

SOUTH DURHAM U3A COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024 at 10am,

Venue: Newcastle Building Society Meeting Room in Darlington Town Centre

Present: Ruth Beckett (Chair), Carol Boyd, Ann Cartwright, Linda Chadd, Sue Clark, Brenda Ellridge, Dot Hullah, Jenny Hurt, Kathy Liddle, Penny Moon

1. Minutes of the Meeting January 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 January 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

- a) The AllSimmons would not be performing at the Christmas meal for 2024.
- b) Ruth had been in contact with Penelope Martin regarding a talk to the committee on dementia awareness. However she was not the relevant person and Kathryn Hardwick, Alzheimer's Society Dementia Adviser for Darlington Dementia Advice and Support Services, would be attending the next committee meeting. It was agreed to ask some additional South Durham u3a members to this presentation as it would be helpful for some group leaders as well as the committee, to also be made aware of issues around dementia.
- c) It was pointed out that the list of groups in the newsletter contained names and phone numbers and as the newsletter is available on the website too, it was agreed that for data protection reasons, the names and other details would not appear on the website version of the newsletter. In future the newsletter would include details of the account number for payment by the side of information on trips and outings.
- d) It was pointed out that some members were still concerned about on-line banking. As this was the preferred method of payment Sue offered to show any member who made a request, how to operate this system. Sue would write a short note about this and send it to Ruth for inclusion in a later newsletter.
- e) The newsletter would include information about the various meetings of the new craft group, Jungalow.
- f) Liz Thackaray, President of u3a, had declined an offer to attend the monthly meeting on 9 April 2024.

3. Chair's Update

At a recent Area meeting a presentation had been given on the u3a's Fit for the Future programme. Voting on the proposed changes by all members of u3a would take place later in the year. There would be another regional meeting about this and South Durham members would be invited to attend.

Details of a regional trip to the Little Theatre in Middlesbrough had been advertised but would not be included in the South Durham u3a newsletter as places were limited.

Sue had applied for South Durham u3a to become a member of the Charity Commission.

A sub-group had met to arrange and discuss future trips and visits and these would be advertised to members at appropriate times.

4. Treasurer's Report

The meeting had been presented with the accounts prior to the meeting. These had been presented in a new format using Beacon and were agreed. Details of a trip to walk with Alpacas was shown on the accounts. This had been only advertised by email, using Beacon and not by the newsletter and was fully subscribed. A discussion followed about how many people had responded to the email about this trip and it was thought that in future the email should be addressed as Dear Member rather than by first name.

It was agreed that Penny Moon become a third signatory on the Lloyds Bank account.

5. Quiz

A venue for the June regional quiz had not yet been finalised but enquiries had been made at various places. After discussion it was agreed to use Hurworth Grange again for the June quiz and further enquiries would be made to find a different suitable venue for the November quiz.

Penny agreed to look through the Secretary's files to see if there were details of letters sent to other u3a groups inviting them to the quiz. If there were no details there Ruth agreed to ask Debbie Hardy if she had details.

6. Emergency Details

Following discussion it was agreed that 250 ICE (in case of emergency) cards would be printed using Vistaprint but that for future printing requirements other printing options would be looked into. All members would be asked to carry their cards at monthly meetings and at other groups. All group leaders would hold blank ICE cards. Using the cards in this way would be trialled for a few months before review.

7. Secretary's Report

Penny reported she was preparing several new policies for consideration at a future meeting. A review was also being made of the Constitution and the Code of Conduct for Trustees.

8. Memberships Report

Five new members had joined in January 2024. A report of new members can now be downloaded from the Beacon system.

9. Group Co-ordinator's Report

- a) The Craft and Chat group was changing to a Coffee and Chat group and would meet at various coffee shops around Darlington from 10 am on the last Wednesday of each month. This information would be in the newsletter.
- b) Some suggestions for new groups were a cinema group, armchair travel, creative writing and it was hoped to rejuvenate the Scrabble and Strollers groups. Group leaders would be encouraged to give demonstrations/talk about their groups at monthly meetings and Carol agreed to arrange a meeting with the group leaders to explain this, either at Newcastle Building Society or Binns.

10. Any Other Business

- a) Tuesday 13 February monthly meeting would be a talk by Carol Tetlow on Stethoscope Secrets on her time as a GP. She did not want a fee but £50 would be sent to her to forward to charity.
- b) Sue would look into the best ways to pay and order materials for the craft group with the new Beacon system.
- c) Darlington Bowling Club had asked us to include their meetings in our newsletter and this was agreed. They would be asked to reciprocate by including details of u3a at their meetings.
- d) **Membership/ICE (in case of emergency) cards.** It was felt that a membership card for each member should be provided when they first joined as this made visiting other groups easier. A template of a membership card would be prepared and names drawn from Beacon to prepare them. After discussion it was agreed to keep the ICE cards and membership cards as two separate cards rather than combine them in one document.
- e) It was agreed to ensure that in setting out the annex at Bowen Road tables would be distributed all around the room and not next to each other.
- f) Ruth agreed to collect the entrance fee at the next Local History meeting as Sue would not be present.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 10.00 am at Newcastle Building Society.

Signed:
Chair

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Secretary

Date: