of the favourite locations including Budapest, Iceland, Black Forest hosted by committee and our members. We are always looking for volunteers for that!

The committee have worked with many of our wonderful members to host interactive online get togethers that they have suggested, including a virtual photo trip to Cadburys World with real chocolate tasting along the way, an informative and fun sensory journey through Gin tasting, an educational wine tasting experience and even working with local experts (not just our in-house beer advisor Brandon) such as MK Biergarten who collaborated with us to host a beer tasting evening.



We have also got a cocktail master class, cheese and chocolate tasting in the planning stages.

***Trips & Travel***

We have 3 trips currently booking 1) Tuscany which has had to move again to hopefully May 2022 (just waiting for confirmation) 2) Bath in December 3) Imagna Valley in October 2022. See our [website](#) for more information

We are working closely with our suppliers to ensure if a trip does go ahead, it will adhere to government social distancing guidelines. The importance of having good relationships with our suppliers means we were able to invite Success Tours to one of our online events to have a better understanding from the travel industries side about how they are impacted by COVID-19 and the consequences for them as a business. This also has helped the committee to understand a different perspective as the Government guidelines have not always been clear.

As always before any trips take place, we need to get a OU H&S Risk Assessment approved. As we write this report, we are unable to organise trips with transport coach until government guidelines change, hence we have not put any on sale such as the historic homes visits, we had originally organised.

We are pleased to have two new committee members Jess Podd and Cybelle Batcup who joined the committee this year. Welcome both! And although Brandon and Joy (both retired) and Debi have officially left the OU, they are continuing with OU trips. We wish them all the best for the future.

Our social media continues to grow with over 410 people on our Facebook group (OU Trips) and we have over 1200 members on our email list.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all at OU Club for their support and to our followers for their patience and support, whilst we try and deal with changes to the trips as we hear about them.

*OU Trips Committee*

## **RocSoc**

Rocsoc have been hosting regular online coffee for its members in EEES all year. Using Gather Town you can pick your avatar and 'walk around' the 'Town', with 'boxed' spaces for small group chats.

More recently they are looking to organise some sporting activities and small group meetings face to face offsite following social distancing rules.

## **Salsa Club**

After a long break we restarted the club giving on-line Zoom classes for both Salsa and Bachata. Obviously been very difficult as they are both partner dances but with the judicious use of inverted brooms, mops, stuffed toys etc in place of partners we have struggled through. Unfortunately, attendance has petered out just lately so sometimes the classes are really just a chat about Salsa rather than actually dancing. We are poised to go though, so if partner dancing outside becomes viable again soon, we will be able to resurrect some of our classes and hopefully attract some new people. *Paul Maher*

## **Step Club**

Nothing since March 2020, but I am trying to get approval for outdoor classes at my home now that restrictions are easing in areas of recreation, sport and physical activity. *Natalie Coleman*

## **STRONG**

There has not been much happening with the OUCDG during lockdowns. Neither Zumba or STRONG classes made it online. *Natalie Mott*

## **Tai Chi Club**

Due to the Open University campus closure and National COVID-19 health concerns, the OU Tai Chi Club has been unable to meet for Tai Chi sessions.

Gill Hughes, our tutor, has been offering independent open Zoom sessions for Qi-Gong during this period; and several OU Tai Chi Club members have been delighted to attend those sessions. Such sessions have not formed part of the OU Tai Chi Club and the OU Tai Chi Club has not paid or received fees towards these sessions.

The OU Tai Chi Club members look forward to meeting up and attending sessions on campus when this becomes possible and viable. Currently there are no plans in place to resume Tai Chi sessions.

The current Committee members have agreed to continue to stand until such time as the OU Tai Chi Club resumes its activities and is able to hold an AGM.

The OU Tai Chi Club wishes to thank the current Committee members for their work during the closure year. We have much appreciated the assistance from Sue Spurr who stepped in to cover as Acting-Chair during Caroline's convalescence.

*Sandi Parks, Secretary; Andy Braidley, Treasurer; Caroline Malone, Chair and Gill Hughes, Tutor.*

## **OU Theatre Group Bookers Club**

Following the closure of theatres on 16th March 2020, we have not been able to organise a single trip to a theatre since that date.

