



U3A PEGASUS BULLETIN

No 15

October 2024

Update from President Jorgen



Thank you to the 42 members who took the time to write a submission about the proposed change to Tuesday Meetings at St Mark's. We had emailed the request for information to 300

people. Four submissions were neither for nor against.

For the move: 24 (8%)

Against the move: 14 (4.6%)

The most common objection was a change to a Tuesday meeting. Two groups felt particularly affected. The Tuesday walking group and the Sumner Community Gardeners. Many submissions suggested a new U3A group needs to be established, a view supported by the committee.

The committee does not believe it can justify a move based on a low response rate like this.

There are some inevitable issues you and next year's committee have to face:

1. The MPCC Hall is too small to accommodate the membership. This can be fixed by reducing the membership or using a larger venue. At any meeting, we can only seat 120 of our 250 paying members; 50 would have to stand, and 80 would have to be denied entry. This is not a fair situation.

2. We have, in keeping with other groups, a waiting list currently 55, with an annual turnover of 22 (2024)
3. Concern has been raised about safety in the hall in case of fire or earthquake. The committee does not believe we could evacuate 120 people, let alone 170, in 3 minutes. Several mitigating proposals are being discussed.
4. Fire regulations: A maximum of 170. The seating capacity of the hall is 120.

The committee has decided:

1. To run a ballot on whether we should move to St Mark's.
2. A subcommittee, Vivienne Allan, Yvonne Boulton, and Lyn Russell, will communicate with Port Hills U3A (40 on the waiting list) and assist in setting up a new U3A independent of Pegasus U3A.

Please consider these issues carefully. They are very important – much more important than your personal preference. Please make the future of U3A your concern when you cast your vote.

In addition to this, we are facing some staffing issues. Paul Hammonds has decided to retire after 10+ years. Caroline Carlton will be leaving as she has travel plans; Vivienne Allan is leaving after years of service. This leaves a complicated gap as she maintains our website, newsletters, and bulletins. I will also leave as my two years as president end at the AGM. I will not be serving on the committee as I believe old presidents should not be hanging around. I will enjoy an ordinary membership.

We have a vast amount of talent and experience amongst our members. It is time to stand up and let someone nominate you for committee work.

You will receive two emails in the next few days. One will contain a form for nominating a person to the committee. You can print it or use the format to make your own as long as it has the same information. It is ok to handwrite it on a piece of paper.

Another separate email will be the ballot paper. We will simplify this, and you can, having read the information in this Bulletin, reply to the email with your preferred option. The last day of voting by email is the 30th of October. Members without email will receive a printed voting form, and the same deadline applies.

Looking forward to your responses and a clear road forward.

Jorgen Schousboe



Reminder for Monday 21 October

Our guest speaker is Peter Field, lecturer at Canterbury University. His subject will be the influence of religion on US politics. With the US election only a few weeks away, his talk promises to be very topical.

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