



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

16th September 2022

From 14.00 – 16.30

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC) Chair, Mike Wallace (MMW), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Ann Carr (AC), Sandi Rickerby (SR), Mary Dunning (MD), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - None.

Welcome: - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Ted Watt who has agreed to be co-opted onto this committee.

Minutes of the last meeting: - They were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: - None.

Working Group Report: - No report received.

MMW noted that he had been to Stockton u3a to demonstrate the hybrid system but they had decided not to adopt the system.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) Report circulated.

CC noted that items in the report will be discussed in the relevant section in this meeting.

Business Secretary (MEB): - None.

Treasurer (MMW): - Report circulated.

MMW noted that all subscriptions were in and that we had 8,701 members which is a drop of approximately 2,500 members from pre pandemic days.

Some expenses are due to be paid using the new payment system and an update on how this works will follow in due course.

Events: - Report circulated.

MMW suggested that it would be preferable to collect monies in for those wishing to attend the Lindisfarne Gospel viewing before the event rather than have someone on the door collecting and holding cash. CC said she will speak to Kelvin Rushworth regarding this observation.

Communications (PB): - No report. MMW said he was having issues sending emails to groups using Beacon. He had informed PB some time ago and consequently contacted Alan Swindale who said that this shouldn't be happening and to advise members to check their 'junk'. PB said there were a few hiccups in the Beacon system but are being ironed out.

Messenger (MEB): - We have received approximately six items but would appreciate PB putting an item in the next newsletter reminding people to send in their articles.

Regional Trustee (SR): -

There is an updated Risk Assessment form on the national website.

Also, the Financial Question and Answer page has been updated.

A new tab labelled Impact has been added which will have updates and reports.

SR has spoken to various outside bodies to introduce the u3a to them and explain what we are about.

CC mentioned that she is preparing a PowerPoint on the same subject. A PowerPoint presentation has been prepared by CC and it's ready to go to inform u3as about the u3a Movement. I'm going to ask PB to put this info on the website and information will also be going into Messenger.

CC/SR noted that Newcastle Building Society would be interested in the survey being carried out on what the u3a members would like from the National Office and Regional Committee.

SR has received as she put it 'a bag of goodies' containing items being sold in the u3a shop which she can show at various meetings she attends. It also obviously contains a price list.

Charity Commission (MEB): - The list of committee members has been updated. I will request details from TW who will be added in due course.

MMW is aware that last accounts noted are 2020.

Preparations for the October quarterly meeting.

There are three rooms available for hire but until we know the numbers wishing to attend, we have not specified which will be required.

We will need to provide the tea and coffee etc.

We chose the £5.45 plus vat meal and numbers will be provided to the caterers near the time.

It was decided to charge £7.00 to members which included £2 for the hire of room. Any deficit will come from regional funds.

Five members from Durham u3a will be in attendance to assist members.

Tina Naples, Durham u3a Chair will give a talk on the Pendle Witches.

CC will prepare an advert to go onto the website advertising the October meeting. MMW is to prepare the google form and send the link through as soon as possible to CC.

Venues for January and February: -

It was agreed to hold the January meeting as a Zoom meeting only due to the possibility of bad weather.

It was suggested that we ask a member of the National Office to speak to members along with a less formal speaker. CC to liaise with SR as to a speaker from our National Office and MD has said she may know someone who will speak on a lighter note.

It was decided that the Regional Support Team organise these two meetings.

Venues and Speakers for the following financial year 2023/4: -

Pam Turner will be asked to join with MD and MMW in organising the programme. MMW to send out an email to these people with suggested dates for a Zoom meeting.

Speakers List: -

Jeff Armstrong who has been a stalwart in preparing and maintaining this list and to whom we offer our sincere thanks has decided because of ill health and age to step down from this post.

MW, PB and AC to look at how this list is compiled and see if the system can be modified to make it easier to update and use.

Three Year Plan: -

Mo Brown (ex Regional Chair) and Dr R Pullen from Prudhoe u3a are to be asked to join CC in updating this plan. An advert is to be prepared by CC to ask any u3a member in the Region to assist updating the plan. It will be put on website

PAT Testing: -

MMW suggested as we have so few items that need testing we ask Newcastle u3a if our items could be tested the same time, they have theirs done. We would of course contribute to the cost involved.

Regional Zoom Licence: -

At the moment Mo Brown holds the licence and diary but it is becoming increasingly apparent that CC needs access to the diary when arranging meetings. CC is going to ask Mo Brown to have dual access from now. The Zoom licence isn't renewable until mid 2023

Recruitment Workshop 30th September: -

Approximately 40 people have applied to join the workshop from 22 u3as. Paul Martinez has forwarded the PowerPoints to be used to CC who is going to ask if we may use these within the Region ourselves.

Delineation of Roles: -

Email from SR re confirmation of Regional roles to be forwarded to all members of the Support Team.

Any Other Business: -

Tri-fold Notice Board – The one we have been using at the quarterly meetings has been handed back to the relevant u3a. We have decided against purchasing a notice board until we see what else other than pages from Messenger could be displayed.

Discussion re the EDI Policy to be dealt with at the next meeting.

Next monthly meeting will be held on 21st October 2022 at 14.00.

Name	Cecilia Coulson	Position	Chair	Date 21 st October 2022
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Name	Mary Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date 21 st October 2022
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