

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 3 July 2017 at 3 Glendale Close.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Geoff Hoskin	GH	Chair
	Lesley Patterson	LP	Treasurer
	Ian Webb	IW	Website coordinator
	Anne Webb	AW	Social secretary
	Joan Wilkinson	JW	Convener coordinator for groups
	Averil Fendley	AF	Membership secretary
	Chris Cann	CC	Publicity secretary
	Pauline Wilson	PW	Business secretary

**1. Welcome:** The chair welcomed Chris Cann.

**2. Apologies for absence:** none

**3. Minutes of the last meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**4. Matters arising (not covered on agenda)**

- **(3.2)** LP reported that Healthwatch have now paid for the room hire of the Jubilee Hall
- **(6)** Third Age Matters LP reported that she had contacted Sue Winlow who has emailed a spread sheet of current names. There are 9 names plus an additional request from the Stokers. LP has also phoned U3A for clarification. The money has to be paid in May and ratified in the following February. It was agreed that all conveners will be included in the list plus anyone else who requests a copy. The cost is £2.40 per annum. IW will change the contact name on the website.

**5. Standing items- not covered on agenda**

**5.1 Chair's report** - none

**5.2 Treasurer's report**

LP reported that £3080 is now banked but there are a couple of membership fees to be added plus any other outstanding fees. The capitation fee has been paid.

**5.3 Membership secretary's report**

AF reported that 130 people have now paid their membership fees. Fiona Barry and Audrey Porkson have indicated that they wish to continue membership, but have yet to pay.

**Action:** JW will follow up with the O'Sullivan's and Pat Turner. CC will follow up with Chris and Brent Skuse

**5.4 Convener coordinator's report**

JW reported that Paul and Sue Hardwick are interested in starting a local bird watching group. IW said that there was already a regional group but they did not meet on a regular basis. Pat Lewis has agreed to take over as convener of the poetry reading group when Jane Filtness leaves.

#### **5.5. Website coordinator's report**

Nothing specific about the website, but IW said that he had been exploring the possibility of setting up an iPad user group. He has emailed out to members in order to gauge interest. Paul Hardwick is willing to be involved in running such a group if there is sufficient interest. PW commented that it would be useful to add on 'How to use windows 10'.

#### **5.6 Social secretary's report-** covered in agenda item 10

#### **5.7 Publicity secretary's report**

CC reported that she has done some work around linkage into social media. She has set up links to the 'Rothbury and Coquetdale Past and Present' website and also to 'Fishing for Compliments' and 'Northumberland Tales and Trails'. These are closed communities and it is unlikely that connections will be made to the popular universal websites. IW said that he had opened a Facebook account for the Coquetdale U3A sometime ago but it had received little interest so he had closed it down. The U3A website address will be used.

Poster display was also discussed. Previously posters had been distributed up the valley, courtesy of Karenza. It was felt that this was not necessary as there is always an advertisement of the monthly meetings in 'Over the Bridges'. However in order to capture interest of visitors to the area there would be poster displays in and around Rothbury at the following locations:

**Jubilee Hall Barclays Bank Tully's Rothbury Bakery Tourist Information Centre Library Arts Centre Phillips.**

The Webbs will display in Thropton, GH in Whittingham, and CC in Longframlington and any other location deemed appropriate. There was also discussion about a poster being available in the surgery. Whilst the surgery has a high footfall, PW said that she thought that the surgery needs to display a lot of leaflets about health and social care services and space is limited. JW would be willing to pamphlet the new houses that are being built.

#### **6. Convener's Lunch**

It was agreed that this had been a success and should be repeated on a bi-annual basis. The Webbs are willing to host again.

#### **7. Away afternoon**

GH referred to the priorities from the summary notes of the Away Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

- To increase communication and publicity for the U3A
- To have more social events
- To be more outwardly focussed, particularly in relation to our neighbouring

U3As – Wooler, Berwick and Alnwick

- To promote new groups
- To further explore our relationship with Region

### **8. New Interest Groups**

In addition to the birdwatching and iPad group, AW said that she had spoken to Adrienne to start a new group for people who would like to experience art for the first time. The venue would have to be suitable for people to paint or draw on the floor, possibly the room at the Newcastle Hotel where there is no room hire but people buy drinks. There is also the possibility of the Parish room. AW will explore.

JW suggested that some groups might only operate for a short period to learn new skills or for a specific short term interest. AW also suggested a 'Wet Saturday Afternoon Group' that could be convened on an 'ad hoc' basis to watch a DVD opera or ballet.

### **9. Welcome Pack**

GH and LP tabled the welcome pack which was well received. This comprises a folder with inserts of a welcome letter, FAQs, committee members and interest groups. JW said that it would be nice to include a local photo of Coquetdale. IW and CC will explore how that can be done. It was agreed that the welcome packs would be given to new members only. LP agreed to assemble the packs. There is also a selection of posters which are available from U3A. CC said that it would be useful to have information about our partner organisation. She will contact partner organisations.

### **10. Monthly meetings – Programme & Speakers' Fees**

GH tabled a draft programme for the monthly meetings from January 2018. He has been contacted by Philip Caine, a writer from Cumbria who is requesting £45 for travel expenses and £40 for accommodation. He is unwilling to stay with a U3A member. His presentation would be a talk titled 'Barrow to Baghdad'. It was agreed that he would be offered the travel fee only and see what the response is. The committee has agreed a sum of £300 for speakers.

GH has also been contacted by a student from Sheffield looking for participants for a research project and a finance company willing to talk about their products. Both were rejected. Draft programme attached.

**Action:** AW said that she was interested in a presentation titled 'Wearing the veil' being given to the WI. She will contact Katy Nicholls from the WI.

### **11. Social Events**

AW reported on final arrangements for the visit to Monteviot House following some allocated time at Jedburgh for refreshments and sightseeing. There are currently 40 people so she has hired the 50 seater bus. There is a timetable for the house visit as only 15 people are allowed in at any one time. People can picnic in the garden weather permitting and/or visit the garden centre. There are contingencies if the

weather is wet. AW will invoice LP for £50 to subsidise the trip. She will tip the driver £30.

AW reiterated that she would explore Langley Castle as a possible future trip. GH said that there would be a longer agenda item to discuss other options for social events at the next meeting

**12. Alnwick U3A Away Day visit to Rothbury Jubilee Hall 17<sup>th</sup> August**

GH has contacted Alnwick and will welcome them to Rothbury. Clive will talk about the local geography and geology.

**13. Information from National & Regional U3A**

GH has contacted the chairs of Wooler, Alnwick and Berwick to arrange a meeting in order to promote partnership working.

**14. Any other Business**

AF asked if the auditor, Larry Lampert had been paid. LP will check.

**15. Date and time of next meeting.**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm at Glendale Close. AF was thanked for her hospitality.