



Membership No. 822/801/10

RETFORD U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on 9 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.
At Lorraine Sulman's home
MINUTES

Present: Pippa Ramsay (chair), Pam Mann (secretary), Pat Lockett (membership secretary), Carol Knowles and Caroline Marsh (joint group co-ordinators), Lorraine Sulman (Speaker finder)

Apologies: Bryan Gladstone (vice chair), Patricia Everitt (treasurer), Sue Paul (social secretary)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

These were signed by the chair as a true and accurate record.

2. Matters arising

The membership secretary reported that she'd had no success with the 0300 number as yet for our Facebook page. In regard to Third Age Matters, the firm that prints and sends them out has gone into liquidation so there will be some delay while 3rd Age Trust finds a new company to take over.

3. General meetings

81 people attended the last meeting in November. The speaker for the January meeting will be Betty Merrick who will give a talk on how Italian peasants helped British soldiers to escape during WW2. In February, because of Bob Blatchford's injury, Roy Evans will be giving a talk. Notts Network reported that, in case of a Speaker not turning up, several u3as had found TED talks on Youtube very useful as a standby.

4. Speaker Finder update

The Speaker Finder would be contacting the Treasurer in regard to the charges of the Story-tellers for May's general meeting.

Dukeries u3a recommended Dr. Gray from EMIC scheme. He is a doctor who assists ambulance paramedics in cases of life or death situations. He did not charge but asked for a donation. The Speaker finder would find out more about his talk which could have much general interest if it resembled documentaries on TV.

5. Treasurer's report

The treasurer sent word that the finances were in good order suitable for this time of the year. The membership secretary was going to contact the treasurer in regard to expenses for the new members' coffee mornings.

6. Interest Groups' Report

A new gentleman member had offered to lead several groups. One new group was a science and technology group. He also enquired about running the historical landscape group although this already has a leader, Ruth Edwards. It was suggested that riders of e-bikes might need a separate group from the existing cycling group as e-bikes covered a greater distance much faster than normal bikes. Angela Grant's Making music group needed to know if the e-mails were working properly from the u3a's Website. The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Well. Book Group 4 was not being supported by Retford Library so they were getting their books from Worksop. A new Bridge group for beginners had begun to meet at Hallcroft on alternate Mondays. It was agreed that new group leaders should be given an information pack to help them understand the requirements of leading a group. There is the possibility of a new Yoga for Seniors group starting. This is a non u3a group. It would be advertised in the next Newsletter.

A problem had arising in the walking groups as someone with an assistance dog wanted to accompany them but the policy has always been "no dogs." It was agreed that the chair would draw up a set of new regulations about assistance dogs, bearing in mind the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Act. In general it was felt that assistance dogs could accompany their owners on walks provided they were kept on a short lead at all times.

7. Newsletter

Apparently the latest editions of Not So Idle Times were not on the u3as Website. The Secretary agreed to check on this and rectify any problems.

8. Website

No items for discussion.

9. Publicity

A publicity PSG had been set up by Notts Network to report on the roll out of the new website. Notts Network were considering publicising regionally rather than each u3a independently. A charity stall on the market was under consideration for our next publicity event, and Bassetlaw District Council are to be approached in regard to this. Given that 25% of our membership are male, it was thought that some new groups aimed particularly at men, e.g. a real ale group, following on from the Wine appreciation group. The group co-ordinators were looking at this possibility and would put something in the Newsletter to attract interest. The membership secretary appealed for more photographs to put on our Facebook page.

10. Communications

No items for discussion.

11. Membership update

Total membership 524. Full members 488. Honoraries 15 and Associates 21.

56 members did not renew, but the same number joined, so the total remains the same. The newsletter should carry a notice about how people can collect their cards if not attending general meetings, as these are now being requested at the Savoy Cinema for u3a screenings. People can send stamped addressed envelopes to the membership secretary if they do not wish to collect in person.

12. Welfare

No items for discussion.

13. Events

No items for discussion.

14. Any Other Business

Retford's new constitution based on the model u3a constitution was almost finalised and would be going out to the Committee within a week. A radio advert is due to come out soon as centralised publicity. The Notts Network meeting in late January can be accessed via zoom as well as attendance in person. The committee was reminded to be aware of phishing e-mails which may purport to come from e.g. the chair, but are false. An entry has been put in the Bassetlaw Business Directory on behalf of Retford u3a.

The date of the next meeting is 6th February 2024 at a venue as yet undecided.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 p.m.

Signed by the Chair

.....

Date.....

