

Meeting	Two Moors Network Meeting
Date	4 October 2023
Time	10:00 – 12.00
Location	Parish Rooms, Tavistock PL19 8AU
Chair	Paul Ward
Minutes Secretary	Angela Pitt
Attendees:	<p>Trustee for the South West: Susan Parker Two Moors Network Contact: Malcolm Tulip East Dartmoor: Launceston: Moor's Edge: Ginny Harvey, Sue Britten, Kate Tasker Okehampton: Tony Barker, Debs Barker Tavy: Paul Ward, Angela Pitt West Dartmoor:</p>

MINUTES

		ACTION
1.	Welcome & Introductions	
	The chair, Paul Ward, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves.	
2.	Apologies	
	Launceston, East Dartmoor, West Dartmoor (reports received)	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
	Minutes of Meeting held on 21 st June 2023 were accepted	
4.	Matters Arising	
	None	
5.	Trustee for the South West	
	<p>Reminder of the role of the Pilot Council. The SW trustee represents the South West to the board. Issue currently under discussion at u3a head office: can the u3a board (primarily focused on ensuring legal issues relating to charitable status are complied with) be separated from a proposed Councils (representing u3as to the board)</p> <p>Reminder that anyone interested in attending meetings connected to pilot council should contact Susan. The notes from the latest pilot council meeting are still to be distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about difficulty in finding people who are prepared to be trustees and suggestion that people who show interest in a specific field of activity could be invited to attend meetings etc without committing. • Discussion about volunteers / membership • Certificates are available to u3as for length of 	

	<p>existence, e.g., for 10 years, 15 years, 20 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported an innovative group in Plymouth u3a named the Hive and comprising members who volunteer in various ways to support their u3a other than serving on the committee and group leaders. Could be a good idea for our u3as. 	
6.	Two Moors Network Contact	
	<p>Re question about a u3a paying an external tutor (not a member): national guidance says yes. Chair pointed out that individual u3as can also make their own decision about this. It was agreed, however, that u3a members, even those belonging to a different u3a, should not receive payment for services to any u3a.</p> <p>Callington u3a is part of Tamar Valley network and may want to be part of Two Moors Network as well. Malcolm has invited them to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>A successor is required to take over from Malcolm who has now been doing the job for 4 years. A description of the Role and Responsibilities is on Two Moors Network 'Documents' webpage.</p>	Malcolm
7.	Group Reports	
	<p>7.1 Okehampton</p> <p>At the previous Network meeting held in June, we had just 25 fully paid-up members. At our AGM in April, we had looked quite seriously at the possibility of folding up but five members of the Bridge Group had come forward to form a new Committee with the hope that Okehampton u3a could be revived. Since then, a fresh programme of speakers and some trips had been arranged and the indications were all quite positive: paid up membership now stood at 59 and September's talk from Charlotte Bacon of South West Water had attracted a very good number of people, including four new members. Speakers for the remainder of the year to next April included Ann Widdecombe in October, Deb Fullbrook and her hearing dog in January, Hamish Steptoe from the Met Office in February with a follow-up visit to the Met Office in March, David Ramsden in March and Lizzie Carr in April.</p> <p>The success of recent activities has been largely a result of improvements in publicity for our monthly meetings including attractive notices being put in shop windows, and articles in Okehampton Times and Oke Links magazine.</p> <p>A sixth Committee member has recently joined and a meeting</p>	

of the Committee was planned for early November at which there would be discussion about Committee commitments after the AGM.

So, whilst we remain a very small u3a, we are optimistic that we will continue to grow our membership over the next few months or so.

7.2 Tavy District

Membership 457 (+70 since start of 2023); events, e.g. walking tour of Royal William Yard, Mount Edgecumbe, Bere Ferrers Hidden Village Gardens, Daymer House in Trebethick, coach trip to Brixham and Coleton Fishacre, walkers to Padstow and St Enedoc amongst other nearer walks; bookings for annual holiday 2024 to RHS Bridgewater, Manchester and Salford; talks on The Three Hares – iconic symbol found in China and here, Baking Blind – Penny Melville-Brown, winner of the Holman Prize for blind people and her experiences as the first woman barrister Royal Navy, medically discharged and founder of Disability Dynamics,. In August (replacing the usual monthly meeting with speaker) Party in the Park with attendance of about 100 members, glorious weather and cake. The position of vice chair remains vacant but otherwise the committee posts are all filled.

