

Minutes of the u3a committee meetings held on 7th March, 12noon at St. Andrews church, Monkseaton.

Person's present

Derek Reynolds, Kath Reed, Vicky Landles, Dorothy Chapman, Dorothy Garman and Dave Haddock.

Apologies for Absence were received from

Anne Hemy, Kath MacEachen, Andrew Freckingham and Ray Taylor.

Minutes from the meeting of January were agreed and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

There was a discussion on how long we should retain the minutes of the committee meetings. It was agreed that Dave Haddock would retain them in a file on our Website and Kath Reed agreed to keep a hard copy for 12 months and the committee would decide if they would be retained any longer.

DR had completed the annual return of membership numbers to the Charity Commissioners.

Treasures Report

VL reported on the finances by saying we have a healthy balance at the moment, but we have our largest outgoings during April and May when paying National u3a fees. We have been advised by Linskill Trading that the cost of the hire of the hall and the refreshments are being increased from £185 we pay now. The increase is the first in 2 years and the committee agreed it is still good value for money.

Vicky advised the national membership cost may force our membership cost to increase in 2023 but meanwhile the committee agreed we will keep our membership fee at £20 for 2022/23.

Membership Secretary's report

Ray Taylor reported we currently have 318 fully paid-up Members with another 3 pending.

Ray has confirmed he will not be standing for re-election as the Membership Secretary at the next AGM.

The committee were reminder a new yellow membership card will be required for distribution at the June 22 meeting. DR will coordinate this.

Website update

Dave Haddock and Dorothy Chapman continue to make improvements to our website There is good feedback and Dave has appealed to all members to give him material to publish.

Dave then reported on the Activity on our website where we continue to have a growing number of hits with the information on Scams taking the top spot.

The Group coordinators handed out a National Survey for new members. The replies were analysed by Peggy Robertson, a member who kindly volunteered to do this, and the committee have some interesting information about potential new groups.

It was agreed that we will continue to issue this survey to new members at periodic intervals throughout the next 12 months.

The committee thanks Dave and Peggy for their work on this project.

New Committee members

Derek Reynolds led a discussion on the recruitment of new committee members, and he stressed how vital new members are if we are to continue our progress. He would like to chat with anyone who may be interested in joining the committee at the monthly meeting. He asks we bring any such person to his attention when he will be very pleased to meet them.

The Group Co-ordinators report

New Groups are up and running

A book club is being run monthly by Sandra Raftery in Whitley Bay library

An additional French Group is up and running

A Table Tennis group at the Parks in North Shields is almost underway. The initial meeting will be held at the Monkseaton Arms Hotel at 11.00am on 17.3.22

Please check the website for the arrangements for these new groups.

The Anniversary Celebration

The committee decided a subcommittee was required to take forward the arrangements for the anniversary celebration . The subcommittee will be Dorothy Garman, Dorothy Chapman, Kath MacEachen, Vicky Landles and Kath Reed. This subcommittee will report progress monthly to the main committee.

A.O.B.

DR has confirmed with Anne Hemy that the new dance group will be starting on the 28th of April. Anne will be the contact for this group. Details will be on the website.

A discussion took place about scams and our Cyber Guardians .DR will get an update from Mike Martin about all our security arrangements and access to our cyber guardians.

KR reported Pat Hodgson, the speaker in February, raised £200 for the NSPCC.

There has been good interest in a visit to Pat's garden May/June and the committee agreed to an outing being organised. KR will report back next month on progress.

The date of the next meeting

4th April 12 noon -2.0 pm