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Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 2 March 2021

Our 2021 AGM will be held via Zoom. This will be a new experience for all of us but seems a fitting end to a year of Zoom.

To vote during the session, we will be making use of an electronic poll, also a new experience. Because in some cases there are two members in one household, the poll will be run on two occasions to enable the second person to vote. We ask that members do not vote twice.

We are acutely aware that for those of you without access to the internet, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the lockdown restrictions has been greater than it has for internet users. For those unable to join us on Zoom, the committee decided to organise a postal vote which will be mailed out with this newsletter.

It occurred to the committee that in our attempt to be inclusive, we could also offer an electronic vote to those who have the internet but are unable to attend the AGM. Therefore, in the week before the AGM we will send out an email with a link to our voting system. If you are joining us at the AGM, which we hope you will, you should not use this means of voting.

You will find the agenda and other documents for the meeting on pages 2 to 4 of this newsletter.

The AGM will be followed by a talk by photographer Jim Holmes. Overall, the meeting will be longer than it has been recently but it will close at 3.30pm. More information about the talk is available on page 2.

Wendy Dale

Acting Chair

AGM agenda

Agenda for Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting

To be held at 2pm on Tuesday 2 March, 2021 via video link

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Approve Minutes of AGM held on 3 March 2020
(published in the March newsletter)
3. Matters arising
4. Approve the amendments to Section 3 and Section 8 of the Tynedale u3a Constitution:
 1. Paragraph 3.c.1. “...the due date of 1 April each year” shall change to “...the due date of 1 September each year”.
 2. Paragraph 8.g The Annual and Special General Meetings may be held electronically online, and any written notices, nominations or calls to members (as defined in 8.b, 8.e and 8.f) may be issued in writing electronically, where required.
(details published in the February newsletter)
5. Chair's Report (a copy will be published in the April newsletter)
6. Treasurer's Report (the annual statement of accounts is published in the March newsletter) followed by adoption of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020
7. Elections to Committee:
 - Chair
 - Group Liaison Secretary (Job share)
 - Events Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
8. Non-Committee Posts
9. Appointment of Trevor Field as Auditor for 2021/22
10. Close of meeting

Monthly meeting online, Tuesday 2 March 2021 after the AGM

Topic: Humanitarian vision

Speaker: Jim Holmes

This is a visual introduction to the fantastic work done around the world by groups, agencies and charities that specialise in humanitarian development and assistance projects. Uplifting and insightful strong images introduce the audience to projects in Afghanistan, Mongolia, Laos, India, Myanmar and many other countries.

Jim Holmes is a British/Australian freelance documentary photographer now living in Chester, in the UK.

He has spent 30 years specialising in documenting humanitarian work worldwide, and especially the issues, needs, solutions and outcomes of the development process. His focus is the individuals and communities that are affected by these needs, and the challenges they face before and within this process.

He has extensive experience working for multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations agencies including WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP and WHO, and with numerous international non-government organisations that manage projects worldwide.

Minutes of 2020 AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Great Hall, Priory Rooms, Hexham Abbey on 3rd March 2020 at 2.15pm

Welcome: The Chair, Alistair Sinclair, welcomed members and visitors to the 2020 AGM. 83 members and 3 visitors attended. (86 in total)

Apologies were received from Margaret Earl, Anna and Geoff Ostler, Trisha Wall, Sarah and John Barker, Christine Ward, Patricie Davie, Hilda Dixon, Vivien Hubbock and Gwen Walls.

Minutes of 2019 AGM, which were printed in the March Newsletter, were accepted as an accurate record and signed accordingly. Approval proposed by Kevin Stephens and seconded by Sue Charlton. Agreed by all present.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Approve the amendments to Section 8 of the Tynedale U3A constitution - (Annual and Special General Meetings) Paragraph 8d "A quorum shall be 10% of the paid up members". Details were published in the February Newsletter.

Unfortunately the attendance at the meeting was not sufficient to make a quorum. As the current constitution stands, 20% of the membership as at December 2019, the end of our financial year, must be present at the AGM. The membership in December 2019 stood at 459 full members, 20% of which is 92. We were therefore short of 9 members to make up the quorum.

In light of this the committee wish to hold an EGM at the monthly meeting on April 7th to agree all the matters raised at the AGM. To enable this to happen a copy of the AGM minutes will be emailed to all members and will be printed in April's Newsletter.

