

Eastwood U3A Committee Minutes

Of a meeting held on 10th October, 2022

Apologies:None

Present: Keith Sherwood, Barry Doran, Janet Lander, Linda Rothwell, Marianne Sparrow, Doris Fellows, Anne Steel, Madeleine Fletcher and Chrys Millington

Minutes: of the last meeting were approved. Further to our discussion about making a donation to the Scouts, a collection was made at Highfields of £39 and this was received with thanks by them.

The committee approved the payment to Andrea for special ribbons that were used on the sashes at the 40th anniversary events

Chairman's Report: The 40th anniversary celebrations all went well – walking with the beacon, publicity in Morrisons and the Flashdance at Highfields Park. Congratulations and many thanks to all those who gave up their time and made this a really special event.

Treasurer's Report: This was sent out in advance on email. We have not had to pay many expenses this month. There are ongoing issues with NatWest following the change in trustees, which we hope to sort out. They have tried to charge us for a cheque that bounced – Keith sorting this out.

Business Secretary: The Charity Commissioners have been informed about the change in trustees. Keith is to inform HMRC.

Volunteers Report: There have been some issues that need addressing, and some elements of good practice have got lost during the pandemic and its aftermath.

1. The names and roles of next month's volunteers should be in the newsletter – Doris to inform Margaret
2. Banners should be put out each time
3. It is essential that we find members to set out tables so that committee members are freer on the morning
4. Volunteers should be sought for a couple of months in advance where possible

Janet has created a spreadsheet of volunteers, so that Doris can use this in her new role as volunteers' co-ordinator. Andrea Sadler has offered to help her to fulfil this role. It was suggested that at the next meeting, Marianne will

introduce Doris to the meeting, so that everyone knows who to talk to, rather than the previous organisers. Janet will print off sign up sheets for Doris. Already, some members have volunteered to help with setting up.

Volunteers needed each month:

Refreshments – 4

Meet and Greet – 2

Signing in – 4

Setting up – 4

The committee did agree that they could still help where necessary.

A “buddy” scheme for new members was suggested and this is something that we will look at again next month – and hopefully the new members’ coffee mornings will start up again. Job descriptions for each role need updating – to look at next month

Welfare Report: Chrys reported that no one had required a card or visit this month. During the Bird Watching trip, a member had been taken ill and a report was sent in by Colin Fletcher. Fortunately, the person involved is all right.

Membership Report: We now have 261 members. There were 84 at the latest meeting, and 4 on Zoom. Unfortunately, this did not work correctly. Despite some members having a negative attitude towards Zoom, we still feel that it is worth persevering in order to be inclusive, particularly with the colder months approaching.

Barry has sent off the data for those who receive U3A Matters.

Six new visitors attended, most of them because they had picked up leaflets in Morrisons. Barry pointed out that it is difficult for him to welcome new members, whilst letting people in on Zoom. Marianne and Janet offered to learn how to take over this job, so that he can concentrate upon his membership secretary role.

Group Co-ordinators’ Report: Marianne, Anne and Madeleine have met as a group and split the groups into three. Each co-ordinator will contact their groups and check their progress and any issues. Groups will be encouraged to send in reports for the newsletter and to update information on the website.

In addition, if there are any spaces, then this will be advertised each month. It was pointed out that we are not allowed officially to say that a group is full, although practical considerations mean that there is a limit to how many a venue or organiser can cope with. It is better to have a waiting list, and encourage large groups to find someone who will lead a second group. Theatre group is very large, and it was suggested that Marianne might ask for members who could assist her – maybe organising trips to specific venues. She is also working on re-starting the Photography group and agreeing a venue and time.

Margaret is also looking for new members for All Things Environmental

Online Development Report: Margaret was praised for her excellent bumper 100th edition of the newsletter. Anne is to help her with the newsletter, with a view to taking it over eventually. We still need a website administrator – and this could be mentioned at the next monthly meeting.

Publicity: Fliers and posters were displayed at the last meeting, and should be put out each month. There is an event at the church on November 26th, when Judith and Frank Queripel have offered to publicise the U3A. It was agreed that we should ask Margaret for 100 small fliers and 30 posters. 50 of the fliers will go to the church event, and the rest are for the committee to give out and use as publicity. It was agreed that we should not do too many at the moment, because other groups are in the process of re-generating or starting and can be added to the list.

Launch 2023: The date chosen is February 1st, 2023, and it will take place in our usual venue at the church. Tables will be set out with representatives from as many groups as possible, and information about their activities. Janet has offered to create fliers for each group in matching formats, and a form for anyone to sign up their interest so that this could be followed up by individual groups. There will not be a speaker, but refreshments will be served.

Publicity for this event is essential – and this will be discussed at the next meeting – use of social media, posters, fliers in local venues

A.O.B.

The November meeting will be about the Gunpowder Plot. At the Christmas meeting – December 8th, there will be notices, then the speaker, and then refreshments – mince pies and biscuits. It was agreed that this should be a free

event – and advertised as such in the newsletter. The topic will be The Gettysburg Address, which sounds interesting.

Ann McGillivray has pointed out that it is only two years to our 10th anniversary, and this should be kept in mind by the committee in their planning – it will arrive very quickly.

Date and venue of the next meeting: at 1.30 pm at Greasley Community Centre on November 7th 2022