



## Northumbria Region u3a

### Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

From 14.00 – 16.00

**Present:** - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Jean Cubbin (JC), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Peter Barnett (PB), Ann Carr (AC), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

**Apologies:** - Malcolm Wilkinson (MW).

**Welcome:** - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes of the last Meeting:** - TM proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by JC. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

**Matters arising:** - The query that groups/Networks are being led by people not qualified in the subject i.e. treasurers. JC is still awaiting an answer on whether that is an acceptable practice.

Great North Run – AC asked if we are writing to all u3as asking for a donation. JC said no but there is an area on Just Giving under u3a Great North Runners. Unfortunately, there have been two bereavements one runner has died and one organizer is on bereavement leave therefore the organisation of the day has been put on hold. Once the organizer returns more details will follow. It is hoped to have members holding banners, balloons etc., on the day.

**Reports:** -

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

Fliss Hill (Gateshead), TW and CC met recently to flesh out more details on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

Flyer being put on the website and in Messenger regarding a Newsletter workshop in Gateshead 19<sup>th</sup> September. Cost of venue £60.

CC has been asked to go on the radio no date yet arranged, and Liz Drury has sent her some pointers.

Bob Pullen from Prudhoe u3a and Phil Ravetta from Berwick u3a have been asked to consider joining the Regional Committee.

**Business Secretary (MEB):** - No report.

**Treasurer (TM):** - TM noted she is not yet on the bank mandate.

There was a loss of £158 on the Celebration of Music event which was less than expected.

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

Laing Art Gallery – Turner Exhibition. Excellent reports have been received on the events organised. There is another event on the 30<sup>th</sup> July which is fully booked. Another event has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> August with the possibility of another later in the year.

Flyers are being put on the website and in Messenger: -

- a) Newsletter 'Informal' Workshop
- b) North Northumbria Regional Quiz
- c) Donnison Centre, Sunderland Maritime Museum and Holy Trinity Church
- d) 'Threads through Creation' at Hexham Abbey

Celebration of Music Event – AC asked why non u3a members were involved as she was under the understanding that this would invalidate the cover provided by the u3a insurance. CC to check this out. JC said the event would surely be covered by the venue's insurance.

**Communications:** -

**Facebook** – A report will only be circulated quarterly the last one was in June.

**Website/Beacon (PB):** - PB will be doing the training shortly for the change over to Site Works for his u3a. He understands that there is a problem with the terms and conditions for Networks and Regional sites which is why we have heard nothing. He understands that it normally takes between 2/3 months to move items from one site to another. He believes as most Webmasters for regions also do their own u3a sites that the change over time when it occurs should run smoothly and not take much longer than a normal site.

**Messenger (MEB):** - The latest edition is well under way and am just awaiting the final one or two articles before it is sent to the proofreaders.

**Regional Trustee (JC):** - The Fit for the Future hustings are on this coming Monday and are being held by Zoom.

The resolution on the Fit for the Future programme has been agreed and is ready for the AGM.

**Three Year Plan (CC):** -

Item 1. Increase awareness – Ongoing.

Item 2. Increase interaction – Ongoing.

Item 3. Promote Involvement – Via newsletter, items on the website and Messenger.

Item 4. Role of formal and informal Networks – Aim to increase interest in groups/Networks.

Item 5. Examine feasibility of holding a summer school – Due to the current climate we are holding day events such as the Celebration of Music day.

Item 6. Shared Learning Projects – JC to speak to Sandi Rickerby regarding setting projects up.

Item 7. Identify Speakers – A database is being updated.

Item 8. Increase the effectiveness of the media offering to members – A Facebook page has been set up. CC has been asked to speak on the radio as noted earlier.

Item 9. Determine the place of Region in the organization. – Awaiting the outcome of the Resolution on Fit for the Future put forward at the National AGM in October.

**Satellite u3as:** - A leaflet Growth Matters is being forwarded to the committee for discussion at the July meeting.

**July Quarterly Meeting:** - Being held on 10<sup>th</sup> July at Pity Me Bowling Club. Entrance fee £2.00 and meal £6.

Agenda

09.30 – 10.00 Registration and refreshments

10.00 – 11.00 Reports by CC, JC and TM

11.00 – 11.30 Question and answer session plus break.

11.30 – 12.15 Voice – talk

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch and home.

TM and PB to prepare form to go out to members

TM to prepare sign in sheet.

Numbers required by Bowling Club by 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:** - To be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Little Haven, South Shields.

TW preparing budget.

No cost for the hire of the room but the meal will be £21.95

Two members from each u3a will be invited along with the committee, support and events teams. It is also hoped to invite long serving members of the u3a.

Invitations will be extended to the Regional Mayor and hopefully the u3a will have a new CEO before then who will also be invited.

Entertainment will be provided.

Mike Cook and PB to prepare a rolling photo show of the u3a from the beginning to current day.

Information to be put on the website shortly.

**Short Story Competition (CC):** - 23 Stories have been received and results will be known on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The winner and two runners up will be invited to the quarterly meeting in October to be presented with their prizes. The stories will be published in Messenger and put on the website.

**Regional Leaflet (CC):** - This will be shortly sent to the printers and 500 copies will be ordered.

**Great North Run (CC):** - See item under Matters Arising.

### **Any Other Business**

The next Regional Quarterly Meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Linskill Centre, N Shields.

Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

<b>Name</b>	C Coulson	<b>Position</b>	Chair	<b>Date</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
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<b>Name</b>	M E Barlow	<b>Position</b>	Secretary	<b>Date</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
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