

Downham Market and District U3A Committee

Monday 2nd October, 2023 10a.m

43 Westgate St. Shouldham

Present: JC, LE, LL, JCnf, CC, CD, SM, FG, SF

Apologies: TS, FB

Minutes of Previous Meeting Circulated and approved by the Committee. JC signed copy.

Matters Arising

JC sent U3A information to Shouldham Newsletter. Discussion on advertising in villages. Membership is now around 230 and up to pre-Covid numbers. It was felt there was considerable interest at Refreshers meeting.

Reports

- A. J.C Chairman. Apologies for not being very active during last month due to other commitments. Feedback over some concern that the Ukulele Group performed for 20 unbroken mins at the Refreshers Meeting. It was felt this prevented people from hearing information on other groups. FG explained why this had occurred. Discussion on whether we should integrate more with other U3As. JC advised there are several Zoom courses offered for Committee members. Some interesting material is also available of general and more specific interest online also via Zoom Suggested a reminder is put regularly in the Newsletter to say members can receive information on available courses. JC and CC went to a very enjoyable Jazz Group outdoor event. JC complimented SM on the success of the Photography Group. Thanks again to Jill for an excellent Newsletter. Jill confirmed there were no problems about posted copies.

- B. LL. Vice Chair. Nothing to report.

- C. CD Treasurer. CD spoke on accounts circulated ahead of Committee Meeting and took questions. First attempt to create new account with Co-op bank instead of CAF Bank unsuccessful so all Committee members were asked to complete and sign Co-Op bank account application papers. CD thanked for commitment to seeing changeover through.

- D. FG Speakers Secretary. On course for Xmas arrangements. Speakers have been arranged for May, June and July next year. It was agreed that it was advisable to arrange speakers well in advance and a recommended entertainment should be organised for Xmas '24. Fees are now increasing due to rising costs. There was a discussion on table capacity and catering for members plus the Rock Choir at Xmas party. JC will confirm the maximum numbers allowed in the hall and ask about decorations. It will be no problem to extend our time from 1-5.00pm. The Rock Choir are not charging a fee but would like to have a bucket to collect for a local charity which was approved. Can we remind group leaders about arranging raffle prizes from their group.
- E. JCnf. Newsletter Editor. No problems. It was agreed it was better to ask groups to submit photos rather than have a rota. Climate conversations will be a featured group in November issue and submit photos. Jill thanked for producing another excellent Newsletter for October.
- F. CC. Groups Coordinator. CC reported that member is interested in a coach outings group. Discussion on minibus and coach hire issues. There is a U3A policies and procedure guidance about organising trips and these been passed to the member. Agreed to plug idea further to see if there is sufficient interest. CC explained her ideas for a non-fiction book group. It will be promoted at the next meeting. There has been no response to request for a leader of the Indoor Games group. The Mah-jong group is also seeking a leader.

Feedback on September meeting.

The Refreshers meeting was successful and we gained some new members. Temporary arrangements due to Town Hall kitchen works not a problem

A.O.B

Sue said the Poetry and Family History groups will do teas at the next meeting. JC will check if we are back in the main kitchen.

Is the camera required for meetings? JC confirmed he has various items of u3a equipment acquired over the years CD requested an inventory of assets and JC confirmed he'd update the one he received from his predecessor.

Discussion on encouraging members to apply to become committee members

including asking group leaders to raise subject with group members and report positive responses.

LL reported that the gathering for the Social Dining group was cancelled last month due to lack of support. It was agreed Mick should be encouraged to keep going. The next one is 19th October at the Downham Cafe. Several committee members agreed to go.

The meeting closed at 12.05. Thank you to John and Carroll for hosting.

Next meeting will be on Monday 6th November at 10.00 a.m. and will be hosted by CD at 6 Beech Road, Downham Market, PE38 9PH

Signed

Dated

