

MINUTES OF THE GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

6 April 2017

Small Lounge, Village Hall, Countesthorpe

Present: Tony Claricoates, Liz Lockwood-Jones, Pat Hillyard, Barry Hillyard, Ursula Wild, David Wild, Sheila Holmes, Jill Clayton, Pat Quinn, Joan Burn, Ruth Westley, Glenys Catterall-Annal, June Hawkins, Patsy Paterson, Ian Paterson, Beryl Lishman, Ralph Hunt,

1 Apologies for Absence

Mikki Wilde

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Copies were distributed.

3 Matters Arising

- The first group of 3 members had completed their Pork Pie Making.
- Nine-spot Dominoes will be promoted from the April general meeting.

4 Individual Group Finances

- Fit for Life class is now doing well with up to 16 attendees since the fee increase to £4.
- Ursula reminded the meeting that requests for capital items can be considered by the Committee, and a form is available for this purpose (*download from the website – archive/general and reference/April 2015*), or from Ursula). It is important that expenditure is not incurred before approval has been received.

5 Groups With Low Numbers

- Sign Language is currently running with only 3 and needs more to be meaningful
- Allotment Gardening is down to 3, and as these members are finding it increasingly difficult to continue, the group may be wound up if more cannot be found.
- Senior Settlers is struggling with 3 members, in spite of having made a positive start. Ralph may approach other local U3As to see whether there may be interest.
- Nordic Walking continues with 2 regulars, and the occasional other walker
- CHEWS continues with about 4 members, but not a problem as no costs involved
- Jazz Appreciation – small but works well with meeting in member's home. Joan wished to record thanks to Malcolm Skerritt for continued support during her recent illness.
- It was agreed to promote all these groups in a section of the next Newsletter and for some to be promoted by short announcements at general meetings, and on the rolling slide show.

6 New "Active Arts" Group

Patsy suggested a new group to receive specific information about Active Arts events. However, it was explained that it is U3A policy, developed over several years, not to promote the activities of other charities or organisations. Thus, this will not go ahead.

7 Charging Fees When Visiting Other U3As

The question was raised as to whether fees could or should be charged if one of our groups performed for another U3A. It was clarified that this could not happen, although if performing for a non-U3A group, a donation could be accepted which would then go into Group Funds. Essential expenses could be requested in either instance.

8 Unpaid Subscriptions List

- As renewals will be taken from this month, this item was deferred to the October meeting.
- Jill Clayton requested a reminder in the Newsletter about the need for participants in group activities and trips to be current members.

9 News From the Groups

- **Handbells** reported a new member had joined, and that even beginners could easily be assimilated into the group.
- **Travel** group held a very successful planning/social evening which resulted in sufficient ideas for a complete year's programme. Outings this year have included visits to Birmingham and the Morgan Car Factory, which attracted many more of the men than usual! Forthcoming visits will be to Worcester, Blenheim Palace, Cambridge, Dudmaston and a Gin Distillery. The short holiday to the North West includes two NT properties, the Manchester Ship Canal, Southport and Liverpool. Jill thanked all those who helped to organise the programme of outings.
- **CHEWS** continues with 4 regular members
- **Garden Appreciation** mixes talks and visits which prove most popular. This year will see two visits combining with other groups; to Cambridge with the Travel Group, and to Hill Close Gardens and Warwick with the History Group. These other groups hold their own bank accounts which is simpler than having to work through the Treasurer.
- **Senior Settlers** is struggling though has managed a game monthly since August, with variants of the basic game in play. Some new ideas may be considered in an attempt to encourage more players. Use of member homes may be a factor.
- **Birdwatching** continues with an unchanged format mixing indoor talks/videos with visits to birdwatching sites. There are around 16-18 active members from a list of 40 names. More sites are sought in order to expand the range of outdoor events.
- **Kurling** is doing well with between 3 and 12 members attending, which is easily accommodated in the hall using up to 3 lanes.
- **Guitar** remains static with 7 members. The group may be extended to include ukulele, which may run in combination or as a separate group, depending on how it goes.
- **Folk Dancing** is doing well with an average of 18 attending.
- **Jazz Appreciation** remains a small, friendly group with the emphasis on the social side.
- **Fit for Life** attracts about 16 per week, and proves enjoyable, if somewhat exhausting!
- **Solo Sunday Lunch** will stay as a closed group, as there are 22-25 members attending. The group continues to meet at Ullesthorpe Court in spite of a recent price increase.
- **Discussion** has welcomed a few new members and, as usual, seldom reaches any conclusion!
- **SWANS** has a small turnover of membership as some new people join, replacing those who are no longer able to cope with the walking.
- **Computer** group continues monthly, with the possibility of increasing meetings where a need arises
- **Nordic Walking** has only 2 regulars with occasional additional walkers. Barry is considering changing the day to see if this may attract more people.
- **Carpet Bowls** is thriving with 16-18 regular players, though this may reduce over the summer period.

- **Literature** has welcomed 2 new members and 10-15 people meet to discuss a wide variety of books.
- **Flower Arranging** continues to be successful. Some members are also involved with the Foston Flower Festival held in June.
- **Allotment Gardening** is struggling, as reported earlier, and may close unless new members are found. It is hard work, requiring commitment and flexibility, and it is difficult to achieve the balance of numbers needed to do the work but not too many to spread the produce too thinly!
- **History** continues with a mix of talks in the winter months, and trips out. Some of these are local, using shared cars whilst those further afield use the coach. Thanks were given to all those who help with outings.
- **Theatre** group has had a few problems with small numbers and some cancellations due to lack of support. A mix of serious plays, musical theatre and a ballet is sought, with local theatres supported as well as visits further afield to Milton Keynes and Birmingham.
- **Pilates** is doing well with 12-14 regular members. Costs are held at £5 per session or £20 in advance for 5 sessions – which need not be consecutive weeks.
- **Cryptic Crosswords** continues to provide a challenge, and two new members have joined.
- **Creative Writing** is doing well, with the latest member being 94 years young!
- Ursula thanked all the Group Leaders – without whom our U3A would not have such a good reputation!

10 Any Other Business

- Three new committee members will be sought for election at the May AGM, and nominations will be required not later than 4 May.
- A Notice of AGM will be placed on chairs at the April Meeting, and will set out the two motions to be put: firstly, to adopt the revised Constitution and secondly to approve the increase in subscriptions. It was explained that the revised Constitution will be displayed on the website and copies placed on the Treasurer's desk in the lobby.
- At the AGM, the membership present will be asked to elect the members of the Committee, and the officer roles will be decided at the Committee meeting following the AGM, and notified in the June Newsletter.
- Sue Wyllie will be retiring as Treasurer in May. David listed the many jobs she has undertaken, combining the traditional treasurer roles with those of membership secretary. Graham Cox will become Treasurer, but a Membership Secretary will be required to take over from David who has been assisting with preparation of membership cards on a temporary basis only.
- Group Leaders are encouraged to collect subscriptions (£13) from any of their members who are known not to attend the monthly meetings. These should be in cheque form, and be passed to David who will process them, returning membership and programme cards to the GL for distribution back to the relevant members. Cash should NOT be accepted by GLs, to avoid possible problems with tracing.
- It should be noted that memberships cannot be renewed *before* the speaker.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday, 19 October (3 – 4 pm) in the Small Lounge.