



## **Northumbria Region U3A**

**Quarterly Meeting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**At Bowburn Community Centre**

**From 10.30 to 15.30**

**Attendees:** - Cecilia Coulson (Whickham), Joyce McKay (Bedale), Jacqueline Fielding (Bishop Auckland), Mike Forrest (Dunelm), Noreen Freeman (Durham), Kenneth Naples (Durham), Tina Naples (Durham), Theresa Mulkerrin (Durham), Gillian Moore (Middlesbrough), Pamela Turner (Morpeth), Catherine Stevenson (Newcastle), Mike Wallace (Newcastle), Tony Hoyle (Northallerton), Edward Watt (Seaham), Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour), Linda Chadd (South Durham), Ruth Beckett (South Durham), Sue Clark (South Durham), Linda Fowler (Stockton), Patricia Marcus (Stockton), Jane Mathieson (Teesdale), Wendy Dale (Tynedale), Diana Clark (Washington), Sandra Cullen (Washington), Christa Lloyd (Wearside), John Lloyd (Wearside), Hilary Shaw (Wearside), Jean Barnett (Wessington), Peter Barnett (Wessington), Arthur Coulson (Whickham), Mo Brown (Wooler) and Mary Barlow (Sunderland).

**Apologies:** - Ann Carr

**Welcome:** - Cecilia Coulson, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The housekeeping notices were given out and it was noted that the fire alarm was not due to be tested today so should we hear it we were told to leave by the designated routes.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** - Agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters Arising:** - Details of Hadrian Wall event - information will be given within the notices.

PowerPoint presentation – due to the restructuring this is null and void.

### **Notices.**

Two members have been co-opted onto the Regional Committee Mary Dunning from Whitley Bay u3a and Ted Watt from Seaham u3a.

The Regional Committee members and Trust and Support Volunteers are working together and being called the Regional Support Team with the first joint meeting taking place in December.

Three Year Plan. Three members of the Regional Committee are updating the plan as much of the 2019 one could not take place due to Covid. Would any member here wish to join this group please see Cecilia today or contact her via email. A meeting of the group has been arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30.

Speakers List. Three members of the Regional Committee are looking at ways the list can be modified to make it easier to use and update. Once this is ready members will be informed.

Quarterly Meetings. A yearly programme for 2023/4 is being prepared and will be made available as soon as possible so you can put the dates into your diaries. The team will be looking at new formats, venues and dates including different days of the week. We aim to bring our meeting into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The next meeting is via Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> January where Allan Walmsley will be the speaker and the topic will be Development, Plans and Strategy. Questions you would like him to answer should be sent to Cecilia Coulson.

Restructuring of TAT. Details of a restructuring meeting have been arranged for November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.00. Twelve members are eligible to attend, and we have eleven names currently. The meeting will be chaired by Liz Thackery. Would any member here wish to join this meeting please see Cecilia today or contact her via email. All twelve regions are being consulted. There is a possibility of an EGM in March, but this has yet to be decided. The role of the Regional Trustee is to change.

Facebook. Do you know of anyone who will be able to assist the region in setting up and maintaining a page. They do not have to be a Regional Committee member. Please see Cecilia today or email her with details of anyone who may be able to help.

Contingency Planning. These are the two current buzz words at the moment. What would you do if your treasurer fell ill could you still pay your bills? There was a workshop given at the National Network Link Zoom meeting last week. The information (notes or PowerPoint) will be put on the regional website shortly. This information is applicable to all u3as to facilitate their smooth running.

Hadrian Wall Event. This will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Rooms have been booked at the Sill and Vindolanda and organizations are being contacted to give interactive talks etc.

This event is still in the planning stage and any group which wishes to show an interest should contact [thewall@u3a.org.uk](mailto:thewall@u3a.org.uk) – Julie Travers. The Creative Writing Group has already done so.

A presentation by Alan Walmsley, the new Vice Chair of TAT is available on the National website under the tab NEWS. It's a YouTube presentation about the new strategy /development plan that the TAT are advocating for the future. They are calling this development and restructuring 'Fit for the Future'.

EDI Policy. It was also felt that each u3a should be made aware of this policy and copies are being sent to Business Secretaries.

Messenger. This magazine was usually prepared and printed ready for the quarterly meetings but as they are no longer printed it has been decided to publish it midway between these meetings so reports on previous and the forthcoming meeting can be included.

It was also suggested that we should have a continuous feature/s for members to look for and ideas put forward included gardening, people, buildings. Ted Watt a Regional Committee member has agreed to put an article on photography in the next edition. If anyone else would like to write articles, please get in touch via the website. Publishing dates will also be on website shortly.

**Workshop** Where the u3a is now and where we would like to see it in the future.

John Lloyd began by saying the National Office started with just two ladies in an office in Milton Keynes and lead up to the recent AGM with all its amendments which by all accounts did not go well.

John gave some insights of his own on the questions each table were going to be given to write their comments on and how this information will be fed back to Liz Thackery. All members gave their permission for the information to be used.

What do you get from the u3a?

What do you want from the u3a?

What do you want from the region?

What do you want from the National Office?

Where do you see the u3a in five years' time?

Is the u3a still relevant and give your reasons?

Each table put their comments on the paper and after five minutes the papers were moved on to the next table.

At the end Cecilia Coulson read out one comment from each paper and confirmed this information will be fed back to Liz Thackery and that notes will be put on the region's website.

### **Discussion on the Third Age Trust AGM.**

Points raised include: -

Why only sixty five members allowed in person at the meeting.

The technical platform used was not Zoom but was not adequate for the task. There were signing in problems along with sound and picture ones.

There were no specifications given of the equipment needed to use the platform.

Lack of preparation by the National Office for the numbers attending and staff did not seem to understand the system used.

Voting facilities did not come up on the screen and when it did it seems some people had to log out and log in again every time they had to vote.

Questions submitted were not acknowledged even though they were submitted repeatedly until much later in the meeting. It is hoped to arrange a future Zoom meeting to address this issue.

Questions were taken from the floor and then from the screens but there were many more people on the screens than in the room.

Their seemed a them and us problem but who is **them** and do they know who **us** is?

**Talk** – Tina Naples then gave a talk on the Witches of Pendle which was well received, and numerous questions followed.

Cecilia Coulson gave a resumé of the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

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