The Chair's report: Alistair Sinclair delivered his address a copy of which will appear in the April 2020 Newsletter.

Treasurer's report followed by adoption of the accounts for year ending 31 Dec, 2019. The Treasurer, David Pattinson circulated a copy of the accounts to members present. He gave his annual report which will be put on the Tynedale U3A website. It was agreed to keep the annual subscription at £14. The meeting was unable to adopt the accounts as there wasn't a quorum present.

a) Elections to committee:

Business Secretary – Susan Turnbull, proposed by Sue Loader and seconded by Ed Carrington.

Newsletter Editor – Alicia Cresswell proposed by Sue Charlton and seconded by Sally Pearson.

Second Group Liaison Secretary – Jane Perona Wright, proposed by Margaret Earl and seconded by Sally Pearson.

Membership Secretary – Barbara Herring wishes to stand down as Membership Secretary; however is happy to stay in the role until a replacement can be found.

The committee would also like a volunteer to act as back up for Kevin Stevens in the **Website Manager and Publicity Role**.

b) The following members were invited to join the committee, or take a new position within the committee after the AGM in March 2019; as a result their positions need to be ratified.

Barrie Mellars as Programme Secretary – proposed by David Pattinson and seconded by Sally Pearson

David Pattinson as Treasurer – proposed by John Sandiford and seconded by Wendy Dale

John Sandiford as Beacon Administrator – proposed by Barrie Mellars and seconded by Alistair Sinclair.

The remainder of the committee are:

(Chairman) – Alistair Sinclair, **(Group Liaison Secretary)** – Margaret Earl and **(Joint Website Manager and Publicity Officer)** - Kevin Stephens – all who have one more year remaining on the committee.

(Vice Chair). Wendy Dale who has 2 more years remaining on the committee.

All committee members were approved by those present.

Non Committee Posts. The Chair thanked all those who helped/volunteered but not in a committee role. Elizabeth Leonard with Registration at monthly meetings. Paper Newsletter distributors, Sue Charlton, Robert Ford, David Pattinson, Sue Loader, Jennifer Roper, Wendy Dale, Mary Gray, Anne Steele and Alistair Sinclair.

Appointment of Auditor for 2020/21 It was agreed that Trevor Field would be the auditor for the coming year proposed by David Pattinson and seconded by Sally Pearson. Agreed by all present.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

2020 final accounts statement

Tynedale U3A Charity No. 515733
Receipts and Payments Account
 Year ended 31 December 2020



	2020			2019		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL
			£			£
INCOME						
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:						
ANNUAL	6194		6194	6744		6744
GIFT AID	950		950	737		737
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	7144		7144	7481		7481
DONATIONS BOOK SALES etc.	184		184	25		25
INTEREST RECEIVED	15		15	41		41
REFRESHMENTS	0		0	0		0
COMMISSION	0		0	360		360
OTHER INCOME	199		199	426		426
EVENT INCOME	873	2284	3157	2621	5460	8082
TOTAL INCOME	8216	2284	10499	10529	5460	15989
EXPENSES						
AFFILIATION FEES						
	1635		1635	1512		1512
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:						
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER	564		564	424		424
TYNEDALE COMMUNICATIONS:						
PRINTING	646		646	495		495
POSTAGE ETC.	906		906	899		899
GROUP CONVENORS' LUNCH	990		990	0		0
TOTAL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS	3107		3107	1817		1817
GENERAL EXPENSES:						
HALL HIRE	450	2147	2597	1485	5574	7059
MISCELLANEOUS	0		0	0		0
OFFICE EXPENSES	824		824	905		905
ADVERTISING	488		488	563		563
SPEAKERS	90		90	390		390
TRAVEL	9		9	331		331
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	1861	2147	4008	3674	5574	9248
TOTAL OVERHEADS	6602	2147	8749	7004	5574	12577
EVENTS OUT	925		925	2742		2742
TOTAL EXPENSES	7527	2147	9674	9746	5574	15319
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	688	137	825	783	-114	669
<i>(Income less Expenses)</i>						

Tynedale U3A Charity No. 515733
Balance Sheet
 Year ended 31 December 2020

	2020			2019		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL
U3A FUNDS:						
Balances 31 December 2019	12165	2168	14333	11382	2282	13664
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	688	137	825	783	-114	669
Balances 31 December 2020	12853	2305	15158	12165	2168	14333
Represented by:						
Cash & Current Account	9283		9283	8474		8474
COIF Deposit A/C	5875		5875	5860		5860
	15158		15158	14333		14333
Less Funds specific to individual Groups	2305	2305		2168	2168	
	12854	2305	15158	12165	2168	14333

Hon Treasurer

Honorary Examiner's Report

Checked and found to be in accordance with the information provided.

