

Verwood u3a Committee Meeting
Verwood Hub
27th August 2024

Present: JCM (chair), HJW; JT; JBM; DN; TW; JD

1: **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 15th May 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2: **Matters Arising:** The Minutes for 15May will be posted on the website. **JD**

3: **Chairs Report:** JCM reported that LH was standing down as secretary in October due to personal commitments. Minutes would be taken by JD.

LH was thanked formally for her hard work and commitment to Verwood u3a

4: **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts 23/24 have been audited. (*N.B. by JD - the Accounts and the audit certificate are on the website front page footer*). It was noted by JBM that subscriptions last year had been £812.31 less than venue expenditure and that the profit shown was purely due to the spare ball income, Gift Aid, the Verwood Town Council grant plus sundries. This confirms that the fee increase justified. JBM reported that the account balance is in a healthy position at present due to subscription renewal. £10, 000 has been placed in a deposit account as this offers a slightly better rate of interest. This money is readily accessible. 265 members have renewed already leaving around 100 to renew.

JCM would send a renewal reminder to all members.

Fees Increase: JCM commented that the fees increase had generally elicited a favourable responses from members who agreed that the rationale for doing so was clear and logical. It is hoped that, with the current surplus, the fees will not need to rise next year. This is clearly dependant on external factors such as inflation and the pending tough budget on October 30th. Part year membership (joining after Christmas) will be £30 with an additional £5 for the weekly groups for new members. The way to disseminate fee structure information was discussed. It was agreed this had to be a committee decision and could not be left until the AGM, which is held in October to enable the sign off of year end accounts.

It was decided that if a fees adjustment is needed in future, then an EGM could be called to explain it to the membership before the change is implemented, but that the final decision would be a committee decision.

JBM was thanked for his work with the accounts

5: **Venues and Groups Report:**

There have been a number of new Groups during the year which have been popular and successful. These groups are: Men's Discussion, Mindfulness, Rummikub, Sugar Craft, Book Club, Travel Through my Lens, Eye Health, Geology, Astronomy, Yoga. The task of booking venues a busy one at times. The Hub is the preferred venue both from access and helpful staff plus the reasonable charge rate. Group leaders must be prompt in telling DN of any changes because another large organisation is now using The Hub since the closure of QE so space is sometimes at a premium.

DN would prompt Group Leaders

Feedback From Group Leader Meeting -May 31st: The event was well attended and positive with each group leader being given time to introduce their group and raise anything relevant. This worked well and the meeting ran to time.

New Groups: There had been a number of new groups starting in 23/24: Men's Discussion; Mindfulness; Book Club; Rummikub; Yoga (so popular now 2 groups); Sugarcraft; Astronomy; Geology and Travel Through My Lens. Some were short course sessions only. Most were set to continue although Astronomy would not repeat. Newer groups were being scheduled later if possible so the part-time workers could attend. All short course groups would now attract a charge for attendance in addition to the membership fee. Craft and Jewellery would now be sign-up workshops open to all on a first come first served basis and attract a charge to cover material costs.

Bridge Groups: The u3a Bridge group that met at the URC weekly has now left Verwood u3a and runs independently at Crane Valley GC. We are seeking a Group Leader to run a new Bridge Group for the Verwood u3a. HJW

6: Beacon Update: The Beacon system was up and running and proving very worthwhile. GM (webmaster) is running Beacon at present. The set-up has been hard work and is now mostly completed. The work had been largely undertaken by GM and JCM with JBM and DN assisting. GM is thanked for the many hours he has committed to establishing Beacon. The Calendar is much better than the old system and the whole system is far more efficient. Group Leaders will be trained in using Beacon on an ad hoc, one to one basis as required. The Beacon fee has not yet been paid and will be £1 per member. Beacon group emails are automatically BCC and these are easy to send.

Website Report: The website is operating efficiently and JD is continuing her training on it and progressing well.

New Members: JCM and GM are currently running new membership applications whilst Beacon is bedding in as most new applications are now online. Two people have paid membership fees without filling out a form and JCM is attempting to track them down. Their details should emerge when they join a group

JCM will alert Group Leaders to inform when new members attended.

7: Open Day Feedback: The event was again well attended and successful. There were a few issues with new member applications and renewals, which has resulted in a lot of work to find required information about members, but these are now largely resolved.

8: Committee Vacancies: There are now 3 Committee vacancies with LH standing down at the AGM. DN has written her job description and was hoping to hand over Groups & Venues to a new Committee member in the not too distant future. JBM would also like to hand over as Treasurer next year, but needs a Vice aTreasurer to work alongside him for a year. JCM has another year to run as Chair and HW will not be standing. For this. Members needed to be encouraged step forward. Job descriptions are available from the National u3a website and can be adapted for local requirements.

9: **AOB:**

Spare Ball has vacancies despite making good profit and needs promoting. Suggestions were made with regard to: establishing a focus; revamping the webpage entry; a potential name change.

HJW would investigate

Christmas Lunch: This will be on 18th December at Remedy Oak with an 80 place limit. Menu choices are needed by end of October with payment due by Nov 15th. There will be no refunds for cancellation after Dec 1st. The cost will be £39.50 to include a voluntary £2 for staff tip, but a glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival is included. It is hoped that there will be live music courtesy GM and potentially Riverblue.

Elvis Evening: HJW keen to get this promoted and organised. Payments go to him. Raffle prizes were needed.

CPR Sessions: Paul Berry the CPR trainer will be running refresher training at £5 per head – dates to be organised. Group Leaders will be asked to nominate a group member to attend if at all possible.

JCM would email group leaders

Rustic Fayre: Attendance at the Fayre was good and the presence of Riverblue helped to attract people to the stand. It would have been helpful to have had a map of location prior to the event. Useful ideas were gained from other stand owners notably Canal Painting with the stall holder willing to hold a workshop.

Christmas Craft Fair: DN and JCM are investigating hold a Christmas Craft Emporium on 27th Nov from 2-5. Craft stalls would be invited to attend and potentially u3a crafters would set up tables where a skill could be explored. Charges for this event will be discussed.

Date of AGM: The AGM date was agreed for 16th October 1.30 -2.30 PM in the Hub Theatre. *(NB after the meeting it was found that the Theatre was not available so Friday 25th October is the provisional date - TBC)*

10: **Date of Next Meetings:** 9th October 10-12 AM
9th December 2-4 PM

DN to book

The meeting closed at 12 noon