Since the start of the pandemic we've had to reschedule over £85,000 worth of tickets (sometimes multiple times) and refund over £20,000 to our members where shows have been cancelled due to Covid-19 with no alternative date offered at that time.

We are in the final stages of getting an OU risk assessment approved for people to attend MK theatre as soon as it can open with the 'See it Safely' guidelines in July (fingers crossed). Huge thanks to Claire G. at OU H&S and Susan and members of the OU Club committee for their support. Currently we are unable to organise coach trips until the government guidance and hence OU guidance changes. This is the main reason why we've not booked for the socially distanced shows that are now back open in London, despite there being demand from the group.

Our London shows have been rescheduled to later in the year when we hope things will be sufficiently settled to allow the theatres to open safely. These London shows are regularly over 50% off full ticket price.

We've continued to host online Q&A events with West End and Broadway stars and ensemble members including insights into the role of swings, and dance captains; Creatives (producers, directors, company, choreographers and stage managers) and behind the scenes folks (wardrobe, makeup) throughout the year.

In May and June we hosted 4 live performances, 1 full concert with musical director, writer and superstar Nick Barstow and then West End Your Way events with West End stars Louise Dearman, Oliver Tompsett and Ricardo Afonso.

This was our 21st birthday year as we've been selling tickets under some guise for that long and our 11th year as OUTGBC. We look forward to next year!!!

We've already sold over 700 for the Jack and the Beanstalk panto in 2021 featuring Diversity this December. Please see our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for all details of the fabulous new shows booking.

Our social media continues to grow with nearly 500 people on Facebook and over 430 people on Twitter, and we have over 1300 members on our email list.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all at OU Club for their support and thank you to all our bookers who have been patiently waiting news from the ticketing agencies on a show by show basis. *Louise Thomas OUTGBC Treasurer*

## **Zumba**

There hasn't been much happening with the OUCDG during lockdowns. Neither Zumba or STRONG classes made it online. *Natalie Mot*

## The Open University

### Nations and Regions Club Report 2021 Annual General Meeting

The activities of the Manchester OU Club have been limited due to the ongoing lockdown.

#### 1. *OU Club Manchester Playlist*

A member of staff at the Manchester office has created a number of Spotify playlist for people to listen too.

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 1

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2Mf3agtNliQOF1XJONrTzN>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 2

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/46wyysOdYQfEX5i4CGo5QD>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 3

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7cMxbjXxqvHaMMkesITWCT>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 4

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3Bx1ZG9Y3EXP8UVol83w3X>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 5

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7zqmEYNkacrQecTGFHgPYP>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 6

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/46uBsyKCK5QX2dXrwjuD2d>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 7

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5tf4PyXxAdFTeWIEyEo2dM>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 8

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1j12HyckpOTo70sNpNjvhvK>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 9

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5mmMJ7lqymIaO5PGt1rlkQ>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 10

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0CbJ7NimyEA7Gdf9wwov8g>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 11

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/46wyysOdYQfEX5i4CGo5QD>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 12

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0Q2FjyfCioPVbx9pVJDtkp>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 13

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/22PcGGG5ziJwDAWyz7IMV>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 14

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/66ljCUluWMecxsZBdFMNkf>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 14

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/15jv4oECTuPWUtkDEx54y>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 16

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3UI5fKtXkgObdDKWUT8R5p>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 17

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0iZPKBrcadDefZWuxColkl>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 18

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3d07db8X8F5lt4enk9p4Oi>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 19

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3c3a18mF96MaRbsRjrYqa>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 20

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3UHUqy8ePo5tqtGtAuSZtT>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 21

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1sNoAEBAuKdKI25fqw77oA>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 22

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5OYrJ61kOOOyyMK0QeUdXY>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 23

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0xarSTWxK0QUbw1v5yBdh>

Now That's What I Call Max Music Vol 24

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/33iYeWhMgvJtvnJ3KK25Ve>

## **2. Online Christmas Quiz**

The Manchester Office normally holds a Christmas Quiz for staff and this year the quiz was held online using Microsoft Teams.

