



Northumbria Region u3a

Regional Support Team Zoom Meeting

21st April 2023

From 14.00 – 16.50

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

Visitors: - Mike Cook (MC).

Apologies: - Jane Mathieson, Sandi Rickerby, Maureen Taylor.

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting where she hoped we would all make a contribution to the proceedings.

Minutes: - It was proposed by TR and seconded by MED

KR said he had not received the merging u3a document. CC to resend.

Post Meeting Note: -

CC resent the document but noted it was 'dissolving' a u3a not 'merging' a u3a.

KR noted that at social meetings and events members are learning at both.

AC asked if we had a list of u3a Beacon users. PB was asked to reply and said that at present there is no list, and the National Office were unable to provide a regional list. It was agreed that on the next email sent out from region that u3as would be asked to reply if they used the system.

It was noted that there are now two Portals in use for updating information.

Third page, second paragraph starts with CC/AA and should read CC/AC.

Third page, third paragraph should read Off the Wall not On the Wall.

Page two under Chairs Report. Amendment to the wording on MMW reply regarding the visit to Boldon u3a (received via email). 1. The visit was to a committee meeting not a general meeting. 2. The problem was getting a new chair not committee members. 3. It was the committee members who were told of the money they would lose if they closed and not the general members.

Facebook: - Mike Cook informed the meeting that the first contribution was live, this is regarding a visit by Whickham and District u3a to Newcastle Reform Synagogue in June.

The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090627092313>

The information on the site is open to public viewing.

A Link has been established between the region's website to the Facebook page and a one in reverse is being set up.

TR (co-host) will shortly be setting up the second item on the site.

Reports: -

Chair (CC): - Report circulated.

Nations most recent Trust Volunteer Induction session has been cancelled, other sessions have been organised. **Post meeting 21.04.23 CC went on to Everbrite to re book – all events sold out.**

A Risk Assessment of The Angel View Inn will be carried out before the AGM.

Business Secretary (MEB): - The AGM will be discussed shortly.

Treasurer (MMW): - Report circulated. The money for the AGM is coming in steadily.

MMW reminded members that ~~with~~ we hold approximately £2160 from the closure of Ryton and about £9 left from the Jesmond Legacy and offered two alternatives for the use of these monies.

1. That the money should be allocated to u3as via the number of members they have.
2. That the money be equally divided between all u3as irrespective of numbers.

It was noted if the later system was used that each u3a would receive approximately £50.

The pros and cons of each of the above suggestions were discussed and voted on. MW proposed that all u3as receive the same amount and MEB seconded this was accepted.

Events (CC): - Report circulated.

There are two quizzes being organised by different people one in the north and the other in the south of the region. It was noted the one in the north is free whereas the one in the south is charging £3 per person. It was agreed by members that each quiz should be subsidised to the value of £100.00. CC to contact the Quiz Organiser in the South of the Region to explain the decision.

CC to hold a Zoom meeting on 24/4/2023 with members of the original Events Sub Committee to discuss how social/learning events can be offered to Regional u3a members.

MAB has the bag and trophy usually awarded at the geography quiz. This will be handed over at the AGM next Wednesday.

Communications (PB): - Confirmed the link has been set up between the region's website and Facebook.

Messenger (MEB): - MAB asked when the deadline for articles for the next issue was. I had forgotten but PB informed the meeting it was 25th June.

Regional Trustee (SR): - No report.

Annual General Meeting: -

No motions received.

Copies of the agenda, previous minutes etc., are ready for the meeting.

MMW reminded members that the examiner of our accounts strongly suggested that the committee rethink charging individual u3as subscriptions.

The committee discussed the issue and voted not to charge u3as subscriptions for this coming financial year.

Zoom Licence (CC): - The members agreed we needed to renew the licence in May 2023 and MAB agreed to continue to keep the diary and set up the meetings.

Generic Email Address: - PB has been asked to create a generic email address this will be created for use in the policy documents.

Regional Equipment Loan Scheme: - Attendees at the AGM will be asked if they are holding any equipment. The equipment held will then be listed, PAT tested and stored alongside Whickham u3as.

Updates on: -

Speakers List: - PB is currently setting up the IT system.

Three Year Plan: - The aim is to get members networking at meetings etc. When the list of attendees is known, a seating plan will be prepared, so that members from the same u3a are not sitting together. A member of the RST to sit on a table to give advice, maybe scribe, but not to take over the running of the discussions)

Committee members are requested to wear their name badges.

It appears there is some uncertainty about the titles/roles members have. It was agreed we will continue to use those currently in use until we here differently from the national office. CC will contact Sandi Rickerby on her return from holiday hopefully to iron out discrepancies.

Organising Quarterly Meetings: - It was suggested that the July quarterly meeting take a different format. A face-to-face meeting of the Regional Support Team followed by lunch which would be open to members before commencing the normal meeting and talks etc., finishing at 15.30 as usual.

The October meeting is to have a Halloween theme. CC is preparing a PowerPoint around Count Dracula and Vlad the Impaler a national hero in Romania.

CC asked for a member of the committee and a member of the Support Team to confirm venues and meals available for future quarterly meetings, but nobody came forward.

KR, MED and PT have been discussing and asking u3as in the Region their thoughts on what is to be included in a RQM.

Any Other Business: -

In response to an email sent from Northumbria Region to all Chairs and Business Secretaries introducing the new Regional Support Team and asking for ideas for future regional (quarterly) meetings an email was received from Kathy Clegg, Vice Chair of Prudhoe, and District u3a. PB shared this email and his response with all members of the committee. There was some discussion as to whom Kathy should have addressed the reply to, but it was agreed that the response by PB was most appropriate.

AC noted that there are 246,000 Beacon members who are paying £1 per year to be able to use the system. The monies collected are used to improve the system.

MED at this point thanked members for their support and friendship while a member of the Regional Committee. MED is standing down as a co-opted Regional Committee Member as from the AGM but will still continue as a member of the RST as a Regional Support Volunteer.

Name: Cecilia Coulson	Position	Chair	Date 19 th May 2023
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Name: Mary Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date 19 th May 2023
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