

Downham Market and District U3A Committee

Monday 3rd July, 2023 10a.m

Rose Cottage, Bridge Road, Downham Mkt.

**Present:** JC, LL, FB, SM, LE, FG, CC, TS, CS, JiC  
Welcome to guest Stewart as potential Committee member

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

**Matters Arising**

The only item was to encourage new Committee members so we are very pleased to welcome Stewart Flint who may be interested in joining the committee

**Reports**

- A. J.C Chairman. Thanks to Jill for the excellent newsletter with very good photographs from contributors. It has been proposed by some groups that there should be a national aim to increase U3A membership which is currently at 400,000. It was suggested by Royston and Tring groups that at the National AGM there would be a proposal to aim for 500,000 by 2028. JC felt we should vote to support this in October. Discussion followed on how U3A is perceived generally- both from the learning and social point of view. Only 3% of the eligible population are members, the aim being to increase it to 4%. Suggestion of a survey in the Newsletter - 'What made you join?'
- B. LL. Vice Chair. Coffee morning. 80 emails were sent, although only 15 turned up the atmosphere was good. 3 group leaders attended. We may possibly do another in October inviting all new members from the beginning of the year. Parking is a problem at the Heritage Centre. JC proposed asking the Town Council to consider introducing limits on daytime parking hours to deter all day parking by rail commuters. There was some doubt this would have any effect.
- C. CD Treasurer. Having difficulty getting invoices from Lime Tree. Still waiting for invoice for Capitation fee. Discussion on fees for speakers which vary. FG said average was £75. The Ukelele group need to be advised about finance. CC agreed to speak to the Group Leader. Art Appreciation will not happen in July as room will not be available due to works in the Church. There was a discussion on the Charity Commission. CD confirmed the change of Bank to the Co-Op. There was a discussion on the Constitution. CD requested a meeting with JC and FB to complete details.

- D. FB Business Secretary. Still contacting people to do advertising. Refreshers Fair is 11th September which will be open to anyone. An Advert will go in the local paper at the end of August. She will also write to the Lynn News and information will go into the free local paper. Discussion on Royal Mail delivery mail shot. FB asked for the OK to register interest and will circulate details when available. Discussion on potential response, the costs involved and the necessity of a colourful design. Poster needs updating. It was agreed a Publicity Officer would be welcome.
- E. TS Membership Secretary. Members total 219 with 29 new members since 1st April. Group leaders need to check that their group members have renewed their u3a membership. Discussion about people who were previous members but who now come as visitors. FB reminded committee that if people come more than a couple of times, they need to join. Discussion on blocked emails. One member experienced this.
- F. FG Speakers Secretary. Ukelele group will provide entertainment at the Refreshers Fair. Sue and Fiona will organise some visual impact on the town hall screen.
- G. JCnf. Newsletter Editor. It was good to have so many photographs submitted. The deadline for material for the September newsletter will be 21st August. Need a rota for Group Leaders to contribute. Jill would be happy to go to group meetings to take photos if necessary. JC offered Gardening Group photos for the September edition. FG suggested a pic of Jill be included in the newsletter.
- H. CC. Groups Coordinator. Apologies for being a little 'out of it' for a couple of months due to other commitments. Thanks to the Group Leaders for managing. Welcome to the Film Group starting in September. Discussion on the proposed Retirement group which, it was agreed, is open to interpretation. The Current Affairs group is now 'A Discussion Group' and hosted by Janet Burbeck. They are not seeking new members so there is the potential for a new Current Affairs group. The Ukelele group is proving successful and they are having a lot of fun. CC will contact Group Leaders to make sure they support the Refreshers Fair. Discussion on copyright and licences for the Film Group. Jill is organising meeting for potential members of the Film Group to register interest at the Methodist Church on 19th July, 2.00 pm.

AOB SM reported The Photography Group would do the teas at the July meeting.

There was a discussion with Stuart on potential membership of the Committee.

**Feedback on June 5th meeting.**

The speaker gave a very interesting talk on Thomas Cook.

The meeting closed at 12.00. Thank you to Sue for hosting. No Committee or Town Hall meetings in August.

Next meeting will be on Monday 4th September at 10.00 a.m. and will be hosted by FB at Redcroft, Snape Lane, Downham Market, PE38 9JQ

Signed :

Date:

