

Co-ordinators Meeting Friday March 3rd 2017
St Elphin's 2 – 4 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome.

2. Present: Pam Johns, Jill Fawcett, Mike Frosdick, Peter Hume, Anne Oldfield, Dave Puxley, Trevor Boam, Hazel Finch, Lesley Shawe, Liz Walker, Martin Emery, Diane Frosdick (chair), Helen Boocock.

Apologies for absence: John Mann, Liz Chisnall, Ros Bourne, Jenny McEwan, John Lamb, Janet Pidgeon, Jane Burgess, David Gadsby, Maggie Shields, Sarah Puxley, Pam White, Max Price, Jeremy Taylor, Sue Cain, Julie Dumelow.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on November 25th 2016 were accepted without amendments.

- Matters arising not on the agenda: the new booking system at St Elphin's is working well and biscuits have improved.

4. New groups and coordinator updates

Welcome to all the new coordinators and a big thank you to those leaving the role for their hard work and commitment. The number of groups stands at 53. A few changes of coordinator: John Mann has taken over from Susan Sarbutt in Book Group 3 and Ruth Gordon is again responsible for the Art Group, taking over from Chris Lloyd.

New groups: a second Signing Group has been launched by Pam Wildgoose. A Film Group coordinated by Sarah Puxley is already proving very popular. There is also another attempt to set up a third Current Affairs Group by Tracy Sims.

No news yet about a new coordinator for the Creative Writing Group.

A third Bowls Group has been proposed to run at Wirksworth Bowls Club – Diane is taking names for this.

A Beer Appreciation Group has been proposed by Nick Binns.

4. Membership renewal.

The new method has been very effective and has saved a deal of work and postage. If there is anyone on the list of people who have not paid who coordinators know do not intend to rejoin, please tell Jenny. The list will be updated soon and Diane will send it out again.

6. AGM Monday, 10 April, 2017

To be held at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale in the Ballroom (also known as Banqueting Room). Tea and refreshments will be available from 1.30pm. The meeting will begin at 2.00pm.

This year we have three vacancies for members to be elected at the AGM on April 10th. Within the Committee we also need to find a new Membership Secretary, a Vice-chair and ordinary members with interest in Communications and Social Events. If you are interested in joining the Committee you are not necessarily volunteering to undertake one of these tasks.

The speaker this year is Matthew Parris, political writer, presenter of Radio 4 program 'Great Lives' and formerly a Conservative MP.

Note - only fully paid up members can attend.

7. Coordinators Forum/Discussion time. Contributions by email from:

- Janet Pigeon History 1: *I've had enquiries about joining the group over the last few weeks. Three people were looking to join and I referred them to the website as Group 3 seems to have places. We have 11 members at present but I think an ideal number would be 10 for us. It may be that we need to start another group at some point in the future.*
- Jane Burgess: *Nothing new to report for the birding group. All is going very well. A thank you to all Matlock members who have helped us (Bakewell) get our newsletter and pamphlet off the ground*
- Pam Wildgoose: *A thank you card from the Signing Groups for the signing dictionaries which are much appreciated.*

A reminder that groups can apply for funds for equipment through Barbara Phelan, the Chair, although in general groups are meant to be self-funded. Anything bought will belong to the MAU3A rather than to individuals.

The Family History Group has a number of DVDs that others might be interested in after the group has finished with them. Martin suggested a Resources page on the website.

If you need to borrow equipment from our cupboard in the Studio be aware that the room is frequently in use. You might ring to check.

Anne suggested a second set of speakers as more than one group meets and wants to use them at the same time.

Singing for Pleasure – there were 44 at the last meeting.

French Conversation is going well with 16 members now, all at different levels and working well together.

8. Information from the Management Committee

A discussion took place about the benefit of belonging to the Derbyshire Network of U3A's. It was probably useful in the early days for mutual support but now has no practical powers or benefit as far as MAU3A is concerned.

It was agreed that we will not be appointing representatives and have agreed to withdraw from membership. There was some concern voiced by coordinators that we would not know what was happening or be asked to help other new U3As to set up; Matlock had received a great deal of help when MAU3A was set up. Martin wondered if there is an East Midlands or Derbyshire Beacon support group which would be relevant if we decide to adopt this program (Membership software). Coordinators said they did not understand the structure of U3A nationally and regionally.

Trevor mentioned that there is a Derbyshire network of 12 Family History groups that share resources and meet 3 times per year in Buxton. A reminder that the national coordinators can be also useful.

Proposed U3A for Wirksworth: Brian Smith continues to pursue this in a role that he holds for the National U3A but there has apparently been little interest. It is national policy to develop new U3A's so that people are no more than five miles away from one.

Matlock U3A is 10 years old in September – suggestions for how to celebrate it are welcome and today included: Picnic in the park – Hall Leys or Whitworth – bring your own food etc. A long walk. County Offices where every group has a station. In 2004 several Rotary clubs of around 1000 people had a successful picnic in Chatsworth Park. There were 3 bands there which was the only thing the organisers and Chatsworth provided and everyone brought their own food and seats. Perhaps we could replace the September 4th Monday coffee morning with an afternoon event. Highfields School evenings or weekends. Hold something at a "nice" venue e.g. Haddon Hall, Heights of Abraham and the U3A would fund part of it, with a charge for other costs. Hire a steam train – Darley Dale or Ecclesbourne. Have a trip out e.g. day at Uttoxeter races or York. Suggestion – ask our groups for ideas. We also need to decide whether guests can attend.

The Annual Report is back from the printers, thanks to all who sent their contribution so promptly. All the AGM information and documentation is ready to be sent out to members.

National U3A has recommended we have a licence for showing films and DVDs. It was agreed we should buy one for £60 per annum.

Equipment update – a pair of laptop speakers has been purchased to help boost the sound when viewing video clips etc. on the laptops. Please book out for use in the usual way.

9. Coffee mornings

March: the International Folk Dancing Group will be performing.

April: The Painting Group will be showing examples of their work.

Any takers for April, June or July? There will be no Coffee Morning in May as it's a Bank Holiday and the Football Club have a match on.

10. Upcoming events

Chinese Banquet at the New China Rose in Matlock Bath. Monday March 20th, 7 for 7.30pm, cost £16. Still some places left for this. There is a mix of people coming so please encourage your group to get in touch with Diane if they are interested.

The Art Appreciation Group are organising a day trip to Kingston-upon-Hull, City of Culture on Tuesday, 13 June and all MAU3A members and guests are welcome. The historic city is located on the Humber estuary and boasts a wealth of tourist attractions - the Old Town, Hull Marina and the Deep Aquarium, museums, theatres and art galleries. Depart from Slacks Garage at 8.00am and will leave Hull for the return to Matlock at around 5.00pm. More information will be on the website later this month and will be circulated to Coordinators. The cost of the transport is £15.00 per person.

11. Any other business

If anyone has not yet sent their Petty Cash return to Judith for the period up to the end of January 2017 can they please do so as soon as possible?

Peter suggested we send a card and flowers to Barbara who is about to have a hip replacement operation, on behalf of the whole MAU3A.

Length of time people to stand as coordinators; this was discussed last year.

To avoid getting stale it might be a good idea to change after a number of years, if volunteers can be found.

12. Date and time of next meeting Monday June 12th, 2p.m. to 4p.m. in the Studio, St Elphin's.