

Wessington in Washington Minutes of Committee Meeting 05 August 2024

***Apologies: Eileen S, Sue F , Elaine F, Anne P, Laraine L and welcome to Peter R, Linda W, Ann H , Ian W and Jean B and everyone else...**

***Items not on the Agenda: *Sharon K has offered to take over as Chair for the foreseeable future whilst Eileen recovers from illness...we wish her well.**

***Hilary offered the Committee an update on the website...Sitebuilder (old) and Siteworks (new and u3a name) distinguishes the two websites. The training for Hilary and Peter B is extensive, new learning ‘every day a school day’ including zoom meetings with workbook. A ‘dummy’ website has been created for Wessington but a word of warning , the changeover will be complicated and not done overnight. There is a twenty day period to run the two sites in parallel. There was an invitation from Hilary for Committee members to view other u3a websites e.g. Washington Village, Bishop Auckland, Buxton and area who are already on new system, and feed back opinions...the new system will use Wessington in Washington u3a as its name...new passwords and log-ons needed for editors (HM, PB, AP, IW plus DO is a page editor). It offers more opportunities for design, photo slides, updates and search facilities...As already said, there will be an order for updating the website starting with home pages...**

Here I feel we should offer gold medals to Hilary and Peter for volunteering to take on this mammoth task ...Huzzah!

***Minutes of previous meeting: MAMS update for Third Age Matters magazine**

***Chair/Vice Chair: *Allan Walmsley is the new Chair of Board of Trustees * Jean Cubbin from Region has put out a call for volunteers for Great North Run ...not to run but to hand out leaflets and generally marshall on 08 September ...high vis u3a jackets will be provided...* Holy Trinity Church in Washington Village are welcoming a new vicar and are inviting local groups to attend a service on Monday September 9 at 7pm**

***Secretary:* Accounts for AGM not available * audit not complete**

***Treasurer:* Main Account£3149.00 and Social Fund £426.00**

***Membership Secretary:* 83 members and 43 attendees at last meeting**

***Welfare: *card sent to Anne P, further card to be sent to Eileen S from Committee**

***Monthly Meetings: *Brief reminder of this year’s talks as planned plus a request about December meeting...mystery gift idea and suggested change of time for meeting to include food from Sarah?...*next monthly meeting and What’s Next group to ask members...**

Meetings for 2025: (so far)

January 20 Food Scapes by Maria Duggan Newcastle University

February 17 Bella Reay (local footballer and subject of play) by Jane Harker

March 17 Film on Coal mining by Matthew Burge WEA and Washington Heritage

April 21 AGM Hedworth, Val and Grandad by Peter Welsh

May 19 Battle of Britain in NE England by Harry Fox

August 18 Scams by Andy Hampson of North East Regional Organised Crime Unit

October 20 30 years of Fire Brigade Humour by Peter Weighill

***Some discussion about internal groups/individuals as speakers...maybe try 2 speakers of 25 minutes on occasion...other speakers to follow...**

***Groups: *Dancercise on hold *Reading group 3rd Tuesday October *Keep on Dancing Linda will feed back to What's Next group on date, music etc**

***Regional: Jean B outlined 2 events...Visit to Nissan and How to use Facebook**

***It is 30th Anniversary of Regional u3a and to celebrate each u3a is invited to send 2 members for lunch at Little Haven in South Shields at £18.00 a head...Jean B would like to go and Peter B is a member of Regional Committee so another member could go...Jean to send out information...date October 22nd 11.30 till 3.00pm**

***Region have had a talk by Jean C about changes to organization at National level...'Fit for the Future' is at an end...however Jean B urged us all to read the document she sent out outlining the resolution proposing the change on October 16 at National AGM... from a Regional Rep who had an impossible workload to a Board (small) which will deal with governance and expertise and a Council (much larger) made up of Regional representatives...every u3a would be required to vote ...probably one vote for Wessington but some consideration should be given on how to vote by our members. AGM is a hybrid meeting in Milton Keynes.**

***TALK VOICE is a group based in Newcastle University which researches health issues and products useful for older people...there is a link on Regional website**

Regional events:* 18 September a visit to Sunderland Maritime Heritage Museum in East End plus tea at Donnison School and optional visit to 1719 Church...

***Newsletter Workshop 19 September at Gateshead Library...Regional Quiz 02/October and * Threads Through Creation exhibition at Hexham Cathedral on 07 November ...details on Regional website**

***IT and Website: Hilary will remove Eileen from website while she is recovering...**

***AOB ...none**

***Next meeting: Monday 02 September at 10am at the Club**