T. J. Field

Membership fee 2021-2022

In light of the Committee's recommendation that the renewal date for membership subscriptions moves from 1 April to 1 September each year with immediate effect, the committee has agreed to leave the £14 membership subscription unchanged for the membership year commencing 1 September 2021.

Message from Barbara Herring, Membership Secretary

DO NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET

Voting at our AGM will decide whether membership renewals will, in future, occur in September in line with the academic year. This means that our current membership **may** be valid for 18 months.

As soon after the AGM as possible, members will be informed of the outcome of this resolution, and, if passed, **all memberships will not become due for renewal until 1 September.**

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Tynedale Desert Island Discs

February Desert Island Discs

We held our sixth Desert Island Discs Zoom on 16 February, when Margret Jacot shared her musical choices and snippets from her fascinating life.

Margret's choices were:

1. Daisy, Daisy /Chestnut Tree
2. Dvorak Cello Concerto
3. Cool, from West Side Story
4. Gloria, Mass in B Minor, Bach
5. Rest in Peace from Bach's St John's Passion
6. The Lord Bless You and Keep You, John Rutter
7. Dies Irae, from Benjamin Britten's War Requiem
8. Hallelujah, from Handel's Messiah



This month's Desert Island Discs



Our next Desert Island Discs is on 16 March at 2pm.

Mike Worthington will be our host.

Our next castaway will be Mary Oswell, who will treat us to insights into her life and involvement with music.

Vegetarian cookery, Tuesday 16 March at 2pm

Prudhoe and District u3a have organised a Zoom cookery demonstration by the [Vegetarian for Life](#) charity, which is aimed at older people. We have been invited to join them. I have told them that it unfortunately clashes with our own Desert Island Discs so it may not draw as much interest as one might expect. If you would like to join them, can you please email me at tyneu3avchair@btinternet.com by 10 March so I can pass on your details?

I am told the demonstration lasts about 40 minutes, with time for questions and discussion afterwards. The recipes are also made available.

Wendy Dale

Group liaison update

Message from Margaret Earl, Group Secretary 1

Soon my term as Group Liaison Secretary will come to an end. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. In truth, at the outset I had scant knowledge of u3a and its operation; I was primarily a group member. During my three year term I have learned much, met some amazing people and made lots of friends. I thank you all for your support and friendship. I have appreciated them.

My departure will create a vacancy in the group support activity and an empty seat on the committee. Please do consider if you would like to fill this vacancy and make a valuable contribution to Tynedale u3a. If you have any questions about the role don't hesitate to get in touch with me, I will be happy to talk with you.

Margaret Earl

Group activity

We should all give ourselves a pat on the back. Despite all of the changes and difficulties presented by the pandemic, Tynedale u3a has continued to be active and attract new members. Our groups have tried new and varied ways to continue their activities, although this has not been possible for some. One of the most important outcomes is that group members have continued to make much needed social contact with each other.

We still have "waiting lists" of members looking for others to share their interest. We look for a minimum of four people before starting a new group. But is this still appropriate? Time and again it has been proven that members will join a registered group but not a waiting list. Recently we have put three people in touch with each other because each wanted to learn Norwegian. We haven't yet registered them as a group but perhaps we should. Could a group be two (usually described as a pair)? Clearly smaller numbers bring different requirements and maybe a greater risk of either failure of becoming insular and closed to new members. We'd like to hear your views.

In the meantime please let us know of any activity you are interested in; anything at all. We will look for like-minded members to begin the group development process.

Margaret Earl and Jane Perona-Wright

Group news and activities

Birdwatching group

We are still confined to gardens and local walks, but looking up into the trees and sky can bring rewards.



The covering of snow and ice in mid-February made life hard for birds like thrushes and starlings that feed mainly on the ground, but there is food to be found in the trees and hedgerows, and particularly in birch, larch and alder you may see redpolls and siskins eating the seeds. These are not common garden birds but at this time of year, and when conditions are harsh, siskins may come to a garden feeder where they often feed upside down. Several small flocks of siskins and redpolls have been seen by our members as well as skeins of pink-footed geese that have spent the winter here but nest much further north in Greenland, Iceland and Svalbad.

