

Meeting	Two Moors Network Meeting
Date	Wednesday 21 st February 2024
Time	10:30
Location	Ockment Community Centre, Okehampton EX20 1AR.
Chair	Georgie Adams - Launceston & District
Minutes Secretary	Mark Leavis - Launceston & District
Attendees:	<p>Guests from Callington u3a (Tamar Valley Network) Phil Clift, Derek Massey</p> <p>Two Moors Network Contact: Malcolm Tulip</p> <p>East Dartmoor: John Williams, Roger Butler</p> <p>Launceston: Georgie Adams, Mark Leavis, Angie Harris</p> <p>Moor's Edge: Sue Britten, Ginny Harvey</p> <p>Okehampton: Debs Barker, Tony Barker</p> <p>Tavy: Paul Ward, Angela Pitt</p> <p>West Dartmoor: Richard Searle, Joan Searle</p>

Minutes

1.	Welcome & Introductions
	The chair, Georgie Adams welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves.
2.	Apologies
	Susan Parker - Trustee for the South West
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting
	Minutes of Meeting held on 4 th October 2023 were accepted
4.	Matters Arising
	None
5.	Trustee for the South West Report
	<p>My apologies for not being at your meeting. Much of my time, both before and since Christmas, has been taken up dealing with queries or answering complaints. Neither of these matters can be left for too long. Queries can often be dealt with quite quickly by sending a link to the appropriate website page.</p> <p>Most of the complaints I receive from u3a members are about the behaviour of other members of their u3a. Please ask your Group Leaders to talk to the committee about problems before doing anything rash that might escalate the issue. Please make sure that all your members are aware of your Grievance Policy and Procedures, if you don't have one already or think it might need updating sample documents are available on the u3a website and there is an excellent workshop that I strongly recommend:</p> <p>Managing complaints and disciplinary processes in your u3a. This workshop will explore and discuss how to deal with issues which may arise in you u3a, including complaints and disciplinary processes. Date of next session: Tuesday 12 March 10:00 – 12:00</p>

	<p>Another Workshop that is very important is the new Presentation produced by the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. The aim of the Presentation is to enable u3as to deliver their legal responsibilities under the 2010 Equality Act. The EDI Presentation can be delivered via zoom to a network or any collection of u3as and there are also plans to include it in the National programme but be aware both these workshops apply to all members they are not solely the responsibility of the committee. I can't urge you strongly enough to make every single one of your members aware of the importance of these issues to the smooth and happy running of your u3a. And, if your members feel you are involving them, they will much more willing to step up when you need help or a new committee member.</p> <p>Another very, very important presentation for all your members is the Fit for the Future Presentation. One has already been held in the region, two more are planned on the morning of the 8th March and the afternoon of the 22nd. You should already have received notification of those dates and the zoom link. I am trying to arrange a third. Please encourage your members to attend, more than once if they wish, because this is their opportunity to ask questions and make their views known on the proposed changes to the movement.</p> <p>Susan Parker – Trustee for the South West 18.2.2</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Two Moors Network Contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee for the SW has requested that each u3a identify an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) person for their u3a. <p><i>West Dartmoor (Richard) asked what would the duties of the EDI person entail?</i></p> <p>Action - Malcolm to discuss with Trustee for the South West.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit for the Future – Consultation Successor required. Malcolm would like to step down as Two Moors Network Contact – agreed for Malcolm to forward job description to attendees and then this to be shared with wider u3a membership to appeal for a new person for this role - <p>Action – Malcolm to forward Role & Responsibilities to each u3a</p> <p>Action – Submissions for Malcolm's replacement as the Network contact by mid-March</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Group Reports</p>
	<p><u>7.1 Launceston</u></p> <p>Membership is holding steady at 223 Members</p> <p>Events - Very successful Coach/ Boat Trip around Exmouth Harbour Birdwatching. Took part in Launceston Christmas Tree Festival (groups made themed baubles for the tree). Held successful Christmas Fayre</p> <p>Planned speakers – Ian Ringer - safe driving and Laura Langman about Saving Energy – will let know if they are good speakers.</p> <p>Quiz arranged for March – Mark gave an invitation for Two Moors u3a's to enter a Team – Mark to share details. Community Litter pick in May. Joint</p>

Flower Festival in June

Concerns regarding u3a insurance cover with regards to inviting public to events run by us. There was a discussion regarding u3a insurance cover.
SEE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Success - New committee formed and settled in very well. Formation of Marketing/ PR Group to improve community awareness of u3a.
Shared Members Questionnaire Results.

Workshops - Held recent Group Leaders Meeting to discuss – keeping it legal – how can we help group leaders.
Trying new initiative - Bring a Friend to u3a

AOB – Started new Website Migration Training.
New groups starting 'Learning Italian Together" and "Learning Spanish Together". Also, Music Appreciation Group and possible Walking Football Group starting.

7.2 East Dartmoor

There has been an encouraging increase in new members from this time last year. We now have 73 members with 5 new applicants about to join. Numbers have recovered to pre-Pandemic levels.

Events - There have been several visits to local screenings of international operatic performances, & an exciting visit on the Christmas Train of Lights from Paignton to Dartmouth. Our Group enjoyed a free of charge Christmas Buffet following our normal meeting where there were quizzes, a comic farce play performed by members, & seasonal poetry readings. After our Christmas buffet in early Dec 43 members all enjoyed a New Year lunch at a local inn.

No planning has yet taken place for future events until the new committee is confirmed.

Celebrating 20 Year u3a anniversary later in the year and are looking forward to the Lord Lieutenant of Devon attending.

