

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 28th July 2022 at Hexham Golf Club and on Zoom**

Present: Wendy Dale, Alicia Cresswell (minutes), Barrie Mellars, Colin Argent, David Pattinson, Lesley Parson and Sally Hewitt, with Sarah Bowen on Zoom.

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: Apologies were received from John Dark and Susan Turnbull.	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 23rd June 2022 were accepted as a true record.	
3	Matters Arising: Concerns that some members without email addresses were not receiving the print newsletter have been investigated. The problem was limited to one member with access to email but no further access to the internet. This member has now been added to the 'without email' list and has already received the most recent issue of the newsletter.	
4	<p>Chair's Report: Preparations for the Open Day are progressing well. The Chair thanked Sally Hewitt for her work on publicity materials; Colin Argent for contacting group convenors, establishing what the various groups would like to do, and gathering information on the number of tables and display boards needed; and David for securing the funds from the Third Age Trust.</p> <p>Although a small number of committee members will be away on the day, the majority can attend.</p> <p>The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cost of catering (cost possibly included in the room-hire price as for other events - £120.00 estimate; Wendy will negotiate with the Abbey) *Counting people in (how; what information to gather: member or non-member/ how they heard about the Open Day/interest in specific groups) *Securing display boards (so far there are five available). Colin recommends the use of A3 or A2 foam pinboards instead. These will require some form of support for display. Groups will be encouraged to use these pinboards, which Colin can provide. *Budget: Expenditure per group is likely to be low, with most groups doing their own printing. Cost estimate for 25xA4 paper posters and 4 xA2 encapsulated (waterproof) display panels is around £160.00. There will be an additional small cost for the purchase of pinboards. *Poster design: Images should show both men and women as far as possible. <p>We have committed to placing two more adverts (in October and November); one can be used to advertise the Open Day. Plans to do a joint advert with Prudhoe have not materialised due to lack of interest from Prudhoe.</p> <p>It was agreed that there would be a planning meeting for the Open Day immediately after the September monthly meeting.</p>	<p>WD</p> <p>WD</p> <p>CA</p> <p>SH</p>

5	<p>Business Secretary's Report: All information received has been circulated. This includes information about the Third Age Trust AGM.</p> <p>David reminded the meeting that the Third Age Trust wishes in future years to align a rise in its subscription fee (currently £4.00 per member per annum) to the annual percentage rise in the State Pension. He argued that at a time of high inflation and growing pressure on household spending, this increase is unnecessary, aimed as it is at growing the commercial operation, campaigning/lobbying activities and the London-related costs of the Third Age Trust. It was proposed that our association vote against this increase at the Trust's AGM. This proposal was unanimously accepted by the committee.</p> <p>David has submitted his views to the chair of the Region for the Regional u3a meeting of 29 July, where this item has been tabled for discussion. Wendy will be attending.</p>	
6	<p>Treasurer's Report: David had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the budget for the Open Day should not exceed £400.00 (a nominal sum of £250 in our budget plus £150 that we have now received from the Third Age Trust to help fund the event).</p> <p>Our finances remain in a healthy position with the membership renewal cycle about to start again in September.</p>	DP
7	<p>Programme Secretary's Report: The feedback on the July talk, 'Living, working and doing scientific research in Antarctica', has been excellent. The speaker, Professor Bentley, is in discussion with the Science, Geology and Space groups about a future meeting focusing on the science. It was suggested that this meeting should be open to all members; it could be set up as a Tynedale u3a event, with the association paying the cost of room hire.</p> <p>Barrie has booked talks for January and March 2023 as well as having a full programme to the end of 2022. The Third Age Trust has a list of speakers; Barrie will seek feedback and contact suitable speakers.</p>	BM
8	<p>Membership Secretary's Report: John had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting. Recently there has been a steady trickle of new members. David added that there have been 49 new members in total so far this year.</p> <p>The July coffee morning for new members went well and everyone seemed to appreciate the opportunity to find out more about the association and meet fellow members. All the attendees were new members; the advert in the Courant had not attracted potential members.</p> <p>There will be a piece in the September newsletter about renewal, with a note for people who have standing orders that are now 25p lower than required.</p> <p>John is redesigning the online renewal form to allow people who have not changed their contact details to simply indicate no change.</p> <p>David has arranged for John to have access to the bank details so that when he gets an online form, he does not need to contact the Treasurer to see if people have paid. This will smooth the process for both renewals and new applications.</p>	JD
9	<p>Publicity Officer's Report: Sally had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting. Points concerning the Open Day were discussed earlier in the meeting (see Chair's report section).</p> <p>The Facebook group is now up, with six members so far. Sally will write a short article for the September newsletter encouraging Facebook users to join. Links to Hexham Matters and other local-interest Facebook pages should attract non-members to our own page.</p> <p>How to deal with security issues is currently being considered.</p>	SH SH/LP

10	<p>Newsletter Editor's Report: The newsletter is not published in August, but members have already sent several articles for the September issue.</p> <p>Alicia will stand down from her role as Newsletter Editor at the end of her three-year period in March 2023. The vacancy will be advertised in the October newsletter.</p> <p>David Pattinson will also be standing down from the post of Treasurer in March 2023. Although the post has already been advertised twice in the newsletter, no-one has come forward. The post will also be readvertised in the October newsletter. It is important that a replacement be found early to make the transition as smooth as possible.</p>	AC
11	<p>Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Latin Learners has been brought back to life, with Sue Loader as convenor. Sue has written an article for the September newsletter and will contribute materials for the Open Day's Languages table. There will be more information on groups in the September newsletter.</p>	CA
12	<p>Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Lesley has circulated a survey from Beacon about using Beacon for creating personalised letters to members and whether a printing option should be developed.</p> <p>A dormant Twitter account @Tynedaleu3a has been found. There is no indication as to who the administrator is/was. Lesley will monitor this account.</p>	LP
13	<p>Events Secretary's Report: Nothing to report</p>	
14	<p>Regional and Third Age Trust: This was discussed earlier in the meeting (see Business Secretary's report).</p>	
15	<p>A.O.B.: There was no other business.</p>	
16	<p>Date and time for next meeting: There will be a short committee meeting following the September monthly meeting and the one agenda item will be the Open Day. The next meeting is on Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 2pm.</p>	

Meeting ended at 15:40



Signed:

Dated: 3.10.2022