

Minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting

on Thursday 23rd April 2015

Present: Menna Carr, Janet Easey, Tony Claricoates, Barry Hillyard, Allen Donkin, Mikki Wilde, Patsy Paterson, Jill Clayton, Sheila Holmes, Marlene Robinson, Liz Lockwood-Jones, Gail Appleby, Sue Wyllie, Graham Surman, Alan Rooks, June Hawkins, Joan Burn

Apologies: Lesley Woodward, Jane Gray, Ruth Westley

Minutes of last meeting: Approved and signed. **Matters arising:** None.

Sorting out problems/grievances: June reported that the 3rd Age Trust provides a number of advice sheets, including one covering this. There is a link on the website for members to download or, if necessary June will provide a copy. This provides confidence and back up if/when there is a concern with, or from, a member.

Foston Christmas Tree Festival: It was agreed that as no one has offered to continue decorating a U3A tree, and as some members are already involved with other contributing groups, the screen should be used at the AGM to see, once again, if there is anyone interested in taking this on before making a final decision to stop this tradition.

Equipment audit: Menna has sent a list of all the information she had received from Group Leaders about their equipment to Sue. New Group Leaders were informed that a handbook with the equipment form and an expenses claim form was available on the website.

News from the groups - Swans: The long time Group Leader, Pamela Runacres, had retired and deputy, Shirley Wilding, is taking time out for health reasons, so for the moment Liz Lockwood -Jones is the contact person and a different member will front each walk.

Fit for life: This group is doing very well with always at least 14 people and sometimes as many as 25, which gives a financial surplus sufficient to carry the group through the summer when there is a smaller attendance.

Country dancing: The numbers are up and down, especially as dancing follows Fit for life, but the group continues to flourish and have fun.

Writing: Nothing new to report, but the group continues to be stimulating and interesting .

Singing for fun: There are often small numbers for this group, sometimes only 6 or 8, so Pat suggested that it should take a break until September. Leaflets will be given out to gauge interest and ideas and try and find what people would want from a singing group.

Recorder Group: this group began with 8 members but is now down to 6 and sometimes only 3, which seems unfair on the tutor, Helen. She is happy to carry on but Trish is trying to sort out how to organise the group better, to be certain of viable numbers each week.

Play reading: This newish group has a stable number of keen members but they are having difficulty obtaining plays from the Library Service. After the current 2 plays are finished it will be hard to carry on unless some new source of material is found.

Jazz: This group is now off the ground. It had 4 attendees at its first meeting, on a bad night, and is hoping for more at the second one.

Travel: The monthly outings are well supported and the system of different members organising outings working well.

History: This group continues to thrive and the collaborative system also works well here. Peter Liddle has been booked for 3 meetings at the end of the year .

Theatre: The straight plays are still not attracting enough interest, one visit even had to be cancelled, but the Musicals continue to be popular.

Pilates: The group is now well established so that, as well as £20 for a 5 week course, it can now offer £5 a session for those who can't attend regularly.

Bird watching: Still working as before and communications have improved. Seasonality obviously makes a difference and it is difficult to find speakers for the winter months, as finances are tight, but there is a full programme of outdoor visits for May and June.

Care walking: The numbers are fairly static though there have been several new members who have led walks. This year's programme is almost complete.

Solo Sunday lunch: Nothing new to report. Carrying on as before very successfully.

Any other business: June has produced a sheet with group leaders details and asked those present to check that these were correct.

Next meeting: Thursday 15th October 2015 at 3pm