## **3. Online Murder Mystery Event**

This was an online Murder Mystery event which was booked with a local group and was attended by 20 plus members of OU Staff.

## **4. Christmas Charity Event**

The Wood Street Mission has a Christmas Charity drive to provide gifts for children 0-14 to support struggling families. The OU Club wanted to help and asked staff to donate their favourite book from their childhood. Staff informed the club of the book they wanted to donate and transferred the money into the OU Club account before we purchased all the items and dropped them off at the mission.

The following books were donated, and the charity also used the same idea for their 2021 Easter campaign.

Book Title	Why I've chosen this book.
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	My favourite book as a child, and probably as an adult as well
Each Peach Pear Plum	Beautiful book about repetition and rhyme and getting (very) young children enthusiastic about reading. My kids loved it.
Tom's Midnight Garden	I read this one in my youth and found it to be brilliant
The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse	It's a beautiful book which can be enjoyed by all ages.
To Kill a Mockingbird	This was set a text when I was at secondary school. I remember it so vividly which is probably a reflection of how well it is written. A beautiful and moving story about growing up and the loss of innocence. I suspect that it's more suitable for children towards the higher end of the age range.
The Colour of Magic	I'd say aimed at top of the age range. If you like it, you love it. It's the first of a series of related / unrelated stories set in the same Discworld so may open up much pleasure for someone.
The Witches	Too long ago to remember, but I just loved it, and then I loved the film.
The Hobbit	It's the book that opened up the pleasure of reading for me.
Danny the Champion of the World	One of my favourite books as a child
The Fib and Other Stories	A really funny book about kids at school and what they get up to.
The Twits	It's my all-time favourite book and everyone loves Roald Dahl.
Whatever next!	Both my children loved this when I used to read to them at bedtime
The Cat in the Hat	Who doesn't love the Cat in the Hat?!
Mary Poppins, Mrs Pepperpot in the Magic Wood	Favourite books from childhood
Walk Two Moons	This was my favourite book growing up. I read it so much I damaged the spine! I would recommend it for the older age group 11+.
James and the Giant Peach	This is my favourite children's Roald Dahl story and all children should get the opportunity to read Roald Dahl!



**The Open University  
OU Club Report 2020/2021**

**Annual General Meeting Business Services & Planning Manager Estates (NF) on behalf of  
Director of Estates**

This year has been a difficult one with COVID and the Governments working from home policy placing significant restrictions on club activities. In addition, moving forward any return to site will need to follow all University guidance and specific H&S procedures. These include the submission of Risk Assessments before Affiliated Club activities are allowed to return to site. Outdoor activities have commenced in some areas following the relaxation of Government rules and regulations, these include being able to play Football, Golf and to go Cycling.

We have recognised the superb efforts put in by some of our clubs who have revised their ways of working to included changing presentation methods, allowing social and wellbeing activities to take place. Well done on your efforts and thank you for the forethought and plans which you have made.

Turning to the future, to further support these initiatives along with working from home activities, TV screens and presentation equipment have been installed in the club studio. We are looking to further extend these services into the Church, the Pavilion Activity room and possibly the Green Room.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to undertake any of our scheduled events such as our annual OU Club fayre. We are looking toward welcoming you once again to this event once our facilities are open again and social distancing regulations have been lifted.

Our OU Club and Affiliated Club websites have been assessed with a view to confirming that they are GDPR compliant. Our Club Co-ordinator has been busy performing this work along with the planning of a revamp of the OU Club webpage. Additions to our Wellbeing and Mental information have also been made, have a look, and see what you think. Should you have any comments or possible enhancements we would appreciate any contributions. The Club Co Ordinator and the H&S team have worked hard to ensure Risk Assessments have been completed and approved for those Clubs that have been able to continue to run their Club activities and sessions safely whilst away from campus. Thank you to Susan Scime and Claire Gallego for their continued hard work and commitment.

Special thanks need to go to the committee members for the work that they have performed during a difficult year. Although some of our committee members may have retired, they remain active on the Club Committee, so thank you for your continued support.

Noel Fernandes  
Business Services and Planning Manager - Estates

