

# COUNTSTHORPE U3A

## Minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Present:** Menna Carr, Lana Fox, Allen Donkin, Jane Gray, June Hawkins, Barry Hillyard, Sheila Holmes, Liz Lockwood-Jones, Jenny Mills, Marlene Robinson, John Thacker, Ruth Westley, David Wild, Margaret Woolley

**Apologies:** John Armstrong, Neil Barker, Pat McMahon, Patsy Paterson, Mikki Wilde, Lesley Woodward

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.

**Matters arising:** Barry talked about the use of the Blaby District Council funding that we have. Taster sessions may include Chinese Wands, Tai Chi, Nordic Walking and Kettle Bells.

**News from the groups:** June reported on the progress of the Drawing Class. Menna and June met with Heather Wharam from the Leicester Artists Group, and she will be willing and very suitable for the needs of the group in U3A interested in drawing. It will take place in the lounge of Brook Court and will commence on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 10 – 12 noon on Wednesdays. More details will be in the Newsletter. The cost is worked out to be £48 for the whole course.

June also reported that she had received a letter from the Leicester Writing Group. They are paying a visit to U3A Creative Writing group in November, to compare notes.

Much praise was given to Jenny and June for their hard work in devising, arranging and completing all the theatre visits and trips out and away. A few of the theatre visits that we can look forward to are War Horse, Chicago, Sleuth and the Mikado AND, two very exciting new trips, with more to follow!

June has a new programme for the History group which will be advertised. This group is always well attended she commented.

Margaret asked the committee members present if she could display some art pieces from the Art group, at the next monthly meeting. This was agreed.

Barry reported on his Beginners' Photography group. Only 1 person has joined up, but he will still run it. His Computing for Beginners group will be offered next term also.

Sheila reported that the Solo Sunday Lunch group continues to be extremely successful. She commented that no men ever attend. This led onto a discussion about the lack of men generally in groups, although it was pointed out that there are a few groups where men are in larger numbers. It was decided to research this phenomena to see if there was anything that we might be able to try, to encourage more men to join more groups.

Marlene reported on the success of the first Healthy Living group. It was well attended and most people were favourable about it. However, Marlene felt that the name of the group was misleading and it will now be called Fit for Life. The system needs to be changed for various reasons and the venue will change for the next group, from the Scout Hut to the Village Hall. Larger numbers can now be accommodated. Details will be given in the Newsletter, and What's On, and by slide at the next monthly meeting.

Ruth reported that the CHEWS group continues to be successful, although a few people have left, due to moving from the area.

The anticipated Bird Watching group was discussed, and Menna suggested that we arrange a meeting in the lounge of the Village Hall, with everyone interested. We can then discuss what everyone's idea is about such a group, and try to find a group leader.

The Flower Arranging group had a successful day at Glebe , and it has arranged a tour of the Leicester Botanical Gardens.

David discussed the Guitar and Singing for Fun groups, and reported numbers were low. A discussion ensued about why numbers may have dropped in the singing group particularly.

The Discussion group was discussed regarding large numbers and limited space, which proved difficult at times.

Likewise, Allen reported that the Walking group is experiencing a large membership, which is great. However, it is proving difficult to find pubs that can accommodate such a large group for lunch. The group is arranging the next programme of walks.

Lana reported that the Play Reading numbers have dropped, again mainly due to personal reasons or moving out of the area. She will put together a short piece to go in the Newsletter, to try and attract new members.

Finally a short discussion took place about willing new group leaders.

The meeting closed at 4 pm

**Next meeting: April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 3 pm, in the lounge of Village Hall.**