

Group Leaders' Meeting 27.06.23 Maghull Baptist Church 11:20

Present: Ann Unsworth (Theatre), Marj Atlay (Day Trips), George Dobie (Table Tennis), Colin Gore (Badminton1), Elsie Bickerstaff (play Reading), Barbara Short, Ann Raw, Doreen Bird (Garden Visits), Hilary Loughlin (Line Dancing), Brian Dickinson (Sunday Strollers), Brenda Dickinson (Easy Riders), Brian Casson (singing for Fun), Ron Higham (Spanish), Margaret Walton (Painting for Pleasure), Margaret Kendall (Ramblers), Pete Martin (Digital Cameras), Gail Aindow (Walking Netball), David Ward (French), Jane Jones (Beginners' Bridge), Colin Bennett (Computers, Technology/Science), Ros Leith (Family History & Glass), Joan Martin (Card Making), Chris Dalziel, Irene Edwards, Geoff Heaps, Ken Moulton, Nigel Burrows & Carol Westall (Committee)

1. Apologies - George and Maureen Birchall, Peter Duffy, Anne Blundell, Phil Davidson, David Russell

2. Minutes of the last meeting

After three minor alterations

- a. change of date to 2023
- b. addition of Phil Davidson to the members present list
- c. Change of CB to 'a GL' in point ABO 2 second paragraph

the minutes were passed as being correct.

3. Matters Arising

JJ had received an email from Phil. Davidson listing his matters arising as he could not be in attendance. JJ said she would bring each of his points as the topic was reached on the agenda.

4. Membership

Currently we have 612 members on roll.

5. Finance & TSB progress

JJ give a short statement which was backed up by CD. We have now created a new account sheet for the social account and CD is pleased with the outcome of this. However, it looks as though the Beacon version of accounts is not suitable as a medium for the general account. CD is going to explore other avenues and has enrolled on a course with the north-west region to investigate how other u3as deal with their accounts and what systems they use. Our u3a has now been accepted for online banking.

6. Website and Beacon update. 7. Facebook Page

Both the website and Beacon are running smoothly. PD had commented that posting onto the website is generally a disaster and that the online calendar is not fit for purpose. JJ agreed and stated that we are trying to set up a 'Today's Events' page which would give members a quick view of what is happening on a daily basis. JJ said that a calendar should show not only what group is taking part that day and what time, but also where the group can be found, and the name of the group leader.

PD had written that he felt to have the Committee run the website was not feasible. JJ said he had misunderstood the comment made. The website was to be manned by a small team consisting of NB, JJ and members of PD's own team. A meeting will be held so we can compare our knowledge base.

PD stated that little news is being fed back by some very active groups. Guidance for input of news has been offered to most posters, but for the most part has been ignored leaving some very poor examples of conduct of content.

JJ said that this was the very reason our monthly newsletter had been discontinued. It is very hard to produce a website or a newsletter without up-to-date material.

JJ replied that posting items onto the website is nowhere near as easy to do as it is onto Facebook. Those wishing to post need to be registered with the website and need to upload pictures and manoeuvre their way through the dashboard. This means that ordinary members would have difficulty in posting any

accounts on the website, leaving the pressure all on group leaders.

PD felt that our new Facebook page will cause the website to become obsolete. JJ believed that this was not the case as systems would work alongside each other with the same aim; that is the promotion of our u3a.

CB felt that our members could comment on the post things on the website easily using the comment section. JJ stated that it was not commenting that was the issue here. Ordinary members have been posting regularly on our Facebook page finding it easy to attached photos and a short passage. They don't have the facility to post regularly on the website without a code and additional explanation of how the system works. JJ also pointed out members, such as BMK's posts/articles and pictures on Facebook most ended with a statement that a fuller article can be found on the website.

DW stated that he had no desire to join Facebook and was quite happy with the website as it is. JJ reassured him that no member is being forced to join Facebook. Many are already members and currently we have a group of about 63 who follow our Facebook page. Our Facebook page is not a compulsory feature simply another way of expanding awareness of our u3a. JJ asked those present how many currently had a FB account and the majority indicated that they did. Having such an account does not mean everyone will want to post a short piece but they have the opportunity within the parameters set, to do so if they wish.

The general consensus was that the Facebook page was a good idea and as it is being monitored by administrators and moderators, we can make adjustments as and when they become necessary.

Additionally JJ explained we are in the process of changing the u3a's email address so that it will consist of four addresses - chair @..... secretary@..... treasurer@ and adminteam@

NB explained the different avenues we are investigating commenting that one was proving too expensive as it would cost £100 a year to maintain. He will explore other avenues.

8. Code of Conduct policy

DW asked why we would need a code of conduct policy. He had always found all the members of the U3A to be very polite and courteous. JJ explained that we have had incidents where there has been tension between members that could well have had a detrimental effect on the opinion of new members coming to join our U3A.

MA told the group that after giving two verbal warnings to one member the member was subsequently, I consultation with the committee, was banned from attending day trips due to poor behaviour. DW was quite surprised by this. He commented that one of the first sentences in a code of conduct policy basically covered what was needed from people's behaviour. The policy had been taken apart from another U3A and adapted using our own pert policy and the Trust's guidance and advice sheets. Whilst it seemed cumbersome, it did cover all aspects, including disciplinary and procedures should any member continue behaving badly. JJ stated that this policy would be reviewed on a regular basis.

9. Social Media Policy

PD felt that this should be group based, and that it could be dangerous, if certain activists begin to lead the discussion. JJ replied that our moderators and administrators scan every post that is put onto our Facebook page. We have also put in place a ban on chat facilities. This is not the aim of the page it is simply and purely to be a display of some of the activities that we put on at our u3a. Again, this policy will reviewed regularly as we become more au fait with Facebook. Currently some 63 members have started to follow our page. All are members of our u3a.

10. Spanish Group Update and Stramblers 2

JJ explained that we now have enough people interested in starting a brand-new Spanish beginners group. Unfortunately, as this is for raw beginners, it's not likely that many of Blair's group will consider joining. Stramblers' appeal for new members gathered a lot of prospective members. Anne Blundell will now contact all interested parties with the view of starting a second group.

11. New Members' Meeting

This was a very successful meeting with some 23 members, turning up. They gave us a very positive feedback on our U3A commenting that it was a warm, welcoming and friendly place. They put forward suggestions for new groups, but the interesting thing is that nearly all were looking for activities that

would take place in the evening. This certainly gives us something to think about.

The meeting overran slightly ending at 12:10 . Each member then announced their name and responsibility to the group to help us put faces to names etc.