

**Minutes of the Co-ordinators Meeting**  
**Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**St Elphin's**

1. Welcome.

Present: Jeremy Taylor, Sue Sarbutt, Max Price, Mike Frosdick, Liz Walker, Liz Chisnall, David Gadsby, Hazel Finch, Jenny McEwan, Hilary Essen, Pam Johns, Anne Oldfield, Helen Boocock, Diane Frosdick (Chair).

Apologies for absence: John Lamb, Martin Emery, Sue Cain, Lesley Shawe, Warren Makinson, Chris Lloyd, Jane Burgess, Barbara Davey, Roger Keeling, Ros Bourne, Janet Pidgeon, Maggie Shields, Trevor Boam, Julie Dumelow, Peter Hume.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.

- The minutes were accepted as accurate.
- Matters arising not on the agenda: thanks were expressed for the new laptop by Anne and Jeremy whose groups had used it.

3. New groups and coordinator updates

- Susan Tomlinson and Andrew Noone are to take over coordination of Local History from Maudie Behrens from January. A big thanks to Maudie for all her hard work with the group over many years.
- The third Boules group has been successfully launched by Max Price.
- The new Short Walks group has got off to a good start with over 30 people signing up. Hilary Essen is the coordinator. There have been three walks to date with groups of 15 and 9.
- Unfortunately Lyn Mason has had to resign as coordinator of the Creative Writing group and we are awaiting news of her replacement.
- The Chess for Fun group is no longer meeting as interest had dwindled.

4. Membership renewal.

In Friday's What's On there was a piece about changes to collecting subscription renewal, suggesting a preference for internet renewals or cash payments at Coffee Mornings. The request will go out on January 1<sup>st</sup> and Jenny will be at the January coffee morning to take any cash payments. At the end of February Group Coordinators will be asked to follow up non payers. Failure to pay by the end of March will lead to an end to membership. There will be no reminders sent or membership cards issued. David Gadsby offered to collect

cheques from Scrabble Group members as not all of them have internet use. Membership stands at 625.

#### 5. Coordinators Forum/Discussion time:

- Contribution from Jane Burgess re the Birding Group: *The birding group is lovely at the moment. A great mix of experience and willing to share, lack of experience and willing to learn, and a nice day out. We continue to have 10-14 people. If we have more, we split the group so that we don't disturb the birds too much, or annoy other birders. It can get quite cackly in the hides otherwise. Next month is the Christmas lunch and I am expecting a full turnout.*
- From Peter Hume – Geology is going well. There will be a Christmas lunch at The Fishpond, Matlock Bath with a speaker from another group. Peter also resurrected the Wine Tasting group on a bi-monthly basis; they have had two meetings that went well.
- Jenny mentioned coach hire from Slacks, who are very helpful. The Theatre Group has had two successes in negotiating down the stated price for a coach.
- Max hopes the proposed Ski trips will go ahead and will ask Penny to include them in the next Newsletter.
- There was a discussion about Beginners Bridge and how members 'graduate' into the 'serious' social bridge group. Experience has shown that beginners need at least a year to make the necessary progress. As the main group is very full, could they form the nucleus of a new group? There could be potential for sharing equipment.

#### 6. Discussion about 'Accessibility for disabled members' a U3A paper sent out with the agenda.

This was discussed at the recent Management Meeting where we were told of a member who had developed a disability and left a group as a consequence when accessibility could have been organised. Some of the issues in the paper are aimed at U3A's that hold a large monthly meeting.

The key action for Coordinators is to be aware of the needs of members in their group and try to offer them practical solutions which enable them to attend your meetings where feasible. Please contact Diane if you need help with any problems.

A note is to be added to the website "Don't let a disability be a barrier to joining. If you have a need, contact us". It was suggested that we also add on the website that the monthly meeting is held at a venue with wheelchair access.

There was a discussion about simple measures that groups can take to assist people with hearing loss to participate fully: ask them where they are best seated, meet where there is a Loop (i.e. not The Studio), sit round a table, use handouts etc.

#### 7. Use of the Studio, St Elphin's by groups.

A meeting was held between Susan McLean (St Elphin's club manager), Barbara Phelan and Judith Hodges to address various issues. St Elphin's are in the process of putting together a new timetable for their gym classes and it is being used more often. A new process for booking the room was arranged which has already been shared with the regular users of the Studio:- Please make all room bookings by email [stelphinsclub@audleyretirement.co.uk](mailto:stelphinsclub@audleyretirement.co.uk) with a copy to [susanm@audleyretirement.co.uk](mailto:susanm@audleyretirement.co.uk) and [jlh.vol@w3z.co.uk](mailto:jlh.vol@w3z.co.uk) Please can you also confirm the bookings you have already made as soon as possible, using the above contact details. When making bookings, if you include how you want the room to be set out, St Elphin's will - as far as possible - oblige. If you find that this has not been done, please speak to one of the bar staff, if you need help.

Please do not allow sessions to overrun, but stay within the time booked.

If you have had refreshments in the Studio, please return cups and saucers to the trolley and always pay for refreshments at the time of ordering.

St Elphin's have not increased their room hire charges in all the years we have been with them, but need to do so now. Please therefore note that with effect from 1 January 2017, **the charge per hour will be £10.**

Diane has a list of alternative venues which she circulated and will send out again by email. Some of the contacts and details need changing so if you use any of these venues and know something has changed please let her know so the list can be updated.

#### 9. Information from the Management Committee

Dave Puxley has taken on responsibility for publicity and will be compiling the Annual Report this year and would be happy to receive your contributions, the earlier the better. Just a short note on how your group is getting on with any year 'highlights'. Keep it short – around 150 words - as we now have 50 groups which mean a lot of pages for the report. Needed by a date to be confirmed in January. Photos are very welcome.

The 2017 AGM has had to be moved again to Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> to accommodate our speaker Mathew Parris and there will also be a change of venue.

We have a volunteer, Sue Petrie, to take over the role of Membership Secretary for next year and she is already meeting with Jenny to learn the ropes.

#### 10. Coffee mornings

Another plea for groups to come along to a Coffee Morning and give people an idea of what the group gets up to. Jazz in October was very pleasant.

Otherwise meetings feel flat. You don't have to do much – a couple of people at a table showing something from their group and available to chat would be fine. The November meeting was poorly attended (40+) – Diane checked that of these there were 12 coordinators.

December – Singing for Pleasure will entertain us.

January (January 9<sup>th</sup> as the 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Bank Holiday) – Sarah Puxley is setting up a film group and wants to launch it at the coffee morning. Next dates:

February 6<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

May – no meeting as it is a Bank Holiday

June 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### 11. Upcoming events

Christmas Social on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, next week, at Matlock Golf Club – 70 people at the last count, still a few last minute places – contact Barbara Phelan on 07980691892.

Whist Drive – at Matlock Football Club probably in February with supper.

Chinese Meal – New China Rose in Matlock Bath in March.

Mid-year, possibly in June a trip to Hull, City of Culture – a joint event organised by Barbara and Art Appreciation.

The Social Committee is still struggling to identify what members want

#### 12. Any other business

Penny would like folk to look at their web pages and see what could be added to freshen them up as some groups' pages are very out of date.

Bakewell U3A is getting its monthly What's On equivalent up and running and would like to be able to advertise information from other local groups and to start, if possible, with MAU3A. They would advertise anything that we wanted, particularly if, say, we wanted to fill a coach for an outing. Diane is to act as the link so send anything to her that you would like advertised to Bakewell U3A.

13. Date and time of next meeting: Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm to 4 pm St Elphin's.