

DARLINGTON U3A
COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 24th February 2023

Time: 10.30 am

Place: Bannatyne's Hotel (Library)

Present: Kathy LeRoy (Chairman) Victoria Laing, Joyce Spanswick, Tom Vout, Ken Gray, Sue Murton, Carol Ryan, Linda Mellis (Sec.)

Apologies: Jenny Lumley

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Kathy LeRoy.
2. Attendance and Apologies: see above.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.
Proposed by: Joyce Seconded by: Ken
4. Matters Arising
None that weren't being addressed.
5. Progress Report: Treasurer
Ken informed us that finances are doing well, with some subscriptions still to be received and banked. He asked Linda to write to Kath Raine re: donation from Richmond u3a (see later) and to Alan Pilkington to thank him for help with u3a Annual Accounts. 2 members have volunteered to help him with Gift Aid and he has had an initial meeting with them. Linda gave him the information and forms from HMRC.
6. Progress Report: Membership Secretary
Sue reported that 81 members have paid. We have 10 new members.
She queried whether she should make full membership lists available to Group Leaders, citing GDPR guidelines. Committee agreed group leaders should take their own list of members, with membership number.
At the main meeting, Kath Raine will help Sue collect subs etc.
7. Progress Report: Project and Development Lead
 - a) Questionnaire
153 questionnaires were sent out and so far, 106 have been returned.
Victoria has produced a comprehensive report which Committee had already had chance to study. We agreed that she should make the overall results known to members at the next meeting and make the survey available to those who requested it.
Some points have already been addressed. She and Ken Bowman met with the Dolphin Centre contact, Sue, and checked out the sound system which they now think will be much better with the additions that Ken has provided.
Many groups were suggested (see insert) with less people volunteering to help.
Communication: 70% of members gave email addresses which will be useful and many commented on the improvement of the website.
Tom expressed his congratulations to Victoria and Sue for all the excellent work and time and effort needed to produce and collate it. Committee agreed wholeheartedly.
 - b) Publicity
Victoria and Sue have worked on this as well. Sue suggested we could secure a "shop display" in the Cornmill. We would need extra physical resources and much more financial input to make it worth having and to make the impact we desire. Ken

suggested we use the donation from Richmond u3a (see above). All agreed it was a fitting use of funds.

8. Main Meeting Refreshments:

Committee has debated the lack of refreshments at the main meeting on numerous occasions and has periodically provided free tea and coffee etc.

In the questionnaire many members suggested that refreshments mid meeting would make for a more social event.

The cost of providing free refreshments is prohibitive so Committee perused various ideas.

- a) member suggested a donation box
- b) members buy their own from Dolphin Centre café
- c) members pay extra at the door
- d) members buy a £1.50 token and exchange for tea/coffee

Committee decided to try option d).

9. New Member Reception:

The February meeting was the first time the Dolphin Centre was used by u3a as a meeting hall.

Committee agreed that some changes to the layout were necessary and hopefully these will be addressed at the March meeting.

Tom leads the welcomers. He 'meets and greets' new members and pairs them with a welcomer. Because we have more new members attending, he is going to approach 2 more members to help. He will reserve some seating where new members can sit together and hopefully feel more included.

Victoria and Sue have been looking at 'Welcome Packs', our old one and one from u3a website. A reduced mixture of the two would be best.

10. Any Other Business:

a) Group Leaders

We will have a Group Leaders Meeting- Friday 10th March 2023
Linda will organise.

b) Handbells

Kathy received a letter from the acting leader, requesting music stands. Committee agreed to fund these (approx. £64) but other issues, cost of bells and their upkeep/ u3a membership were raised. Linda will write and clarify the situation.

c) Kathy has been reviewing u3a over the years and read a 'snapshot' of 1995/96

It is clear that 'what goes around, comes around'... Kathy told us of the many talks she gave, the number of groups available, theatre trips, holidays, day trips, computer classes etc

The meeting closed at 11.50 am

Signed.....

Date.....