Richard Bentley

Environment group

Potentially the most important event this year has been the publication of the review by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta from Cambridge University, commissioned by the Treasury, and titled *The Economics of Biodiversity*, which we will hope to study. This is a massive work, but a summary is available [here](#).

We are hearing more and more that once Covid is no longer dominating our lives, there is a chance not to go back to the unsustainable life that was, but to move ahead to a sustainable future, so this report makes encouraging reading. Meanwhile the arrival of winter snow and ice, bringing fieldfares into town, has once again demonstrated the difference between local weather and climate.



Richard Bentley

Could you be the voice of u3a North East on local radio?

Right now, I am trying to find a few u3a North East Spokespeople to talk enthusiastically on the local radio stations in our region about the many and varied local u3a activities.



This might be you ...

- ◆ It would be really helpful, but not essential, to have talked about anything on local radio, already.
- ◆ It would be necessary to have an accessible telephone number, which could be publicised to local radio contacts.
- ◆ It would be useful to be willing to undertake some basic training, via Zoom, about standard u3a messages.

So, how about it? Initially, likely contact would be with the local radio stations which include talk (ie BBC Radio Newcastle, BBC Radio Tees and – until the end of March – BBC Radio Sunderland).

In addition, I would be pleased to hear about local radio experiences (good, bad or indifferent), from any u3a member who has, already, talked on any of our three BBC local radio stations.

Please contact me ...

- ◆ if you feel that you could be a u3a North East Spokesperson.
- ◆ if you have talked on BBC local radio stations, already.

In anticipation, many thanks,

Kelvin Rushworth (u3a Wooler)

kelvinregnat@outlook.com

u3a Public Relations Adviser, North East England

Quizzes

Photo quiz: Northumberland gardens

Can you identify the gardens in these images:

A.



B.



C.



D.



General knowledge quiz

1. What is a group of lions called?
2. In what year was the Chernobyl disaster?
3. Where are the 2028 Olympics going to be held?
4. Charles Dickens wrote *A Tale of Two Cities*. What are the two cities?
5. What is Keir Starmer's constituency?
6. The Stadium of Light is home to which English football club?
7. In which English county is Slough?
8. What is Lady Gaga's real name?
9. What is the name of the headteacher in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*?
10. What is the scientific name for the kneecap?
11. What is the name of the tube that connects the kidney to the bladder?
12. Where did Harry Potter go to school?
13. What type of pastry are profiteroles made from?
14. How many players are there in a water polo team?
15. Which Scottish cyclist was knighted by the Queen in 2009?
16. 2010 saw the official opening of tallest building in the world, what is it called?
17. Which comedian appeared in the *Travels with My Father* series with his dad Michael?
18. What is the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere that can be seen with the naked eye during a total eclipse called?



Answers to this month's quizzes

You will find the answers to the quizzes on the last page of the newsletter.

Your committee

Chairman

Alistair Sinclair - 394158
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Acting Chair and Events Secretary

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Beacon Administrator

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Membership

We currently have 428 members, including nine associate members.

Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).

welcome!

We are delighted to welcome three new members: Alfred Everatt, Patricia Sharples and Tony Cooke.

Answers to this month's quizzes

Photo quiz

A. Wallington Hall Walled Garden; B. Chipchase Castle Gardens; C. Cheeseburn Grange Garden; Chillingham Castle Garden.

General knowledge quiz

1. A pride; 2. 1986; 3. Los Angeles; 4. Paris and London; 5. Holborn and St Pancras; 6. Sunderland; 7. Berkshire; 8. Stefani Germanotta; 9. Miss Trunchbull; 10. Patella; 11. Ureter; 12. Hogwarts; 13. Choux pastry; 14. Seven; 15. Sir Chris Hoy; 16. Burj Khalifa (in Dubai, United Arab Emirates); 17. Jack Whitehall; 18. Corona.



Monthly meetings April to June 2021

6 April at 2pm, via Zoom: Roger Browne: Not Father O'Malley
4 May at 2pm, via Zoom: Colin Argent: Coming of the Railway Newcastle-Carlisle line
1 June at 2pm, via Zoom: Paul Robbins: Great British Eccentrics



Next issue of the newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in April.

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, at tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com by 25 March.