

PRESENT: Chair, P Devenport(PD) G Cucchi(GC) S Soulsby(SS) Sheila Miller(SM) Bill Coombs(BC) J Jordan (JJ) C Jordan(CJ)

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, none

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The minutes of the previous meetings on 8/8/22 and 12/9/22 were agreed as a true record. There was no meeting in October.

3) MATTERS ARISING :

4) CHAIRS REPORT:

52 members had enjoyed the afternoon tea for u3a day and it was suggested that it could become an annual event.

The hard drive on the Toshiba computer had failed and had been replaced at a cost of £90 PD proposed that there should be a mileage allowance of 45p per mile for committee members using their cars for committee meetings and other business purposes. This was **agreed** unanimously.

It was reported that a member of a struggling group had requested that it should be subsidised by more successful groups. This is not allowable but groups may be supported in the short term in the hope that they may become self-sufficient.

5) TREASURERS REPORT: BC's printed report showed a Bank Balance of £8,294.23 on 14/11/22

6) MEMBERSHIP REPORT: GC reported that no new members had joined in the past month. Current members total 213.

7) GROUPS REPORT: SS

The majority of groups are working well.

The music appreciation group has restarted and is meeting in the Chapter House on the 3rd Thursday afternoon of the month, except November. It has moved to Nov 24th to avoid clashing with the Nouveaux Beaujolais lunch.

The Christmas Crafts, 6 week course, is running smoothly with 7-12 members joining in.

The Art & painting group, which meets twice /month is a possible cause for concern. Hospital appointments & holidays are causing a fluctuation in numbers. This then affects their ability to cover the cost of hall hire. They have already agreed to increase their subs to £3/session and have an additional fund for refreshments. Marjorie Ballantine discussed this with me at the Oct meeting. I suggested we see how it balances out up until Jan to see if costs were being covered. I suggested meeting monthly, payment in advance so that hall hire is covered even with non -attendance. Neither suggestion was met with much positivity. Where do we go from here?

As other groups may encounter these problems as time goes on, how do we as a committee support them?

8) SPEAKERS REPORT: SM said that she hoped to book the Christmas Party entertainment shortly and that speakers had been arranged for the January, February and March meetings.

9) WEBSITE REPORT: Around 2,200 page visits last month, up from October. Luncheon group updated to state Anita did not wish to continue , PW given edit access for the Music appreciation page. There is no news on the replacement of Sitebuilder, due to be replaced in 2023 by Wordpress which may be a good time to recruit an extra web master.

10) FACEBOOK REPORT: There are 52 members of the group and although not many contribute it is a useful tool for communication.

11)BEACON UPDATE: Beacon - Beacon was moved to new servers, no change in functionality.

12)ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The room has been booked for the Christmas Party on 12th December. Tickets to be sold in advance as we need to provide a turkey sandwich at a price of up to £3 (and cake?) for each member attending.

JJ stated that he hoped to start the Choir/Singalong Group in January on Friday mornings at Cleadon Methodist Church.

The next Committee Meeting will be at Gillian Cucchi's house on 5th December 2022