



## Northumbria Region u3a

### Regional Support Team Zoom Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

From 14.00 – 17.00

**Present:** - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Ann Carr (AC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mike Wallace (MMW), Mary Dunning (MED), Ted Watt (TW), Trevor Robinson (TR), Kelvin Rushworth (KR), Peter Barnett (PB), Mike Wallace (MMW), Sandi Rickerby (SR), Pam Turner (PM), Mary Barlow (MEB).

**Visitors:** - Mike Cook (MC), Maureen Taylor (MT).

**Apologies:** - Mo Brown, Jane Mathieson, Malcolm Wilkinson.

**Welcome:** - **Welcome:** - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting and as this was the first Regional Support Team meeting and we had visitors we each introduced ourselves and gave an outline on which u3a we belonged to and our role. We were all reminded of Zoom etiquette.

**Minutes:** - Agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters Arising:** - KR said how good it was to see the photograph of Bambrugh Castle on the Facebook page and gave a brief outline of Bambrugh previously called Din Guarie which may have been the capital of Bernicia and of Northumbria as a region in its own right. CC replied that we agreed to start with that photograph, but we would be rotating photographs, so we cover all areas of Northumbria.

CC said D Reynolds would not be coming on the Regional Committee.

List of u3as using Beacon – PB has been told of an easier system of finding out which u3a use the system apart from literally asking them.

Merging u3as – Information from SR has been distributed to members of this committee.

Off the Wall – Details can be found on the regional website.

SR informed the meeting that Durham and Dunelm were to dissolve as charities and restart a brand new one – which is more complicated than merging but is what the Committees of both u3as have decided. MMW asked if both would be paying subscriptions in April this year and would told they would be.

**Facebook (MC):** - MC explained where we were currently and said that we need to populate the page preferably including a photograph with each article.

SR agreed to write an article on the AGM and include a photograph taken by KR who has permission to use some of the Angel Inn where the meeting is being held.

Only MC and TR are administrators for the site.

CC said she hoped to provide an article on the Central Mosque in Newcastle including a photograph.

AC asked how people can contact the u3a and was told a generic email address could be placed on the page.

MT suggested that the Facebook page could have a link to our website.

**Three Year Plan (CC):** - Only three members replied to JM saying which where the most important to press ahead with.

Items 2 and 3 came out top followed by 1, 4, 8 and 9.

CC asked for three volunteers for each of these items to take them forward.

Item 2 – CC, MED and TW (Post meeting note...a Zoom meeting been arranged for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023)

Item 3 – KR, PT and MAB

**Reports:** -

**Chair (CC):** - Report circulated.

MEB asked what the outcome of the visit to Boldon u3a was they were having difficulty getting committee members. MMW replied the visit had gone ahead as planned. They had already tried the various usual approaches without success. The members were told of the money they would lose if they closed. It was also suggested that a heavy-handed message was sent to each member saying that if nobody came forward, they would close.

Quiz Time. Dr Pullen has had interest from 13 u3as to date. It is suggested that there are 4 members to each team. A venue has been suggested and will be visited shortly. It is intended to hold the Quiz in July possibly the 19<sup>th</sup>.

AC asked if this would be an annual or biannual. CC replied it depended on the success of this event.

**Business Secretary (MEB):** - Report circulated.

**Treasurer (MMW):** - Report circulated.

CC asked why on the Template was u3a Day mentioned when there were no values shown. MMW replied this would be deleted in due course.

MMW asked if we should be charging members subscriptions this coming year.

MEB replied it was agreed at the last meeting we would. MMW said as we had spent so little, and funds were high was it still necessary. It was agreed we would charge u3as.

**Events:** - Could u3as be asked/persuaded to open any events they have planned to other u3as. KR mentioned that some u3as do this when organising outings.

Could Region create more social events. SR suggested scrabble, table tennis, walking football groups etc.

CC/AA suggested looking at the Auckland Project and perhaps picking a couple of items out that could be followed up.

On the Wall – This is proving popular and is fully subscribed and members on the waiting list will be contacted if/ when new stalls are opened up such as entangled pen drawings.

**Communications:** - PB said work was ongoing on the website and with the Speakers List.

MED said help would be required for u3as when the new website was up and running. CC said it was the intention of the TAT to provide training for all u3as that required it. SR said migration procedures were being prepared.

SR said Innovative Solutions have an initiative called Challenge North Tyne and are giving small grants to designers who have an idea for something that will improve quality of life for older people. Several of them were invited to bring their design or prototype to a meeting with some u3a members, who were asked to give feedback on the designs so far.

**AGM (CC):** - Would all committee members remember to get their nomination forms in please.

**Post Meeting Note:** -

I have forms from CC, AC, TR, MEB, TW, MMW, PB and Malcolm will be sending his in this weekend.

Information is on the website.

Agenda

10.30 doors open for 11.00,

11.00 to 12.00 AGM.

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 Succession Planning

15.30 – 15.45 Meeting brought to a close.

The charge will be £6.00 with £4 for the meal and £2 for the meeting. This means the event will be subsidised from funds as it is being held at the Angel Inn near the Angel of the North which has its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

PB and TR have agreed to be Tellers.

It is hoped that MAB will look after the Zoom, but she is on holiday at the moment.

**Policies and Generic Emails:** - The policies are currently being updated.

We do have some generic emails in use on the website but when replying the email shows your home email address. It was also suggested that we have an email address for Regional Support.

**Equipment Loan Scheme:** - We are in the process of finding out what equipment region has and where it is. All equipment should be listed and accounted for and when not in use stored at the Whickham site.

CC will again ask u3as for the help with this task at the AGM.

**Any Other Business (Committee members only)**

**Dunston u3a:** - There are several rumours going around ~~but~~ It is a healthy vibrant u3a and has nine committee members and will not be merging or closing down. Jeff Marshall the Vice Chair is running the u3a currently.

**Chairs and Treasurers Reports for the AGM:** - These will be circulated to committee members shortly before the event for ratification.

**Money from Ryton u3a:** - There are no restrictions on the use of this money and it was agreed that it would along with the balance of the Jesmond Fund be in the Special Reserve account and be used to support the region. It was agreed that since the money is going to be placed in the special reserve account it doesn't need a bespoke name.

The date of the next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

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