

Downham Market and District U3A Committee

Monday 4th September. 2023 10a.m

Redcroft. Snape Lane. Downham Mkt.

**Present:** JC, LL, FB, SM, LE, FG, CC, TS, CD, Jill, SF

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** One amendment. CS changed to CD with apologies. Circulated and approved by the Committee. JC signed copy.

**Matters Arising**

Thank you to Jill for excellent newsletter. It was agreed when we have opportunity to vote we will support Royston and Tring's aim for increased Membership. JC apologised for not yet raising the issue of parking. There are rumours there may soon be charges for parking at Heritage Centre.

FB confirmed Royal Mail shots were very expensive but she managed to get a free ad in the Downham Market Advertiser. This will be a continuous running ad. JC said we need to get a prominent logo in. CD confirmed receipt of Lime Tree invoice.

**Reports**

- A. J.C Chairman. Confirmed that Jill has been investigating Licences etc for the new Film Appreciation Group.  
He will shortly distribute information on the U3A Online Talks and Events for September/October 2023.
  
- B. LL. Vice Chair. Confirmed there will not be another Coffee Morning in October as it is too soon after the Refreshers Fair and should be left for a while. All agreed.
  
- C. CD Treasurer. Discussion on monthly financial statement and payments to be made this year. Discussion on fees to the Heritage Centre. Confirmation that everything is paid for. CD invited questions on the Trustee forms.  
For changing the bank accounts, JC and FB will need to sign closure letters for our existing bank. Discussion on the advantages and complications of changing banks. Estimate it will take a further month to complete. A debit card is needed for depositing cash. A designated Post Office had to be named. Committee delighted to hear CD expressed

satisfaction with her role!

- D. FB Business Secretary. Confirmed it was too expensive to use P.O. mail shot. The ad in the Advertiser is very good. Discussion on poster displays around the town and in villages.
  
- E. TS Membership Secretary. Members total 222, an increase of 3 from next month. JC suggested there should be more after the Refreshers Fair.  
SM said she was happy to take over Membership Sec role from TS next April and was thanked for volunteering.
  
- F. FG Speakers Secretary. Programme organised for rest of year. Gilbert and Sullivan in October and Trues Yard in November. There will be the usual Xmas party in December. FG, LL,FB,SM and CC volunteered for sub-committee to help organise the event with first meeting scheduled for 27th September. JC will ask Town Council about Xmas decorations. Discussion on information about dietary requirements for party and the need to start collating this in October. Jill was asked to insert Xmas notice on the front page of the next newsletter. The programme for speakers for Jan, Feb and March next year is in hand. List of potential speakers will be available for the next Speakers secretary with details on getting information.
  
- G. JCnf. Newsletter Editor. Query who is to provide photos for the next letter. CC will look at making a rota. The Sewing Group have submitted pictures. CC suggested inserting a note about ideas for starting groups. JC confirmed there have been quite a few new groups in the last year, many lead by members of the Committee
  
- H. CC. Groups Coordinator. All Group Leaders have been asked to come to the Refreshers Fair if possible. Next year can we move this fair forward to October as many people are away in September. The kitchen at the Town Hall will be out of commission next Monday but alternative arrangements have been made. TS confirmed Indoor Games will not be restarting. JilC queried putting notice in Newsletter. There was discussion on what will be required for each group at the Fair and where people will sit with refreshments. A meet and greet table is still needed and there will be no charge for people coming to find out about our u3a. Discussion on who will take over meet and greet as Maggie wishes to step down at end of 2023. Discussion on the new Vintage Film Group. Some U3A groups describe their film groups as 'Film Study Groups'. Decided ours will be called 'Film Appreciation Group'. Discussion on payment plans for groups. CC will ask all group

leaders to confirm their members are all paid up U3A members. CC going to see if there is any interest in a non-fiction reading group and asked for notice to be put in the newsletter.

### Refreshers Fair

Some committee members will be absent from the Fair next week. Fiona will provide U3A logo and liaise with SM over photography screening. JC will discuss requirements with hall staff and provide them with a layout plan and pass to SM along with u3a banner, bell etc. CC will pass flasks and Catering box to SM. Photography, Card and Walking groups should be placed next to each other for convenience. CC asked for photographs to be taken at the event. It was agreed attempts would be made to discourage people from just sitting and chatting rather than visiting group tables.

### Feedback on July meeting.

The meeting was successful, good Speaker, no issues arising.

### A.O.B

Stuart agreed to be a committee member 'without portfolio'. Welcome to the group.

The meeting closed at 11.55. Thank you to Fiona for hosting.

Next meeting will be on Monday 2nd October at 10.00 a.m. and will be hosted by JC and CC at 43 Westgate Street, Shouldham, Kings Lynn PE33 OBN.

