

MINUTES OF THE GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

27 October 2022
Village Hall, Countesthorpe

Present: Tricia Brown, Joan Burn, Jill Clayton, Rosemarie Nash-Smith, Linda Warner, Trevor Boiling, Helen Bull, Pat Hillyard, Barry Hillyard, Carol Kenneth, Janine Tibbles, Janet Easey, Allen Donkin, Maud Greasley, Diana Lee, Alan Rooks, Pam Whitehead, Ursula Wild, David Wild, Pauline Woodward, David Norris and June Hawkins,

June opened the meeting with thanks to all those attending, and extended thanks to all the Group Leaders for their efforts throughout the pandemic and in restarting the activities.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Hebblewhite, Mikki Wilde, Gill Brown.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Copies had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were agreed as a true record of the March 2022 meeting. There were no matters arising.

3 Administrative Matters

- June checked that everyone present had a GL Handbook; one was issued.
- The Handbook is likely to be updated next year, and copies will be circulated to all GLs.
- Equipment Request, Expense Claim and Annual Accounting Summary forms were available, and their use was outlined briefly. The Equipment Request cannot be used for routine 'consumable' items, and expenditure must be pre-approved by the Committee.
- Any problems or suggestions should be referred to June who will try to assist.

4 Website

- The website hosting and static page amendments are now the responsibility of Pixel Primate – one of the directors was involved in the initial website build and has agreed to continue to support it.
- At some future point it will become necessary to look at a new site, but for now it will continue unchanged as it fulfils our requirements.
- It is hoped to ring-fence some u3a funds for this purpose, and we will also seek a grant from some source.

5 Venues

- Methodist: Price increase to £10/hour will apply from November. Use of the upstairs room may be more, as it costs more to heat.
- Village Hall: A small price increase will be applied from October, with possible further increases depending on the fuel costs. GLs should advise the u3a Treasurer if any of their sessions are cancelled. The VH invoices well in advance, and the information is required to ensure that the Treasurer can check that a credit has been applied
- Brook Court: Refurbishments are still incomplete, but u3a can resume use of the lounge until work recommences. Access difficulties have been reported with extended waiting times for response to the panel button. A password was requested by the office, but we have never had any indication of a password being required. Some items belonging to

the Scrabble group have gone missing. June will be taking these points up with Sue Brown (Warden).

6 News From the Groups

Each GL gave a brief account of their group's activities, which will be recorded in the December edition of the Newsletter.

7 Expansion of membership

- June reported that the Committee intends to begin an initiative in the New Year to increase membership, which declined during the pandemic and has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Ideas were sought from the meeting and included:
 - Offer a free taster session
 - Use advertisements in surrounding villages and/or publications
 - Publicise the broader aims of the u3a (community run, for the community)
 - Posters or copies of What's On in local libraries
 - Word of mouth
 - Advertise in the 'Your Local' publication

8 Any Other Business

- June indicated that David Hebblewhite is hoping to restart the Outings group in the New Year.
- There were no other items for AOB.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in April 2023, with a date to be advised nearer the time.

June thanked everyone for attending and for their ongoing efforts in organising and running the groups, without which there would be no u3A.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.