

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 2pm at Hexham Golf Club**

**Present:** Wendy Dale, Barrie Mellars, David Pattinson, Kevin Stephens, Colin Argent and Susan Turnbull.

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	<b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Alicia Cresswell and John Dark.	
2	<b>Minutes of meeting</b> held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 were accepted as a true record.	
3	<b>Matters Arising:</b> There were no matters arising.	
4	<b>Chair's Report:</b> As discussed at the last meeting it was decided to have lunch before the next committee meeting and invite Alistair Sinclair, Barbara Herring, John Sandiford and Margaret Earl by way of saying 'thank you' for their contribution to the u3a. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to have lunch at the Golf Club because they have lost their chef. After discussion it was decided to have a buffet lunch at the County Hotel, with the committee meeting afterwards at the same venue. Wendy will check this with the County.	WD
5	<b>Business Secretary's Report:</b> All information received has been distributed and there is nothing further to report.	
6	<b>Treasurer's Report:</b> The key thing to report is progress on collecting subscriptions following our new subscription year commencing on 1st September. We have now banked almost 60% of the total of subscriptions banked for the whole of last year. Although this is fantastic progress in a short period, it does mean that there is still a significant amount of money to collect, assuming that members do decide to renew.  Additionally, there have been problems with one of our venue providers, The Torch Centre in Hexham, generating correct invoices following the resumption of our group sessions at the venue. This is still work in progress but the ball is firmly in Torch's court. What it does mean is that the amount of current assets shown in the attached report is overstated by some £793.	
7	<b>Programme Secretary's Report:</b> The September monthly meeting went well and there was a good turnout and 19 members attended on Zoom. There was a problem recording the speaker, which was due to technical problems regarding feedback.	

	<p>There was much discussion regarding how to manage the number of members attending the October monthly meeting. It was agreed to use Google Forms for members to register their attendance and the email address for replies would be <a href="mailto:tyneu3a@gmail.com">tyneu3a@gmail.com</a>. The form should say that numbers were limited so places would be allocated on a first come first served basis. Wendy, Kevin and John will work together on this. Wendy will put this information into the Newsletter.</p> <p>It was agreed that Barrie would advise the Abbey that the number attending would be up to 70.</p> <p>We would like members to be able to join via Zoom for the October meeting so Barrie will try to speak to the Abbey's technical support to see if they can suggest a way around the feedback problem.</p> <p>Margret Jacot said she would be willing to do her talk again for those who missed it and there was discussion as to whether the u3a would pay for room hire to accommodate this. It was decided to revisit this in the new year.</p> <p>Barrie said that speakers for the monthly meetings were lined up until April 2022.</p> <p>Wendy said that the Desert Island Discs was restarting and the Reverend John Harrison would be choosing the discs on 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2 pm.</p>	<p>WD, KS, JD WD</p> <p>BM</p> <p>BM</p>
8	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Report:</b></p> <p>In broad terms we have, from Beacon, 434 current members. This includes 14 new members who have joined in September. Again, counting numbers on Beacon, it looks as if we have 167 of the 434 members still to renew. On this basis, about 267 have renewed. I count anyone who has either sent a cheque or is on David's list of online payments. One person paid by cash at the meeting last week. I refused to give change to another who proffered a £20 note, but will be better prepared next year.</p> <p>A number of members who gave me cheques were annoyed that their cards were not ready, but I think my decision not to print 400 plus cards was correct.</p> <p>I will have 215 cards ready to post out; 166 already printed and not collected at the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and another 51 ready to print in the next tranche. This suggests that 52 cards were collected on the 7<sup>th</sup>, but I don't have a record – have reached this estimate by various subtractions.</p> <p>166 people did the online registration on the new Google forms, although this does include an M Mouse and a J Bloggs, which were from the rehearsals. But I have yet to correlate the forms with names on the list of renewals. I need to refine the form, in particular having separate boxes for surname, so the list can be put into alphabetical order and easily linked with Beacon.</p> <p>The new cards were generally liked, and to my relief, worked with the card reader. I think in future, as we discussed, we should use undated cards and expect them to last for years.</p> <p>I've learned a lot about how to run this process, and will be able to apply a number of lessons to next year.</p> <p>The decision needed today is to agree that I should get on and post the 200 or so</p>	

	outstanding cards – this was agreed.	
9	<p><b>Publicity Officer and Website Manager's Report:</b> Kevin asked if we should go ahead with the advert in the Courant considering that we can't accommodate many more members at the monthly meetings. After much discussion it was decided to go ahead with a redrafted version of the advert to advertise the coffee morning on 20<sup>th</sup> October instead of the monthly meeting.</p> <p>There was discussion on how to distribute leaflets. Wendy wondered if members could be asked to take them to venues. It was suggested that a leaflet could be put onto every chair at the next monthly meeting and members could be asked if they wanted any more to distribute. Wendy suggested we could target venues one at a time eg churches or retirement homes.</p>	
10	<p><b>Newsletter Editor's Report:</b> Alicia has received two short articles for the October issue, one on the one-off limericks event, and the other on the crafts group. She needs a piece of text on the October talk, 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Solar System'. Other material welcome. The deadline for contributions is 23rd September.</p> <p>We now have 36 names on the 'without email' members' list, at 33 addresses. Once we are certain how many members in this category have renewed, we can make a decision on hand delivery.</p> <p>To be able to post images in the newsletter on our Facebook page, we need to make sure that we have the necessary permissions. Starting this month, I will routinely ask those sending images for the newsletter for permission to use them on the Facebook page. I will also research the terms and conditions of the free stock photo sites I use to ensure that any images we repost on the Facebook page comply with their licences.</p> <p>Kevin said he wanted to put the video he produced, onto Facebook as well as onto the website.</p> <p>Wendy said she would ask at the next meeting if someone could help (or knew someone who could help) with our Facebook page.</p>	
11	<p><b>Group Liaison Secretary's Report:</b> There is a problem with some venues not being open yet e.g. Core music, because of this, some groups could end up homeless. The groups which consist of 6 to 8 members could meet at the Garden Cafe or the small room at the County Hotel. There hasn't been much interest in the new groups although the Landscape group might get started. The website is now up to date except some groups still say they are full. Colin will check with convenors which groups are still going or need help restarting/continuing. Wendy offered to help if necessary.</p>	CA
12	<p><b>Regional and Third Age Trust:</b> Wendy had attended a Chair and Business Secretary's meeting and was interested in the different prospective of the Worcester u3a who have a rolling program of membership and work on a 9 month year. They say that they find Beacon is good for renewal with PayPal.</p>	
13	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b> David reminded us that we shouldn't try to access Beacon on the first Tuesday in the month at 10:30 in the morning when they will be doing their maintenance.</p>	

14	<b>Date and time for next meeting:</b> Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 2pm. Venue to be confirmed.	
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Meeting ended at 15:52

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Dale'.

**Signed:**

**Dated: 30.10.2021**