



Northumbria Region U3A

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

Durham Indoor Bowling Club, Pity Me, Durham

On Wednesday 10th July 2024

From 10.15 to 12.30

Attendees: - Cecilia Coulson (Chair), Jean Cubbin (Trustee), Ann Carr (Bishop Auckland), Edwin Hird (Bishop Auckland), Jennifer Banks (Durham), Meg Corrigan (Durham), Patricia Johnson (Durham & Gateshead), Theresa Mulkerrin (Durham), Elizabeth Perrott (Durham), Sandi Rickerby (Mid Northumberland), Pamela Turner (Morpeth), Mo Brown (Newcastle), Jan Leach (Seaham), Ted Watt (Seaham), Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour), Ruth Beckett (South Durham), Linda Chadd (South Durham), Mary Barlow (Sunderland), Jane Mathieson (Teesdale), Carol Donald (Wearside), Doug Knox (Wearside), Hilary Shaw (Wearside), Jean Barnett (Wessington), Peter Barnett (Wessington), Peter Davies (Wooler), Colin Watson (Wooler).

Apologies: - Pat Marcus (Stockton), Christa Lloyd (Wearside), Arthur Coulson (Whickham).

Welcome: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Regional Chair, welcomed everyone to Durham Indoor Bowling Club.

Chairs Report: - The information for this meeting was advertised on the Regions website some months ago but the agenda was only finalised on 21st June at the Regional Committee Meeting therefore the agenda, method of payment and registration procedures were delayed.

Region are running out of ideas not only for speakers but venues to hold these Quarterly Meetings. Recommendations would be appreciated.

The next Quarterly Meeting is on Tuesday 8th October at the Linskill Centre, North Shields.

We are having morning meetings for three meetings to see if it will encourage more u3as to attend.

There are now many Networks within Region either online or face to face. The Networks discuss issues that concern their role i.e. chairs, treasurers etc., and are quite informative.

A Newsletter Workshop is being held 19th September at Gateshead Library and if a success a Newsletter Network could be arranged.

The Regions Events Team work hard to organise events for members. The Celebration of Music held at Sunnyside Club in June was a huge success. A small article was accepted for the Nations u3a Friends online Newsletter. The archaeology workshop at Durham University had people calling it magic, brill and fantastic. An organised field trip to Lindisfarne in September where the University are working on a dig has been suggested plus another archaeology workshop is being arranged at the end of November.

Talks are ongoing on holding workshops with Newcastle University.

A possible half day tour of Nissan factory is being considered and would cost in the region of £10.

We are looking for someone to hold a face-to-face workshop on Facebook but if nobody comes forward, we will have to ask National if they can arrange one. National have many online workshops and one that may be of interest to members is called 'Keeping it Legal'.

Brian Aitken editor of a North East online magazine called qtonline has kindly offered to assist Northumbria Regions u3a to reach out to the general public and discussions are already underway.

The 30th Anniversary of Northumbria Region takes place this year. A celebration will be held at Little Haven Hotel, South Shields on 22nd October and invitations will be shortly sent out. We want to create a rolling PowerPoint with memories of the last 30 years. Do members have photographs that show faces and activities if so contact Peter Barnett. If you know of anyone involved with the u3a over the early years please contact CC.

Treasurers Report by Theresa Mulkerrin (TM): - Events are usually self-funding although these quarterly meetings are subsidised.

We are still waiting for the mandate to be actioned allowing the changeover of treasurers to go through with Barclays Bank.

The region is into its second year without asking for or raising subscriptions.

Report by the Trustee for the NE Region Jean Cubbin (JC): -

JC said that there is a difference in the area she covers for the NE Region and our Northumbria Region. This is mainly to do with u3as in the south of our Region preferring to be with ourselves for various reasons rather than with Yorkshire. Mo Brown said that originally 5 local u3as joined together to help each other and that was the beginning of the NE Region.

The Pilot Council has now completed the task it was set up for and is due to stand down in September.

There is only one resolution being put forward at the National AGM in October and that is to progress the Fit for the Future strategic plan. If this resolution is passed it is hoped to have it in place for April 2025.

There are many more legal requirements these days.

A discussion took place over various issues including a) why they Council could not be expanded as with other charities b) the power of the Board as outlined in paragraph 19, 26 and 29 c) why does there seems to be no checks and balances d) advertised salary for a new CEO d) putting the Articles of Association on the website.

JC did not have all the relevant information to hand to enable her to provide full answers to these questions as she had not been made aware of them in advance and therefore asked the members concerned to email her. This also allowed JC to finish her report.

Social Influencing – The u3a is participating in this with mixed feelings among members. JC has attended one meeting in Newcastle and various ones online on this subject.

Our founders had various aims such as to facilitate ongoing learning, and influencing for social change by using the voice of members.

The Festival in York is a sell out.

Attended Berwicks 20th anniversary which was so good.

Great North Run – Will shortly be looking for volunteers to line the route and advertise the u3a.

Their followed a talk on Voice – Empowering citizens to co-create for healthy longevity and aging and was given by Alex Mitchell and Lauren Chaffey.

Their mission statement is to empower citizens to influence the future.

They average 250 projects a year and have a bespoke digital platform and it is free to become a member.

They are looking at what can be done to improve people’s lives including working with firms to come up with good designs and sometimes you do not need to invent a new gadget just redesign an existing one.

You can get involved through workshops, surveys and interviews.

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Name Cecilia Coulson **Position** Chair **Date** 8th October 2024

Name Mary Barlow **Position** Secretary **Date** 8th October 2024