

MINUTES OF THE DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND 30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON MONDAY, 16TH MAY 2022, AT THE JUBILEE HALL, OLLERTON

MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT COMMITTEE ATTENDING:	
Leslye Henstock	Chair
Pam Hardwick	Group Secretary
John Harris	Newsletter Editor
Ann Street	Co-ordinator of Guest Speakers Marketing, Advertising and Website
Sharon Pinkett	Committee Member
Patti Bell	Committee Member
Wendy Neighbour	Membership Manager
Christine Yates	Committee Member
Jane Young	Group Co-ordinator
Valerie Saunders	Minuting Secretary at meetings
Bobbie Thompson	Committee Member

Apologies were accepted from Nick Mason (IT Manager) and Chris Neighbour (Treasurer). Mason has recently been diagnosed with a medical condition but is continuing to work from home. Chris had volunteered to drive Mason up to Bridlington for a few days away.

Minutes from AGM ON 17TH May 2021

The minutes have been read and verified. Christine Yates proposed that the minutes be accepted and Pam Hardwick seconded.

Introduction

Leslye welcomed all Du3a members and Community partners, Andy Oxnard and Lee Brazier, to the AGM and 30th Birthday celebration. Andy and Lee will each speak briefly to the members later in the meeting.

Leslye said that the focus of the meeting would be on members.

69 Full Members were present at the meeting, there were two guests and 2 Associate Members. There were 14 absentees.

Apologies were accepted from the following members:

Beryl Lee
Robert Shaw
Alan Saunders
Janice Cawkill
Jan Shaw
Heather Robinson
Heather Henshaw
June Jones
Michael Jones
Laurie Patterson
Barrie Callieu

Events since Lockdown

Picnic in the Park in June
August Garden Party
Open Day in September
Quiz Night with Supper

Committee

Leslye introduced the present Committee members individually to the membership, including new Committee members Sharon Pinkett, Patti Bell and Bobbie Thompson. Leslye commented that she would like a couple more members to join the Committee in order to bring in fresh ideas.

Leslye thanked retiring Committee members Christine Yates (Group Co-ordinator) and Val Saunders (Minuting Secretary) for the service they have given to Du3A. They were each presented with a decorative basket of plants and a bottle of wine. A presentation to retiring Committee member Marie Bartle (Membership Manager) will be given at a later date.

Jane Young has taken on the role of Group Co-ordinator. Jane is a relatively recent member but since joining Du3a has been extremely active. She has made all the bunting for Du3a and is an active member of several interest groups within Du3a.

ITEMS TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE MEMBERSHIP

Item 1 – Vote in the new Committee

79 Members voted in favour of the new Committee including votes by email. There were no objections.

Items 2 and 3 - Subscriptions

Current Membership Subscription of £19.00 from 1st April 2022
Subscription reduced to £11.50 for new members joining from November 2022 to 31st March 2023
Subscription of £10 for Associate Members.

Leslye said that the fee for Associate Membership was highly competitive compared to U3As of a similar size in the North Notts area. It includes the capitation fee of £4.00 payable to Head Office. Only much larger U3As could afford to be more generous. Leslye would like to encourage more Associate Members. There were no queries from the membership.

The members were asked to vote on Items 2 and 3 and 78 members voted in favour including votes by email. There were no objections

Item 4 – Proposed Subscription fee for from 31st March 2023

It is proposed that the Subscription fee will increase to £20 from 1st April 2023. There were no questions from the membership.

78 members voted in favour including votes by email. There was one person who objected by email vote, the reason given being the rising cost of living.

Treasurer's Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2022

In the absence of the Treasurer, a copy of the end of year accounts was displayed on the screen for members to see.

Funding

Wendy Neighbour gave a presentation on the funding that she has raised for Du3a during the past year as follows:

RTC Fund (£500)

Andy Oxnard (£100)

TNL Community Funding (£500)

Newark and Sherwood Community Engagement Fund (£500)

Total Funding £1600.00

Purchases made:

Laptop for Chair

Laptop for Membership Manager

Dedicated Du3a mobile phone

Laminator

Advertising Table

Feather Banner

Cartridges

These items totalled £1596 which leaves £2.00 left to spend.

The two laptops will be passed on to future Chairs and Membership Managers.

Wendy said that she will continue to look for funding this year as the Du3a Powerpoint projector needs to be replaced. She would be pleased to hear from any members who have ideas for raising funds.

Membership Total

The total membership to date is now 127 which includes 122 Full Members and 5 Associate Members.

Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance Charity

Pam announced that Du3a had donated £2300 up to the year ending 2022. There is a further £161.10 in donations to add to that total. Leslye thanked Pam for continuing to raise money for our nominated charity and also for her huge contribution as Group Secretary and Deputy Chair. Pam is stepping down from her roles as Secretary and Deputy Chair but will continue as a member of the Committee and Du3a's representative for Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance Charity. Sharon Pinkett has agreed to take on the role of Deputy Chair and Bobbie Thompson will take on the role of Secretary.

Focus on Members

Lis Greenland carried out a series of “tongue in cheek” interviews with some long-standing members of Du3a. These included:

Mervyn and Ann Yorath who were founder members of Du3a. Ann said that it had been a real struggle to get membership beyond 30 at the beginning. May Lindley celebrated her 90th birthday this year and has been a member for many years. She helped to establish the Scrabble group. Until recently, she was also an active member of one of the walking groups. She said that she still walks every day but is now finding hills rather more difficult. Colin Barratt described one Du3a Members’ Meeting he’d attended where the guest speaker for that month was very boring. Colin went to sleep and then fell off his chair. Another member told him that he’d been snoring before his rude awakening. Tribute was paid to past Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries present at the meeting, including Mervyn Yorath, Julie Arnold, Mary Morris, Norah Staley and Richard Titmuss. Mary reminisced about her first visit to Dukeries U3A. Leslye gave a vote of thanks to Lis for her efforts as a “nosy reporter”.

“Hello” From Any Oxnard

Andy is Community Group Co-ordinator for Newark and Sherwood District Council. He gave a brief account of his work in the area to the members. Andy was instrumental last year in introducing Du3a members to taster bowling sessions at Ollerton Bowling Club. These sessions have begun again in the last month. Several members have been to the Workshop at the Dukeries College which includes woodwork tuition and glassmaking. Andy also runs Health Walks on the first Wednesday of each month in the Ollerton area. He is also involved with the local radio station, Bowe Radio. Andy said that he is trying to get a ‘Door to Door’ scheme off the ground. He is looking for volunteers to take elderly and disabled people to hospital, etc.

Break for Refreshments

Tea, coffee and cake were served. Leslye gave a vote of thanks to the members who had baked cakes for the occasion. They were:

Georgina Batty
Lis Greenland
Margaret Titmuss
Wendy Owen
Jane Young
Hazel Francis (who baked the 30th Anniversary cake)

Lesley also thanked the members serving drinks in the kitchen.

“Hello” from Lee Brazier

Lee gave a brief talk about his role in the community as Partnership and Community Lead at the Academy Transformation Trust for Further Education. This includes:

- 16-19 Study Programme

- Adult Education
- Advanced Learner Loans
- Sector Based Academies
- Employment Support Services

Lee is also a Councillor on Ollerton and Boughton Council and is involved in plans for the renovation of Ollerton Hall and also the regeneration of Ollerton Town centre.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sharon has arranged a visit to Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Friday, 20th May.

Sharon is also spearheading a team to arrange an Indoor Street Party for Jubilee Day on 4th June, from 4 to 8 pm. Tickets are £5 to members and £6 to guests.

Leslye has arranged a visit to a Dairy Farm at Colston Bassett on Tuesday, 28th June.

August Garden Party

40th Anniversary of National U3A from 18th to 24th September 2022 which will include:

- Flashmob Line Dance routine to be choreographed by Janice Cawkill four weeks before the event which will take place in Nottingham Market Square on 24th September. 32 U3As are learning the routine and John Butler of Ravenshead U3A will video it.
- A beacon will be carried by North Notts U3A members from a location to be decided in north Nottinghamshire to Nottingham Market Square. Volunteers are required to be involved in this.
- Celebrations in Nottingham Market Square – Social Evening

OTHER IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

The Committee are aware that we need more interest groups. Several members have expressed an interest in Tai Chi.

Leslye has asked Sharon to explore the idea of liaising with U3As at Warsop and Retford with a view to planning and arranging joint trips with Du3a.

“Dua3’s Got Talent” is an idea that might be explored for later in the year.

PLANT COMPETITION

Sharon had asked members to submit entries for this. Lee Brazier chose Jane Young’s entry as the winner.

Leslye gave a vote of thanks to Tony Brewer and Jenny Fox for taking photographs throughout the AGM. At the end of proceedings, John Harris presented Leslye with a potted hydrangea from the Committee, in recognition of her enthusiasm, tireless hard work and dedication to her role of Chair of Du3a.