

**Minutes of on-line (Zoom) committee meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Tony Henry Chair; Pete Burrow Social activities secretary  
 Pam Campbell Business secretary ; Lesley Patterson Treasurer  
 Averil Fendley Membership secretary; Ian Webb Website coordinator  
 John Rutherford Group Convenor Co-ordinator;  
 Pauline Wilson Support to Committee

- **Apologies**  
No apologies, whole committee was present
- **Minutes of last meeting**  
Accepted as a true record.
- **Questionnaire Results and the Way Forward**  
Pam presented the results, as follows:-
  - 20 responses out of 172 (minus 7 committee members = 167), so 12% response rate
  - 10 responses by email, 10 by post
  - 18 intending to re-join
  - Groups that people wanted to join/re-join:

|                        |                              |                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Art Appreciation 5     | History 3                    | Vegetarian & Vegan cookery 1 +2? |
| Bird Watching 3        | History Books 2+ ?           | Walking 3                        |
| Book club 3 +1 ?       | Image editing & Manipulation | Words and Pictures ?             |
| Ceilidh Dancing 3      | Music Appreciation 2         |                                  |
| Computers 4            | Nordic Walking               |                                  |
| Creative Writing 1 + ? | Photography                  |                                  |
| Cycling                | Poetry 2                     |                                  |
| Discussion Group 4+2?  | Railways & modelling         |                                  |

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Food & Drink 1 | Supported Arts & Crafts<br>2 + ? |
| Gardening 1    | Table Tennis 3 +?                |

Additional groups requested: Classics, Philosophy

- 12 were keen to join U3A social activities  
5 not wanting to join social activities  
3 uncertain
- 12 keen to join theatre trips and outings in 2021  
7 not keen  
1 uncertain
- Keen to join on-line Christmas Quiz: 7  
Not interested 12 (1 No answer)
- Numbers using on-line communication platforms: 11
- Other communication media used: Facebook, WhatsApp

#### Conclusions:

- Too small a sample to be representative (do group convenors need to engage with their groups?)
- On-line communication is not a good medium for the group responses (but people must have read the e-mails!)
- An on-line Xmas Quiz may have a poor response

Discussion took place regarding groups and it was agreed that there may be scope to re-start the Supported Arts and Crafts next year

- **Christmas Quiz**

It was felt that this was worth trying out, even if numbers were small, in order to try and re-engage and make contact with people as there had been no real contact since the pandemic struck in March. Pete would lead, and the committee would have a trial run

**Actions:** PB to put questions together and forward to PC prior to trial  
PC to draft invitation for quiz, inviting members to contact her and register so Zoom invites could be sent out

- **Feedback from local, regional & national networks**

Tony had attended (via Zoom) the NE region meeting for Chairs and reported that nobody was undertaking large U3A meetings on-line, although Alnwick was also planning a Quiz. Many other branches were also hosting committee meetings via Zoom. National U3A membership donation is going up to

£4/head and is due in April.

Averil had attended a Membership secretaries meeting via Zoom – this revealed that everyone was looking at retention differently and there was no “right way” to approach this

**Actions:**

To maintain links with wider networks via Zoom as requested to share activities and ideas

- **Website Co-ordination**

Nobody had come forward with immediate availability to take over from Ian, although someone had expressed interest for the future.

**Action:** Ian to send a further email requesting help/offering mentorship

- **Matters Arising**

As the Professional Zoom package had now been purchased (£115) this enabled large Virtual meetings of upto 100 members. Tony therefore proposed asking some entertaining speakers to see if they would host a Zoom session in January.

**Action:** AH to contact Rosie/Graham Stacey and Dr Armstrong to see if they would host a session for members in the New Year

- **Any Other Business**

Lesley alerted the committee that her tenure runs out in April when she will have served 5 years on the committee.

**Action:** Committee to stay alert to anyone who may be willing to take on role of treasurer

Pauline is still getting regular U3A enquiries although she has notified central and regional groups of changes to the Chair and Business secretary; she is currently forwarding these to Tony & Pam

**Action:** IW to change details on website

Lesley suggested sending Christmas cards to all members to show engagement, as the account could stand funds for cards and postage.

Discussion then took place re enclosure of a newsletter which could advertise the Quiz, dates for upcoming shows in 2021, and Ian’s plea for website co-ordination for the future.

**Action:**

- AF and LP to purchase cards
- IW to draft a Christmas Newsletter to forward to them for printing and inclusion in cards
- PC to hand deliver cards in Thropton, JR to hand deliver some parts of Rothbury
- PW,LP and AF to hand write cards, mail-merge addresses and

communicate re card distribution

- PB to send info to IW re theatre trips
- PC to send IW advert for Quiz

- **Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm via Zoom for trial run of Quiz