Concerns - Filling any vacant committee posts with suitably skilled & active people. Debating Group and the Walking Group are struggling

Success - On a freezing cold day in January we had a very high turn-out for our group meeting. We must be doing something right!

Speakers – Roger Butler advised that he was doing a talk about the major changes to the telecoms industry and advised he would share his talk if requested or a much wider presentation could be delivered via Zoom.

P. Manning the speaker's organiser has done a great job in attracting varied & entertaining speakers - some of them have been outstanding. She has the

contact details & can advise on suitability.

7.3 West Dartmoor

Membership at 116 Slightly down.

Events - Successful Soup and Cheese Lunch last month with almost 50 attendees. Members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Bedford Hotel and

Concerns - Have concerns regarding falling membership mainly because of ageing membership. AGM in July and struggling to fill important roles.

Recommend Speakers - Bryan Short who has a variety of talks and Mary Marshall.

7.4 Tavy

Up. Currently at 482, renewals for 2024 in progress with still 56 to renew. A lot of new developments in Tavistock are helping increase numbers. Had a stand at a Community Wellness Forum and this has also help numbers. Recommended purchasing a card reader machine to make transactions easier instead of cash.

Events - Monthly meetings with speakers (attendance up) and refreshments – over 150 people attended last meeting. Christmas party meeting with speaker, singing and buffet (bar open); theatre visits to Jesus Christ Superstar, Edward Scissorhands, Matthew Bourne ballet, A Ghost Story; visit to the Garden House, Buckland Monachorum.

(March plans) Theatre: And then there were none, Wizard of Oz;
Visits: Plympton Castle and Saltram House, Cotehele Daffodil Festival;
coach trip Tiverton and Knightshayes;

Speakers - John Walters (nature and art); Francis Howard (expert on snowdrops and daffodils); Richard Haigh (talk on Italy).

7.5 Okehampton

Membership numbers continue to increase and now stand at just over 80. We feel this is due in part at least to having better publicity for the programme of meetings/speakers including articles in the local press and parish newsletters and posters in shops and other retail outlets.

Events - Our speaker in November was Ann Widdecombe who gave an extremely informative and entertaining presentation supported by her books which she signed and sold on the day and gave a generous donation to u3a funds.

Our December meeting was our Christmas Lunch followed, as always, by Sheila's fiendish, festive quiz. This was extremely well supported with over half the membership attending.

The January event was modified at the last minute due to the illness of the

speaker's hearing/guide dog. The session was reorganised as a 'games' event and this was a success.

We have a full programme of speakers lined up for the remainder of 2024 including two speakers on the topic of climate change. One of these is Hamish Steptoe who works at the Met Office in Exeter and that is being followed up with an escorted visit for u3a members to the Met Office.

Concerns - Our AGM is scheduled for 16 April. The Committee (of now six) worked hard during 2023 to revive the u3a. We hope that more of the members will volunteer to take Committee roles for 2024-2025; the more pairs of shoulders that the work can be spread across, the better and the more, different ideas can be brought forward too.

Success - Compared with the level of activity in the immediate past, the Committee is pleased with the good responses we have had from members and hope this generally upward trend will continue throughout 2024-2025. Shared their new trifold leaflet with the attendees.

Speakers - As can be judged from the report above, we can thoroughly recommend Ann Widdecombe as a speaker.

7.6 Moor's Edge

Membership is up, and currently stands at 128. We had 122 members in October when renewal was due. 20 members didn't renew so their names have been removed, so we have gained 26 new members since October.

Events - In December we had a coach trip to the Truro Christmas market. We had a Christmas party at our December general meeting with singing from the "singing for fun" group, music from the ukelele group, a quiz, and a raffle. Members enjoyed a New Years Lunch.

A coach trip to Sidmouth and Seaton has been arranged for next May. A celebration is being planned to celebrate their 10 Years u3a Anniversary.

Concerns - At our annual group coordinators meeting there was some discussion about risk assessment forms. The u3a provide forms for different activities (home based, venue based, outdoors etc.) we would like to know how other u3as manage the relevant paperwork. Should there be a new form for every event? Who stores the paperwork? How long should it be kept? **SEE ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Success - We have 2 new groups: art appreciation and map reading & navigation. Our walking group has changed its formation so now we have 4 walking groups: strollers, short walks 1, short walks 2 and long walks.

Speakers - Lydia Koehler spoke about shark conservancy and was very informative. She apologized for her German accent, but nobody had a problem. The only problem is that she doesn't have her own transport.

AOB - Fran, our group coordinator for the map reading & navigation group is

	<p>a keen walker and a member of the Ramblers. She is interested in joining up with other u3a walking groups in other parts of the country. In Devon, for example, we could offer visitors both moorland and coastal walks. Initially, she would like to try the idea out with some of our local u3as to see if the idea is viable. Contact details for Fran to be circulated to enable links to be formed with local Two Moors walking groups.</p> <p><u>Callington u3a – Guest</u> Membership slowly climbing at 153</p> <p>Events - Have their AGM in April. Had recent successful speakers – on Uranium Glass and Bee Keeping</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding Annual fees and how much speakers charged.</p>
8.	Any Other Business
	<p>It was decided that the subjects of Insurance Cover and Risk Assessments would be added to the agenda for the next Two Moors meeting as separate items so there could be an in-depth conversation about both matters.</p>
9.	Date of Next Meeting, Venue & Hosts
	10:30 on Wednesday 19th June 2024, venue TBC, Hosts: East Dartmoor.