



Northumbria Region u3a

Hybrid AGM and Quarterly Meeting

Held at Angel View Inn, Gateshead

26th April 2023

From 11.10 – 15.30

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (Whickham), Trevor Robinson (Alnwick), Jeff Armstrong (Berwick), Ann Carr (Bishop Auckland), Dawn Tweddell (Blyth), Jeff Robinson (Cestria), Kathleen Atkinson (Cestria), Louisa Ferguson (Cestria), Pat Rule (Cestria), Geoffrey Marshall (Dunston), Fliss Hill (Gateshead), John Killen (Gateshead), Lorna Watson (Gateshead), Neil Cooke (Middlesbrough), Pamela Turner (Morpeth, Michael Wallace (Newcastle), Mike Cooke (Newcastle), Mo Brown (Newcastle/Wooler), Ivy Brown (Ponteland), John Hewitt (Ponteland), Mary McCallum/Hancock (Ponteland), Felicity Pullen (Prudhoe), Jean Thomas (Prudhoe), Edward Watt (Seaham), Jan Leach (Seaham), Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour), June Elsom (Sunderland), Mary Barlow (Sunderland), Jane Mathieson (Teesdale), Diana Clark (Washington), Keith Allison (Washington), Sandra Cullen (Washington), Derek Ginsberg (Washington Village), Doug Knox (Wearside), Christa Lloyd (Wearside), Michael Hampshire (Wearside), John Lloyd (Wearside), John Lloyd (Wearside), Jean Barnett (Wessington), Peter Barnett (Wessington), Arthur Coulson (Whickham), Ian Crawford (Whickham), M E Taylor (Whickham), Mary Dunning (Whitley Bay), Keith Rushworth (Wooler), Stephen Mellor (Wooler).

Via Zoom: - Maureen Sayers (Alnwick), Joyce McKay (Bedale), Martin Rowell (Berwick), Pat Devonport (Baldon), Christine Logan (Cestria), Dennis Smith (Cowntans), Tina Naples (Durham), Watson Warren (Morpeth), Neil Holmes (Newcastle), Bill Brookes (Wessington), Peter Davies (Wooler).

Apologies: - Patricia Marcus (Stockton), Chris O'Neill (Berwick)

Cecilia Coulson (Chair) welcomed everyone to her first meeting as Chair and gave out the housekeeping and safety notices.

The meeting was declared quorate, with more than the necessary voting representatives present or voting on Zoom.

Tellers: - Peter Barnett and Trevor Robinson were proposed by Jane Mathieson (Teesdale) and seconded by Ann Carr (Bishop Auckland) and members voted to accept these members as tellers. The proposal was carried.

The previous AGM minutes for 25th April 2022 are online and copies were available in the room. The adoption of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Mo Brown (Wooler) and seconded by Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour). Members voted and accepted the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

Matters Arising: - None raised.

Chair's Report: - The report has been circulated and is online. The acceptance of the report was proposed by Pam Turner (Morpeth) and seconded by Christa Lloyd (Wearside). The report was accepted.

Financial Report: - The report has been circulated and is online. Mike Wallace said that we have had a good year and had an additional surplus of over £500.00 mainly due to the re-introducing subscriptions.

The examiner David Pattinson (Tynedale) noted in his report that we appeared to have sufficient funds to meet the requirement and suggested that we look again at charging u3as subscriptions for the financial year 2023/4. This was brought up at the Regional Support Team monthly meeting and it was agreed to suspend the subscriptions. This was announced at the AGM.

The previous year's accounts were examined and agreed by David Pattison (Tynedale). Proposed the accounts be accepted by Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour) and seconded by John Lloyd. The motion was carried.

The reappointment of David Pattinson (Tynedale) to continue to examine the Northumbria Region u3a accounts was proposed by Mo Brown and seconded by Arthur Coulson and was carried.

The balance of the Jesmond Legacy Fund and the funds from the closure of Ryton u3a is to be divided equality among all u3as in the Region. It is expected that this will be in the region of £50.

Election of the Committee: - Cecilia Coulson noted that Professor Mary E Dunning OBE was stepping down from the committee but will remain a Trust Volunteer. We would like to thank her for her time and commitment. The names of all the nominees were read out. Mo Brown (Wooler) proposed and

was seconded by Fliss Hill (Gateshead). The motion was carried and members were therefore elected for twelve months.

Any Other Business: -

John Lloyd (Wearside) asked if a report had been received from Sandi Rickerby (Regional Trustee). Cecilia Coulson replied that no report had been received and that she was on holiday.

Doug Knox (Wearside) was one of the members who spoke up saying we are among friends, and we would not wish to be critical of a friendly colleague who may need help with her workload.

Jane Mathieson (Teesdale) responded saying that the Trust Volunteers were there to support her but had not been asked.

The Trust Volunteers are Kelvin Rushworth, Mo Brown, Mary Dunning, Pam Turner, Maureen Taylor and Jane Mathieson.

Doug Knox (Wearside) said that a report from Sandi is still required.

Kelvin Rushworth (Wooler) said that we were aware of the stress and constraints etc., due to the changes being undertaken at the National Office but that she still had a responsibility to the Northumbria Region and hoped she would have found means to send a report to the AGM.

Jeff Marshall (Dunston) asked how much so we expect volunteers to do and how much do they do?

Cecilia Coulson (Chair) said that nationally the u3a is investing in volunteers and will be recognised at national level.

Whickham u3a vey way of thanks take their volunteers out for a meal.

Sandi Rickerby will be finishing her term of office this summer after having done the initial three years plus an additional year.

Jeff Armstrong (Berwick) who has looked after the Speakers List for some years will be standing down from June and we would like to thank him for the outstanding way he has carried out this work. Peter Barnett (Wessington) is taking over the task.

Kelvin Rushworth (Wooler) asked if we could all take a minute to thank all volunteers for the work they do.

