

DARLINGTON U3A
COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 29th September 2023
Time: 10.30 am
Place: Bannatyne's Hotel (Library)

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

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Kathy LeRoy.
2. Attendance and Apologies: see above.
We were joined by Steve Keeney, Glenda Nelson and Bill Horn who are thinking of becoming Committee members and came to observe. 2 more members were unable to attend but are interested in hearing more about us.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.
Proposed by: Tom Seconded by: Victoria
4. Matters Arising:
None that weren't being addressed.
5. Treasurer's Report:
Ken reported that our finances are still in a healthy position, and he is sure this will continue for the time being. Because he is almost certainly retiring as Treasurer at the AGM, he is concerned that as yet, we haven't had anyone show much interest in taking over the role.
6. Progress Report: Membership Secretary
We now have 161 members and 58 of those were at the September meeting.
7. Progress Report: Project and Development Lead
Victoria has produced a pack which she will give to Group Leaders, which they can distribute to members of their group who neither come to our monthly meetings nor have access to email, in a bid to make all our members aware of what's happening in our u3a. Tom commented that not all of our members are keen on attending Monthly meetings for various reasons, so this is a good idea.
20 members attended the Auckland Project visit on 22nd September. It was a very enjoyable trip and many of us bought the yearly pass, meaning we are able to visit at any time during the next year!
Victoria has also investigated 2 bus trips next year, Harrogate Flower Show and Kinren – details to follow.
8. Susan Walker, a very new member who is a qualified dance teacher, has volunteered to run Dance Classes. She and Victoria have arranged for classes to start 16th October 1.30 – 2.30pm at the Dolphin Centre.
The Lunch Group will start after the main meeting on 6th October and about 20 people have signed up.
Unfortunately, there isn't any progress with the walking group, but we are still hopeful that 2 members will train as leaders.
9. Christmas Celebrations:
After much research, Sue and Victoria have made arrangements with the Dolphin Centre for our Christmas Lunch. A deposit has now been paid and plans are well under way for entertainment.

10. Any Other Business

a) Sue heard from another organisation about Riviera Travel who donate 10% of travel costs to a nominated charity – it could be us! She will announce this at our next meeting.

b) After our marketplace exhibition at the GOLD Tea Dance, Sue was approached by a representative from GOLD was asked to deliver a speech to their Health Matters Group. She will do this 6th November at 10.00am.

c) Kathy asked our visitors if they had any observations they wished to share.

Glenda noted that people are very different – some like a small group, while others are happy to engage in larger groups. One of our main problems is that our members are ageing, and we don't seem to be able to encourage younger, recently retired people to join us and contribute, even though efforts are obviously made to welcome them.

Steve would like to have some sense of continuity but regrets that though he is willing to join our Committee, other commitments make it unlikely that he could become one of the necessary Officer members.

Bill has reservations about his ability to commit but was keen to investigate what u3a is all about. He will attend his first monthly meeting next week.

d) Tom noted that people are now more inclined to stay at the Dolphin Centre for coffee and chat, so things are getting better!

e) Nominations for the Committee and Officer positions need to be with Linda by 31st December 2023. She will ensure nominations forms are available at the November monthly meeting (3rd November).

The meeting closed at 11.55am

Signed.....

Date.....