

Pontesbury and Rea Valley u3a Committee Meeting

Monday 7th February 2022

Present

Janet Walsh (chair), Bob Boden, Doreen Thomas, Merle Traves, Susan Lockwood, David Taylor, Peter Traves

Apologies

Hugh Scriven, Judith Rice

Judith's resignation was acknowledged and discussed at this point on the agenda. Judith's outstanding work and contribution to the u3a were recognised and it was agreed that Janet would draft a letter of thanks and that Merle would purchase a book token for Judith as a mark of our thanks. Janet offered to produce updates while we consider a long-term replacement. Peter indicated that one of the new members identified art and design and web-site design as skills they could offer and they might therefore be able to assist us on updates and newsletters. Merle's suggestion that each member of the committee should try to contribute to the updates was accepted.

Minutes

The minutes of the 10th of January were agreed to be an accurate record.

Matters Arising

It was agreed that matters arising from the minutes were covered by the agenda.

Two Minute Update

Inspiring Lives - Peter informed the meeting that a regional event entitled 'Inspiring Lives' will take place via zoom on 22nd March. The event will celebrate the achievements and potential of people in the later part of their lives. The meeting will be open to all members and requires no pre-booking. **A final programme should be available soon and Janet agreed to publicise it through an update.**

Updates

Membership - Peter

Peter informed the meeting that we have had six new members since the New Year bringing numbers up to 162 but he said that there is still a need to clarify the precise status of some members on the existing list. Merle's suggestion that application forms be made available in the Pontesbury library was welcomed. David reminded the meeting that when the website is up and running members will be able to download application forms direct from the site.

Finance - John

John's financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting. John will check when payments to the national office need to be made. He also updated the meeting on payments related to the table tennis groups. **It was agreed that an £80 fee for the servicing of a laptop be made** and that the laptop be reserved for the use of the treasurer.

It was agreed that the fee for 2022-23 will be set at £15. Those who have joined since the New Year will only be required to pay £5. **John agreed to share bank statements with Peter so that he can check on membership payments.**

Interest Groups - Merle

Geology is now operating and the first meeting was met with enthusiasm by members. Face to face meetings have already been planned for the next two months. Some Interest Groups are now reaching a size where they are considering dividing into two groups. Bridge is not yet operating and the coordinator of the Gardening group has resigned and Merle is meeting with them to try to ensure a replacement can be identified.

Publicity - Susan

Susan has continued to advertise our u3a through the parish magazines.

Open Meetings - February and March - Bob

February's meeting has been fixed - *Shropshire from the Skies* and this will be via zoom on the 16th ~~March~~ **February**. **Bob will liaise with Peter who will send out a link to all members and the speaker.**

The March meeting is planned as a face-to-face event but the final decision will be made nearer the date. This meeting on the 23rd of the month (a week later than usual) will be given by Amanda Perkins on the subject of *Curlews*. John suggested that we consider a hybrid meeting but Janet's view was that **having experienced some hybrid meetings these are not likely to be successful for an open meeting.** **Doreen agreed to book Minsterley Parish Hall for the event.**

Putting P&RV u3a on the map - 40th Anniversary Celebrations - September 2022 - Janet

Merle has sent out a request to all Interest Group coordinators to raise this matter with their members. Most have either already raised it or plan to do so by the end of the month. Jane's interesting suggestions submitted by email were discussed but it was generally agreed that they should be used to inform our long-term strategic planning rather than a one-off celebration event. Judith has withdrawn from this planning group which now comprises Merle, Susan and David.

Website Progress - David

Janet and David continue to work on this and David reported that the process looks manageable. Ten Interest Groups have submitted material for their web pages and Merle has asked all groups to contribute. It was agreed that a presentation to the committee would be made at its next meeting. The aim is for the web to be launched in the next two or so months. **The website is still not live.**

Platinum Jubilee - Janet

It was agreed that we should not plan to make a specific contribution to these events which are likely to be focused within local communities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 7th March and will be at the Pavilion where a presentation of the new website will be made. **Janet to book the Pavilion Members were urged to look at other u3a websites which use the u3s site builder format, particularly the one from Wem. All u3a groups that use the site-builder site can be accessed by googling u3a site builder.**