

COUNTESTHORPE U3A

Minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting on Thursday October 23rd 2014

Present: Menna Carr, Janet Easey, June Hawkins, Alan Donkin, Sheila Holmes, Liz Lockwood-Jones, Lesley Woodward, John Armstrong, Linda Wood, Jill Clayton, Alan Rooks, Gail Appleby, Joan Burn, Tony Claricoates, Barry Hillyard, Ruth Westley, Trish Cornforth

Apologies: Dorothy Wells, Patsy Paterson, Mikki Wilde, David Wild, Jane Grey, Glenys Catterall-Annal.

Minutes of last Meeting: Approved.

Matters Arising: None

News from the Groups:

Creative writing: nothing to report other than that the group is thriving and enjoyed by its members.

Scrabble: Going really well now, numbers have reached 18 and are growing. Members are now keen to branch out and learn Up Words and Rummy Cub as well, which is encouraging.

Kurling: Also growing after a spell of low membership. It seems that the Rolling Screen Presentation at the monthly meeting has helped to generate interest in this and other struggling groups.

Recorders: This new group has started well and has 7 members + the tutor. If more interest is shown another group may be started after Christmas.

Travel: Jill Clayton has stepped in to be the new leader and has been pleased by the support from the group members. A year's programme has been planned with members helping to organise and run day trips. There is also a short holiday to Cardiff in May, which Shirley Taylor is arranging, and the annual visit to Wengen in August led by Jill.

Bridge: As there had been a reduction in numbers Alan Rooks has taken over as leader of the remaining group while Neil Barker is starting a "feeder" group to bring new players up to a higher standard.

History: Led by June, this group is working well with different members leading the days out each month. The holiday to Portsmouth was very successful. A full programme for 2015 has been arranged including a 3 night stay in Salisbury with a variety of outings from there.

Theatre: Again June has arranged a full programme of visits. Musicals seem to be the favoured genre with more serious plays not so popular. However, it is important to cater for all tastes so June will continue to sort out a varied schedule.

Pilates: This new group is running successfully. In order to pay for the room and the Teacher there need to be 11 members paying in advance £20 each for 5 sessions. There have been as many as 15 members, so this is easily viable at the moment.

Fit for Life: The class is running well with 15-17 present each week.

Solo Sunday Lunch: This group is still popular and has had 2 new members recently.

Nordic Walking: This new group has been slow to take off, with often only 2 walkers, but now has a third person with the possibility of 2 more, so is going in the right direction!

Bird Watching: Tony is continuing to facilitate this group but he is having problems trying to wrestle with the aims and interests of the members, and communicating with them as many are not on the Internet. There can be no evening outdoor bird watching in Winter, and it is difficult to find indoor bird related activities. The Owl Man was very popular and an evening meeting about Ospreys is scheduled for November, but that is all so far. A Planning Meeting had minimal support and individuals, although full of ideas for future meetings, are not willing take them up. It was suggested that, at the November meeting, members should again be asked for plans and encouraged to follow them through. Also there was a suggestion that daytime opportunities to go bird watching should be considered, perhaps in conjunction with another group e.g. Walking groups.

Care Walking: This group has had a successful season, the numbers have kept up well, in the high 20's and most people stay to socialise over lunch.

Any Other Business:

- Liz Lockwood -Jones was concerned that at a recent meeting of The Discussion Group a U3A member felt that discussing 'The Rise of UKIP' contravened U3A policy of remaining non political, so the subject was dropped. This was discussed at the U3A Committee and the view was that, as long as there was no campaigning or talk of policies, it was quite in order for such a discussion to take place.
- Joan Burn brought up the fact that there are 2 defunct groups, Classical Music and Jazz and it was agreed that Interest Sheets will be put out in November to see what interest there is and if these groups can be re-started.
- Ethnic Eating has also been moribund for a while so Barry said he would organise a Greek meal and hope more people would come forward to sort out future meals.
- Jill Clayton said that she was worried about the workings of the financial arrangements for the Travel Group and it was decided to ask the Treasurer to produce guidelines on how to pay for group activities.

Next Meeting: Thursday April 23rd 2015 at 3pm in the small lounge of the Village Hall. Meeting closed at 4pm.
