

**Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street**  
**Committee Meeting No.91 held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 in the Eardulph Room at**  
**the Parish Centre, Chester le Street.**

**Those present:** Margaret Pescod – Acting Chair, Tony Morrell, Kathleen Atkinson, Margaret Bozic, Rachel Burton, Margaret Chilver, Anne Lanigan, Steve Willan. Mike Parker – Guest.

**Apologies for Absence:** Robert Berry, Angela Hamilton, Christine Logan, Pat Rule, Maureen Weston.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

- Approved and signed off by Margaret Pescod.

**Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**

- None.

**Review of GDPR:**

- No issues arising.

**Review of Monthly Attendance:**

- Attendance remaining stable at 31% of membership.

**Chairman's Report:**

- No report from chairman.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The 2023 accounts have been audited by Lyn Bossons and approved by the committee.
- The budget for 2024 discussed and approved based on a membership of 174.
- There is expected to be a slight loss in the year of ~£900 due to lower than predicted membership and speaker fees increasing.
- The bank balance at 14th January 2024 is £4,793.
- All financial reports circulated to committee members.
- Changes to membership subscription: pay £10 after 1st July 2024. After 1st October have a 15 month membership. This will be voted on in February A.G.M. and dependant on Beacon set up.

**Secretary's Report:**

- A query from a potential member asked if dogs could be taken on walks. Currently Cestria do not allow dogs on walks and a statement has been added to this effect on to our website. Recommend the policy be amended to reflect this in the 2025 reviews.
- After the last committee meetings members were asked if they wanted to continue receiving the Third Age Matters magazine. A number decided they didn't want it and the distribution list amended. Unfortunately the third party who distributes the magazine went out of business so the old lists were used.
- The "White Cards" for 2024 are ready and can go the printers after the February A.G.M. Will ask for 300 to be printed.
- TAT has issued a list of mandatory policies each u3a should have in place. We have them all apart from a Health and Safety Policy. TAT policy will be reviewed and sent to committee for discussion and approval.
- Membership renewals continue with reminders sent and follow up telephone calls.

**Group Coordinator's Report:**

- Group leaders meeting well attend and display boards almost complete.
- Coordinators time line to January 24 has been completed.
- Hold another group leader meeting.
- Contact members who have joined since the end of the pandemic to invite them to "taster session" for interested new group leaders.

**Membership Secretary's Report:**

- Currently 195 members including 21 members still to renew.
- 3 new members in January.

**Speaker Secretary's Report:**

- All speakers for 2024 have been booked, including the Christmas event.
- All but two speakers have told us their fee.

**Website Administrator's Report:**

- Cestria's move to SiteWorks website has been registered and we are currently number 480 on a list of 590.
- Terms and conditions for use have not yet been sent to Cestria. They are sent nearer the transfer date.
- The fee for using this site is expected to be ~ £50 based on current costs.

**A.O.B.:**

- "White Cards" can be posted to members if they send a stamped, self addressed envelope to the Secretary.
- Bridge Group. Contact members to see if there is interest in restarting. Offer a training session for those wanting to learn. **M.W.**
- Arrange a visit to the Farrell Centre in Newcastle for about 15 people. **R.B.**
- Arrange a trip to either Newby Hall or Harrogate Flower show. Coach costs to be ascertained. **K.A.**
- February 2026 will be Cestria's 20th anniversary. Celebrate in some way?
- Unanimously agreed by the committee to propose R.B. be elected Honorary President for 2024/25.

**Meeting closed at 11.55 am.**

**Next meeting 10.00am Wednesday 24th April 2024 in the Eardulph Room at the Parish Centre, Chester le Street.**

Signed:

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Dated:

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