7.3 Launceston

We have 224 members – slowly growing. Had a stand at Launceston Victorian Market - potential 12 new members. Kings Coronation Celebration. 30 years Anniversary of Launceston u3a.

Macmillan Coffee morning, AGM in Oct, Participation in Launceston Carnival, Christmas Market, Flower festival, Quiz. Recent successes: nominations for full committee to be confirmed at the AGM, and we have created an events team to coordinate our activities. Suggestions for workshops / sharing events: joint event - sharing info with each other – sharing article from each other’s network magazines. Recent speakers who can be recommended: Ali Humphreys – Cornwall Recycling for Charity.

Planned speakers – **Barclays – Scams**, History/ **Cuba Visit** Peter Adams,
Fire service - Peter Penhorwood

7.4 East Dartmoor

M/ship numbers -Approx same as last year, although not necessarily the same people

Events - We had a visit to a Devon tea plantation & cream tea at Buckland Abbey in July.

Forthcoming free Xmas buffet lunch at Dec meeting & New

year celebration lunch (£20) in Jan .
 Two visits to see live streamed opera/plays
 Christmas quiz & play reading planned for Dec meeting
 Christmas steam train ride from Paignton.
 Success - New interest group of skittles & supper & visits to
 live streaming opera being well supported
 Speakers - The new year has begun well with two speakers:
 Mike Rego on behind the scenes in North Korea & Nick Powe
 from Kents Cavern

7.5 West Dartmoor

Membership of 129 - which is approximately the same. Some
 new members but also a couple of deaths and
 a couple of resignations because of age and infirmity
 Events - Visit to SS Great Britain in July and Christmas lunch
 planned for day of December meeting at the Bedford Hotel.
 "Soup and Roll" lunch planned for January in Church Hall
 Concerns - Trying to get new Committee members. Need a
 Chairman and Treasurer at least before AGM in July
 Successes - Some groups are thriving whereas others are
 struggling to keep going.
 Speakers - We have had quite a few excellent speakers
 recently including Bryan Short.
 He spoke on this occasion on "Rome: Foundation to Empire" -
 He is a really knowledgeable historian who has spoken to us
 before on other topics.

7.6 Moor's Edge

Our current membership is 121, but with renewal due on the
 1st of October, exact numbers are a bit flexible at the moment.
 We have increased membership fees for the first time since
 we started 9 years ago. This is because of rising costs; room
 hire increased twice this year; speakers are expecting more
 money.
 We have one new group due to start: map reading and
 navigation.
 Our speaker's coordinator has found a novel way to find new
 speakers. He went through old copies of Plym Links and
 contacted those people who had been featured in articles. He
 was surprised how many said Yes.
 In September we had a trip to Exmouth which included a boat
 trip on the river and sometime in the town. This was so
 successful that we are now planning a trip in December to the
 Truro Christmas market.
 Sue & Kate joined with Plymouth u3a for National u3a Day.
 Plymouth u3a had invited all the local u3as, but only Moor's
 Edge turned up. Following on from that day, we are now
 looking at new ways of advertising ourselves. Sue has

	<p>suggested manning a table at our local Tesco. We are finalising arrangements for our usual New Year meal at Yelverton Golf Club on the 18th of January 2024.</p>	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<p>There was discussion about members from one u3a attending groups of another u3a without being Associate Members. Current situation: Moor's Edge insist on associate membership; others allow guests (so long as a host u3a member doesn't need place). Regional Trustee reported a problem when a "guest" member of a u3a group was required to leave the group after a considerable time when the place was required for a member of the host u3a. This resulted in much unhappiness and a split in the group that took a long time to heal. Other than Moor's Edge firm view, there was no clear recommendation and further discussion within individual u3as is required.</p> <p>Reminder that the u3a capitation fee is paid only on full membership, i.e., not on associate membership.</p>	
9.	Date of Next Meeting, Venue & Hosts	
	<p>21st February 2024, hosted by West Dartmoor. Location TASS in Tavistock – to be confirmed.</p>	