

Eastwood District U3A Executive Committee

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 15th May 2023 at 1.30 pm at
Greasley Community Centre**

Present: Keith Sherwood, Barry Doran, Janet Lander, Marianne Sparrow, Doris Fellowes, Anne Steel, Linda Rothwell, Chrys Millington and Paul Bettridge (observer)

Apologies: Madeleine Fletcher

Minutes of Meeting held on 03/04/2023 were approved with the following amendment – Linda was not present as stated.

Matters Arising: It was clarified that a visitor not already in the U3A can visit a group meeting informally as part of their two free visits, if there is no waiting list

Treasurer's Report: already sent. We are in a healthy position. It was noted that the Social B account is for the tea money. The accounts need to be carried forward and Keith would like some advice about how to do this. Anne is to ask Andy Flett, our new member who is skilled at ICT. Our accounts are in the process of being audited. The purchase of a set of cards for the Canasta group was approved.

Website: This has been brought up to scratch and Anne's contact has now suggested that we have it upgraded, then possibly put onto a monthly contract so that this can be a continuous process. The cost of the upgrade is £125 and the monthly charge is £45. Barry is to contact Chris Niven so that she can ask at the Network meetings what other local U3A groups to maintain their website. His other option is to consult the U3A Forum. Then we can make a decision – the mood of the meeting leaned towards a yearly upgrade and thought that the monthly costs could take too much out of our finances.

Membership Report: We have 306 members, although there are still a few who have not yet renewed, possibly due to issues with technology. There were 122 members at the last monthly meeting and 6 visitors. There are fewer members on Zoom – just one last meeting.

Groups: There are six members who are interested in joining Andy Flett's ICT group. Anne is in the process of finding out what each one is hoping to gain from the group and will pass that on to Andy. He cannot start the group until July, due to commitments.

Val Kennerell does not feel able to continue as the leader for the Strollers group. No-one has yet stepped forward to take over, but Marianne will email all the members to ask again.

The Wine Appreciation group is moving to the Hayloft from this month – 7pm on the 1st Monday of the month. There are no groups meeting any more at the Sun Inn.

Marianne consulted with the committee when there were spare places on the Newark and Sherwood trip, organised by Sandra. It was decided that it is listed on Beacon as a group, so that she can email members who have shown an interest, but that it is not a group in our usual sense, but rather a social activity. It is therefore appropriate to offer spare places to friends and families of those already in the group. The precedent was the recent disco.

Volunteers: We are a bit short for next meeting, so Doris will ring around, using the spreadsheet. She asked Barry if offers of help from new members in their registration form could be passed on.

Newsletter: Sandra Burns completed the May edition and is also doing the June one, but does not wish to take over the job permanently. Many thanks to her for stepping up to fill the gap during Margaret's busy time. It was felt that it is unfair to expect Margaret to just continue, and that since there has been no response to repeated requests at meetings and in the newsletter, eventually we may have to pause it and hope that then someone comes forward. It would certainly be better to have at least two people to do it to share the load.

AGM: Tom Higginbottom is booked to chair the meeting and Barry will write a brief report, outlining the main themes of the year –e.g. the launch, new venues, increased attendance at monthly meetings.

We have five new members who have signed up to join the committee, which is great. Janet has prepared the calling notice, which Barry will send out to everyone. Margaret has kindly printed out copies of last year's AGM minutes. Keith will print out copies of the accounts.

The AGM speaker has let us down and the possible replacement is very wary of using any form of Zoom, so there will not be a speaker at the AGM. Instead, there will be extended social time – and cake will be provided.

AOB: The two retiring members of the committee, Linda Rothwell and Chrys Millington were thanked for their support – and for all the previous years of service that they have given to our U3A in different roles.

Marianne explained that she is about to gain a puppy which will restrict her attendance at all groups for the next six weeks or so. She gave her apologies in advance.

Our advert will appear in the next edition of Community News in the next couple of weeks.

Newsletter items – reminders about safe parking and donations towards coffee, that members cannot pay membership fees through Beacon, that there will be no speaker at the AGM, but cake will be provided

Date of next meeting: Monday, 26th June at Greasley Community Centre at 1.30pm.