

Downham Market and District U3A Committee

Monday 7th May, 2024, 11a.m

Assembly Room, Downham Mkt Town Hall

**Present:** JC, JilC, LA, SM,TH, LE, CC,CD, FB

Guests: Sheila Goodwin, Elaine and Simon Carpenter

**Apologies:** SH

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** JC signed the Minutes

**Matters Arising:**

Pay Pal complications. They will not allow the purchase of a card machine from Settle, a sister company. Discussion on card used by Discover Downham. JC suggested we continue with current plan for the time being.

Printers reported we were £973 in arrears. This is an error. Thank you to CD for investigating. There is £90.42 unpaid from 2021 which CD is following up.

**Reports**

J.C Chairman. Data submission date open until 19th May. SM to discuss with TS. Invitation from Kings Lynn U3a to join a theatre visit discussed. The Wash cruise from Boston was excellent. 10 members went. Future trips recommended. There will be a feature in the magazine.

New site works - there are now 100 U3as rolled on to it and Head Office hope to get remaining 700 on to it this year.

The National U3a Festival is in York this summer and any member can attend. Details will be sent to the membership.

U3a week is 21st-29th September and all branches are encouraged to do something to raise the profile. Efforts are being made nationally to boost the profile of the U3a.

National Volunteers week. Proposal to thank all volunteers who help in the community. There will probably be press and radio coverage.

Friends Extra. There is an additional U3a Friends Newsletter which gives access to workshops and purchases, mentioned in the U3a magazine.

CD Treasurer. Discussion on payment methods and complications. Discussion on Gift Aid rebate and whether this can be claimed. FB confirmed it is on Beacon and will follow up.

We have 253 current members of which 50 have not renewed their subscription so far.

SM Interim vice chair. Of the 255 current members, 50 not yet paid. There have been 8 new members since April. 2 have resigned. Breakdown is 69% female, 27% male. Reminders will be sent out. The cut off date is the end of June. Could Group Leaders check if their members have paid up. CC will ask.

FB Business Secretary.

Website Update. Items have been successfully moved across to the new site. TM confirmed he is willing to work with FB then proceed to web manager in due course. Can emails be sent to groups asking for photos for the site. JillC suggested when committee members start to visit various groups then more photos will be available. All groups now have a web page. Training will be available nearer access time. CC will inform groups.

Health and Safety. Copies of documents will be sent to committee members. Information on training workshops is available. This could encourage more branch members to do voluntary roles without becoming committee members.

Could we have a second pay in card for the bank account? Discussion on passwords and the need to inform FB.

LE Speakers Secretary. Confirmed speakers in place till Feb '25. Would like a sub committee later in the year to arrange Xmas event. LA, SM, EC and FB volunteered. General discussion on the wisdom of having back up volunteers for roles.

JilC. Newsletter Editor.

Could retiring members please submit a quote about their experience for the Newsletter. Will include a 'thank you' to these members. Invited LA to be in the spotlight and to submit a note about her role for the Newsletter.

CC. Groups Coordinator. The new Croquet group met today and are having lunch. Will ask if they would like to be featured in the newsletter. Will arrange for LA to shadow her at groups. The Singing for Pleasure and Reading Group leader is very unwell. Will need to see how these Groups wish to proceed.

LA. New members coordinator. Will meet the two new members from Suffolk at the next meeting. There are also two further potential members interested. Will send out cards if members are ill but will need to be notified by group leaders.

Refreshments will be provided by Cards 1 and 2 this month.

### **Feedback on AGM.**

It was felt that the speaker from the RNIB was 'too heavy' and that if one is invited next year the subject should be lighter. £128 was collected.

### **A.O.B**

An additional emergency meeting was held on 16th April to discuss the lack of volunteers to fill committee roles and how the branch could proceed in the immediate future. JC, CC, and FB agreed to continue for a limited time. JilC would work with JC until July in the role of Chair. Efforts will be made meantime to fill these roles and increase Committee membership.

It was agreed to leave the discussion of visits to groups until the next meeting.

LA suggested a raffle prize could be provided to encourage members to sign in on arrival.

EC offered to contact the 'Watlington Gossip' to promote the U3a.

SM confirmed Barrie Gordon was willing to take on Publicity but did not want to be a Trustee.

TM confirmed he was happy to be a committee member but also did not wish to be a Trustee.

The meeting closed at 1.15

Next meeting will be on Monday 3rd May , at 10.00 a.m. at the Assembly Room

