

EMS VALLEY U3A - COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2023 – MOUNTFORD 3 E.C.C.

Those present: Anne Powell (Chair), Tim Mathews (Vice-Chair/ Webmaster), Hilary Street (Treasurer), Dbee Robinson (Business Secretary), Sue Kent (Membership Secretary), Karen Rodger (Beacon Administrator). Geoff Whalley, Margaret Goldfarb (Minutes Secretary)

Also attending as an observer: Margaret Melhuish

1. **Apologies:** Ann Sims, Geoff Wiggins
2. **Minutes and Matters arising:** The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and any matters arising will be dealt with in the course of the meeting.
3. **Business Secretary Report:** Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 29th November at Chichester College at 12pm for 12.30pm has been confirmed. Further details to follow. The booking with the Brookfield Hotel has been cancelled.
Insurance - Question from a member.
Does the public liability insurance provide any cover whilst members are travelling in other members' cars or on a coach or minibus?
Answer by U3A Trust:
The question of accidents in motor vehicles is complex. Any accident arising from the driving of a vehicle would fall outside the scope of public liability insurance because motor insurance is an entirely separate matter, and such incidents are covered under a motor insurance policy. This would normally include accidents which occur whilst mounting or dismounting a vehicle. However, on a coach where one member is injured by the actions of another member in circumstances which have nothing to do with the vehicle, it may be covered by the public liability insurance.
AGM on 25th May – it was agreed that information for members will be sent out by e-mail.
Action: Dbee Robinson
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Membership payments are coming in at a steady pace. Most people are including the necessary details in the payment reference for online payments, but we have one member who only included their initials.
5. **Membership Report:** We have 524 members at present. 195 members have still to pay their annual subscription and a reminder will go out on 1st April. **Action: Sue Kent**
6. **Groups Report:** Val Ottewell's French Group is full and has a Waiting List; she suggests a new Group could form. Ann has suggested that Val writes an article for the Newsletter.

Group Leaders' Social Event

We had approximately 53 Group Leaders and Helpers plus committee at this event which went very well and was appreciated by everyone.

The food was excellent and about the correct quantity although there were not enough helpers on the evening.

The committee agreed that in future it would be helpful to have a couple of members

on the committee who were responsible for social occasions and general catering. It was also felt that TRUGS could be asked to assist on the evening.

Community Centre Hirings: In response to a question from a Group Leader regarding set-up time being charged over and above the hour booked the hiring agreement from the E.C.C. which was revised in September 2022 makes it very clear that this is the case. It was agreed that Group Leaders are to be advised of this and members should be encouraged to arrive for sessions promptly and help to set up and clear away.

Action: Ann Sims

7. **Newsletter:** There was nothing to report.
8. **Website:** Due to the issue of our current hosting provider for *emsvalleyu3a.org.uk* reducing the number of email forwarders from 100 to 50, we can no longer use or rely on their email forwarding service. I sought and received permission from the committee to purchase (£10pa) and implement *emsvalleyu3a.org* (without the *.uk* suffix) from Google Domains, on which I can set up some 75 new email forwarders before changing all email addresses within the website to use this new domain.
Action: Tim Mathews
9. **Monthly meeting:** Recent speakers have been excellent, and attendance is increasing with 131 members at the February meeting. The next meeting on 23rd March promises to be very interesting and after tea (to be prepared by Val Ottewell's French Group) there will be an entertainment from the Ancient Greece group, led by Juliet Walker.
10. **Photography Group:** The Chair – Anne Powell – has been approached by the Photography Group for permission to display their photographs twice yearly at the monthly meeting. This was agreed.
11. Tim has been approached by Ronnie Tyler who has offered to come on to the committee. Ronnie will attend the April committee meeting.
12. **Zoom:** Tim raised the question about retaining our access to Zoom and it was agreed to keep the Ems Valley u3a subscription to Zoom for another year.
Action: Tim Mathews
13. **Parish Hall hire increase:** Info to come from Hilary.
14. **Charging for setting up at E.C.C:** This was dealt with at item 6.
15. **AOB**
Geoff Whalley advised being wary of leaflets sent out with u3a magazine as they could be misleading.
Tim advised that the u3a Head Office now has two main committees. One for dealing with local u3a groups and one for dealing with national information.