

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF THE EASTWOOD DISTRICT U3A EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 12th December, 2022 at 1.30 pm at Greasley Community
Centre

Present: Keith Sherwood, Barry Doran, Marianne Sparrow, Janet Lander, Anne Sparrow, Madeleine Fletcher and Doris Fellows

Apologies: from Chrys Millington and Linda Rothwell

Minutes: of the last meeting were accepted.

Matters arising: It was confirmed that an induction meeting has taken place with Madeleine and Marianne. Doris is to make an appointment for hers.

Chair's report :Nothing specific to report

Treasurer's report : has been sent out online. Janet is to send a thank you card to Hands Butchers for their delicious mince pies and cakes, which were provided at a discount

Business Secretary's report :Nothing specific to report

Membership report :Barry explained that the national U3A board received a lot of flak when they raised the membership fees. They have now stated that in future, they will give a better justification and ample warning to each U3A in advance of any increase.

Volunteers report :This is going smoothly and it helps to have the names in the newsletter. It would be good to have a regular team to set up beforehand, but if no one is willing, then we will use a rota of helpers.

Welfare report: Marianne attended Kath Gascoyne's funeral, since she was a member of the Theatre group, and reported that her interest and enjoyment of the U3A was mentioned as part of the

eulogy. Chris is to be asked to send a card to Sheila Bowerman, who is not well.

Group Co-ordinators' Report: Group contacts have been invited to attend a short meeting on Wednesday 5th January (pm) or Thursday 6th (am) at Brinsley Hall meeting place. The rent for the rooms will be paid by Keith. Anne, Marianne and Madeleine have met to look at the leaflet and concluded that it needs a complete overhaul. Madeleine is to prepare an A4 sheet with all the relevant and up-to-date information, which will be checked over at the January meetings for accuracy. They can then be printed ready for the February launch.

Maple House Clinic in Eastwood have created an annexe, which is a possible future meeting place for groups.

Monthly meetings :91 members and 6 visitors attended the December meeting. Unfortunately, the speaker's car broke down, but the day was saved by Judith Queripel who led a carol singing session. This was an enjoyable alternative. The refreshments were delicious. The January speaker will talk about the Dogs' Trust.

There were still some problems with sound for those attending on Zoom. Ray is keen for us to persist with the hybrid version, because it makes us inclusive and can include those who are unable or reluctant to attend. We need to find a designated Zoom Controller, who can admit members from home. A plea for this will be included in the newsletter.

February launch / open day: The chairs in the hall will need stacking in advance so that enough tables can be put up. Group contacts are to be asked to come early so that they can help to get everything and their own table ready.

Refreshments are to be available continuously during the morning, so Doris will talk to Linda.

Janet has prepared sign up forms to be used by each group. U3A rules state that we cannot state that a group is closed, so if necessary, the sign up will be for a waiting list. We will particularly promote two potential new groups: Technology in the Home, organised by Sandra Burns and a second Reading group, organised by Sue Daykin.

Publicity: Marianne will advertise the event on different forms of social media. Janet is to create a draft poster that will be adapted at the next committee meeting and printed off to be displayed in local venues.

Margaret is to be asked about printing the posters and new leaflets.

Website: Anne's contact has looked at the website and concluded that it is not secure, and that there are glitches e.g. links that do not lead anywhere. Margaret has also suggested updates that would help her to make it more interesting, through uploading photos, etc. Following several conversations, different recommendations have been made, including a one-off upgrade and then monthly monitoring and updating, which would involve a regular financial commitment. It was agreed that we should give the go ahead to the upgrade, but that the monthly or quarterly payment would be too much of a financial commitment for us. If necessary, we could revisit this in the future. It was pointed out that the old website still exists, so its removal will be part of the process. The improved website will look very much the same, but will be easier to navigate and can be made more interesting. Anne will familiarise herself with the new software so that she can keep an eye on it. As a result, she will not be able to take over the production of the newsletter as she initially intended. This is another plea to put into the newsletter.

A.O.B.

David Willey has offered an apology to go into the next newsletter, following some complaints about the Ludolf cartoon in the December edition.

We discussed whether it is possible to make the cups used at the meeting more eco-friendly. Doris to talk to Linda.

Date and location of next meeting :January 9th at 1.30pm at Greasley Community Centre.