

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastwood District U3A Executive Committee on 9th October, 2023

Present: Barry Doran, Keith Sherwood, Janet Lander, Madeleine Fletcher, Anne Steele, Doris Fellows, Sharon Dudley, Paul Bettridge, Roger Kidd

Apologies: Marianne

Chairman's Report: Barry has received two letters of resignation from the committee: one from Anna Frost, who works part time and will re-consider her position in the future, and Marta Stimpson, who has also not been able to attend the meetings. In addition, we have received a message from Marianne, explaining the circumstances around her new puppy, which are preventing her from attending meetings at the moment. It was felt that we would like to retain Marianne on the committee, and that she can still play a useful part from home as part of the group co-ordinators. We very much hope that the measures that she is putting into place start to be effective, and thank her for her sterling work on the committee so far.

Minutes : of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record. Any matters arising will be covered in other items

Treasurer's Report: has been sent out by e-mail. Our largest expenditure has been to pay £2,366.78 to the Third Age Trust, which covers the cost of the Third Age Matters magazines, usage of Beacon and our affiliation fees to the national U3A.

The tea money was £63 in October, an increase of £10 from the September meeting, with roughly the same number of attendees. This is a positive sign, although there are still a number who do not contribute anything.

Business Secretary's report : There was nothing to report, apart from scam emails, purporting to be from the Charity Commission.

Volunteers' Report: The tea group are very reliable, and we have a few volunteers who are setting up regularly. The other volunteers' list has been less successful and members do not look at it at the back of the hall. As a result, Doris has had to ring people up regularly. It was felt that we should re-instate the display board, and that every meeting, before refreshments, we need to remind people to sign up,

to make Doris's role easier. Janet is to prepare a poster to put up, reminding everyone, and we can also put up a slide on the screen

Welfare Report: Three cards have been sent out – a sympathy card to Kathy Warren, whose husband has died, and get well cards to Mary Edwards, who has had a fall, and one to Howard Walters, who is in hospital.

Membership Secretary: We now have 305 members. Five have joined this month, three the month before. New members' meetings are still to be arranged. Anne has offered to take over from Barry eventually, and so he is mentoring her at the moment.

Committee Roles: Marianne can officially remain as Vice-Chairman, and can continue the role of a Group Co-ordinator remotely from home.

Monthly Meeting: The meetings are well attended, although not at the pre-pandemic levels. There were 99 at the September meeting and 97 in October, with just two on Zoom. Len Marsh has offered to admit anyone on Zoom. Barry asked the committee to arrive much earlier at the meetings, since there are a lot of jobs to do. This was felt to be a very reasonable request, and of course the IT group are there very early as well. This would enable Barry to be able to talk to new members and resolve membership issues more easily

The quality of the recent speakers has been excellent and we have had good feedback. They are booked for the next three months. Anne advised Roger to contact Derbyshire police for any potential speakers, since we have been repeatedly let down by Nottinghamshire.

It was agreed that we would repeat last year's successful December meeting when mince pies and cakes were available.

Refreshments: We are close to using up all the polystyrene cups that we already have, so need to move onto a new system. It was

announced at the last meeting, that we would be moving towards the use of re-cyclable cups. After a long discussion, it was agreed that we would purchase 500 “re-cyclable” paper cups, as well as encouraging donations of mugs to the existing church stock, and members to bring their own re-usable cups. A notice about this is to be put into the newsletter by Janet.

10th Anniversary: Paul has been in contact with Janet O’Neil about this, and the Steering Committee that founded the U3A in July 2014, are interested in helping with the arrangements. Paul is to contact her and ask her to invite any interested members from this group to a meeting, and create a Whatsapp group to share ideas and progress. This was thought to be a very good idea. He has contacted the Council and we do need permission, if we are arranging an event for a large group. He has suggested a variety of events and will report back to the committee. One of them could be another disco, like the one that is already being organised at the Miners’ Welfare. It was also suggested that the members of the Steering Group could perhaps speak at one of our meetings. Another idea was that we could have a stall outside Morrisons / Iceland – to be arranged once we have finalized the schedule of activities

Publicity/ Website: Margaret has reported that there are various glitches on the website – running slowly, links not opening. She has asked Andy, who is our IT expert and he thinks that updates do not happen automatically, and this is why it is working less efficiently. Anne has contacted Alison for advice, and will report back to the committee.

A.O.B:

1. Anne asked if we could reduce the annual cost of providing the Third Age Matters magazine, which is currently £800. It was suggested that in the January, February and March newsletters, we could explain that ticking the box to have the magazine

stays in place, unless specifically changed. We need to ensure that those who receive it are the ones who will actually read it. Roger said that he had found it useful, with discounts on holidays, so that would be worth pointing out, to encourage members to look at it.

2. Our advert in Community News has brought us some interest, and the Hucknall U3A group have followed our example
3. We have benefited from the Tai Chi speaker coming to talk to us. Several members have now joined the Tai Chi group, and some Tai chi members have now joined the U3A.
4. Madeleine asked about the confusion about the date of the last meeting, when she and Paul turned up. There had been a mix-up over communication, and Barry apologised for not letting everyone know.

Date and location of next meeting :Monday, November 6th at 1.30pm at Greasley Community Centre.