

Minutes of committee meeting Monday, 12 October 2021 at 4 PM, at Tony Henry's house

Present:- Tony Henry (chair), Averil Fendley (membership secretary), John Rutherford (group convener's coordinator), Pete Burrow (social secretary).

Apologies: -- Pam Campbell (business secretary), Lesley Patterson (Treasurer).

Minutes of last meeting: -- accepted as a true record.

Matters arising: --

- **Pro -zoom:-** after discussion it was agreed that ordinary Zoom which we all have, should be sufficient, as this allows for meetings to last for approximately 40 minutes. The potential problem was with Des Herron's presentation on 6 December 2021 by Zoom to the audience in Jubilee Hall. Pat Maloney has told Tony that slide projection from Cape Town, should be okay. After discussion we agreed that we could arrange for a "10 minute comfort break" after half an hour or so, to be followed by another 30 minutes of presentation/questions. Tony will discuss this with Pam, and with Des Herron.
- **Volunteers to run Zoom:-** we had asked for this, but none had been forthcoming.
- **Volunteers to run our website: --** again, we had asked for this, but none were forthcoming
- **Volunteers to help provide Tea/Coffey at our open meetings:-** Averil asked if Tony could ask for these at our next open meeting, which he will do.

Treasurer Coquetdale U3A:- Lesley Patterson has previously indicated that she would like to step down from this at our AGM next April, as she has done her six years. The committee agreed that she had been an exemplary secretary, and meticulously recorded all the finances, in particular those who had paid for social events prior to the pandemic. All the committee are most grateful to her.

Mike Black has kindly agreed to take over from her, and Tony will liaise with Leslie and Mike.

Social events:- 1. Pete Burrow told us that Simon and Garfunkel concert on 20th October was fully booked, and the tickets of the 2 people who were unable to come, had been successfully resold.

2. The Christmas quiz on Friday 10 December at the Rothbury golf club. Pete suggested that in view of Covid, that Tea/coffee and a mince pie would be appropriate. People could also buy drinks from the golf club bar. If the golf club has regulations as to the number of guests, these will be respected.

U3A group conveners:- John Rutherford told us that 80% of these Groups were up and running, but he hadn't yet had a reply from the History and Music Group.

Our membership numbers :- we noted that last September we had 122 paid-up members, and that there were a number of other members who had not yet made their annual subscriptions. Averil had sent out kindly reminders to them.

Any other business:- next year 2022, will be the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall (built AD 122), as well as HM the Queens 70th anniversary on the throne, and National U3A's 40th anniversary. It has been suggested that the north-eastern U3As could each walk a stretch of the wall, in celebration.

Date of next meeting:- Tuesday, 9 November at 4 PM, at Tony Henry's house.

After the meeting:- I had an e-mail from Clive Wilkinson our president, asking if we were going to have a Coquetdale annual lecture. I initially wondered if we should convert our November open meeting "Escape to Auschwitz" by Fran Elson and Sonia Waterfall, into an "annual lecture".

But both Peter Burrow and Averil, to whom I spoke on the phone, thought this would not be a good idea, as the Holocaust can generate such powerful emotions in people. Pete had previously taken A level students to Nazi concentration camps like Belsen, and seen at first hand these emotions. Averil confirmed this. I was most grateful to both Pete, and to Averil, for their helpful views.

We agreed therefore, that it would be best not to have a Coquetdale annual lecture this year, as this has been an unusual year with Covid, and with Zooms. We could certainly have one next year, when it would be nice to ask Clive Wilkinson to introduce the speaker, and offer a vote thanks afterwards.

Tony Henry.