



## Northumbria Region u3a

### Zoom Committee Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

From 14.00 – 16.35

**Present:** - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mike Wallace (MMW), Ann Carr (AC), Peter Barnett (PB), Mary Barlow (MEB)

**Apologies:** - Trevor Robinson (TR), Ted Watt (TW), Sandi Rickerby (SR).

**Visitor:** - Jean Cubbin (JC).

**Welcome:** - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to say a little about themselves to JC who is the Regional Trustee designate.

**Minutes:** - AC proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by MMW. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

#### **Matters Arising:** -

MMW is going to contact Robert Berry, Cestria Chair regarding visiting this u3a.

Beacon – List being prepared for the committee on who has full/partial access to Beacon.

SR is hoping to arrange a get together in October when she retires as the Regional Trustee to thank the Trust Volunteer and the Regional Committee – to date no details received.

Website – CC and PB arranged to meet via Zoom on 3<sup>rd</sup> October regarding updating the information on the site.

Speakers List – PB is updating the system used and has accepted the assistance of AC and MW.

#### **Reports:** -

**Chair (CC)** – Report circulated.

**Business Secretary (MEB)** – No report.

**Treasurer (MMW)** – Report circulated.

CC expenses still to pay.

MMW not received bank details or cost from Kelvin Rushworth for the banners. CC to contact Kelvin. **Post meeting - Email sent to Kelvin Rushworth/MMW copied in on 16/9/2023. Reply from Kelvin that evening.... he will endeavour to get details to MMW asap)**

MMW has occasion to speak to an ambulance crew member and mentioned the u3a and what it stood for. This crew member said they meet a lot of lonely people, and it would be good to have some leaflets giving details of the organisation they could hand out to people. JC should the committee members some cards that Whitley Bay u3a have which they can hand out. WWM did get some quotes starting at £150 for 5,000 A5 leaflets.

CC to email SR to see if she has any information on the leaflets that London is preparing.

**Post Meeting - 16/9/2023 – this done awaiting a reply from SR**

CC asked the committee to think about how much we need to hold in reserve as London have revised their guidance. CC also said that if we thought the figure should be lower than what is in the bank how this balance should be spent.

**Events (CC)** – Report circulated.

Art Tour at Laing – It was agreed to hold the event as proposed by Catherine Stevenson. Catherine to be asked to provide firm details once they become available. CC to confirm this with Catherine. **Post meeting - Email sent to Catherine Stevenson 16/9/2023 re Committee's acceptance of art tour and proposed art history/art appreciation Network. Email received same evening thanking Regional Committee for prompt reply.**

Ad Gefrin Visit – Only 14 members attended. Two members left early due to the lift being out of service. A disappointing turnout.

Music Event – CC to see Bob Pullen regarding details around the event e.g. buffet. CC meeting with Bob Pullen early October to discuss issues re North Regional Quiz. £250 agreed by Regional Committee to be given to each quiz event north and south of the Region. Also progressing details of the Festival of Music

CC to contact South of the Region Quiz organizers to confirm arrangements for their quizzes and to inform them of the £250 donation.)

## **Communications**

**Website (PB)** – See note under matters arising.

PB has had further communication regarding transferring information to the new site. Terms and conditions have to be agreed before the system goes live to members. There are over 700 u3as to move over to the new site and PB estimates this could take about 18 months.

AC mentioned that a member of their u3a is writing a handbook for members, and it will be tested Bishop Auckland u3a.

**Facebook (Mike Cook)** – Report circulated.

CC said we need more publicity for this and did members realise their u3a sites could be linked to regions.

**Beacon (PB)** – London are fine tuning the system.

**Messenger (MEB)** – The last day for submission of articles is 29<sup>th</sup> September with a view to having the magazine live in the middle of October.

**Regional Trustee (SR)** – No report.

**Feedback on the July Quarterly Meeting held at Stannington –**

The feedback on the new format was excellent and it was agreed to use this system at the October meeting.

**October Quarterly Meeting –**

This meeting is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Hylton Castle.

MW has visited and decided the second floor was the best option where there are tables for six people. There are stairs and a lift plus ample parking.

PB was asked to put directions to the venue on the website.

**Post meeting - An advert is being prepared so u3as can download it to put on their noticeboards,**

MMW will prepare the usual Google form for members and add a box for disabled members to fill in. Forms to be returned by members on or before 17<sup>th</sup> October.

The cost will be £2 for the venue and £6 for lunch making £8.

Bob Pullen is preparing a Halloween Quiz.

It was decided to have coffee/tea when we arrived and again with lunch and MW to follow this up.

The various Washington u3as and Sunderland u3a to be asked to provide volunteers to assist on the day.

**Networks** – Catherine Stevenson has intimated that she would be prepared to investigate starting up an Arts History Appreciation Network. The committee agreed to this.

**Visit by Liz Thackary (LT) to our regions u3as** – LT wants to visit individual u3as not a regional event. She is prepared to stay in a hotel for two/three nights to do this. JC to ask for further information on how these visits work and report back to the committee.

**Roles and Responsibilities (CC/MEB)** – Members felt the version emailed to them was too wieldy and would put future members off coming forward. CC/MEB to look into how the present version can be simplified.

**Updates on :-**

**Speakers List** – See note earlier in these minutes.

**Three Year Plan** – To be put to the Regional Support Team at the October Quarterly Meeting.

## Organising Quarterly Meetings for 2023/4 –

Future venues – It was agreed to ask all u3as in the region if they would be willing to host these events.

**Policies** – These are now online. PB has recently returned from holiday and said he may have some comments to make on them shortly.

## Any Other Business

**Updating history of region leaflets** – The committee agreed it was worthwhile updating these and CC to ask Mo Brown and TW if they would be prepared to carry this out. **Post meeting - Email sent 16/9/2023 to TW and Mo Brown. TW has agreed awaiting reply from Mo Brown.**

**Creative Writing Group (CC)** – The first book they published was a great success. They are now preparing a second book, but publishers have changed their rules and regulations and the Creative Writing Group are asking if they may use the Regions website. The committee agreed to this.

**Bishop Auckland u3a (AC)** – They meet in the Town Hall and Durham County Council have increased the meeting costs from £67.50 per meeting to £218.00. AC is urging the Bishop Auckland u3a committee to query this increase but the Chair at the moment thinks they may have to accept the charge. This committee suggested that they contact their MP, local and county councillors and contact local papers. It seems there are no other venues locally able to host the numbers who attend these meetings.

The next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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