

Arnold u3a
Committee meeting 11th March 2025

Present: Hazel Ward (Chair), Viv Purkiss, Sue Matthews, Glynis Hunt, Cathy van Baalen, Ged Clarke, Gwen Whitehouse

Apologies: John Heeson, Pete Hewitt, Tina Palingedge

1- Minutes of last meeting: Accepted as a true record

Matters arising: Reserved seating for new members – Viv to ensure this takes place

- Drama group expenses – discussion deferred
- Our scanners are now obsolete. No instructions. A new scanner would be £151 exc VAT.

2- Aims for 2025/26 were sought from each committee member

Glynis: 1. Need to move forward to some other form of payment. Cheques being phased out. Group leaders to possibly have chip and pin readers? Glynis to investigate other bank accounts & ask neighbouring u3as how they are moving forward. The wi-fi signal at Arnold Methodist Church is poor. Could we use a signal booster or mobile data: 2. Updating laptops, discussed. **Action HW & GH**

Sue: 1. Would like to be more proactive and offer short courses such as on health or finance but she lacks time to take this forward. Another person to take this on? 2. Sue raised the issue of diversity. All to consider how to have more diverse membership including age & ethnicity. Approaching cultural centres was discussed. **Action: all**

Cathy: 1 Monthly meeting speakers discussed re attracting different demographics. Website use, & better publicity was discussed. 2 Cathy also raised the issue of attracting a younger age group. VP reported that at the ALAF (Arnold Local Area Forum) meeting she had attended, raised issue of retirement age of 67 hindering u3a membership. Cathy to research possible strategy. **Action CvB**

Gwen: 1 Gwen reported some negative feedback about current newsletter format. newsletter too long and needs change. Contributors to be given a word limit and pictures restriction. Gwen undertook to e-mail contributors. Cathy offered to write a piece in the newsletter asking members and group leaders to notify CvB or a committee member if anyone is in hospital etc. **Action GW, CvB**
2 Gwen was concerned about some groups which are closed and refusing membership or waiting lists. Hazel, Viv and Gwen undertook to visit all groups to address this problem. **Action HW, GW & VP**

Ged 1 Ged had some ideas concerning the website landing page & trying to attract younger people. Viv to explore if the newsletter can go on the landing page. Explain taster sessions. **Action: VP**

2 Ged also asked if committee members could help for a limited time to set up groups. **Action GC**

Viv 1 Viv said she'd like to see more collaborative working between committee members, group leaders, and within groups so that tasks don't seem too onerous for one person.

2 She suggested that perhaps evening or weekend meetings could help to tackle younger & more diverse membership. Numbers good for our evening and weekend groups

Hazel Hazel is concerned about the current IT situation and suggested a subcommittee to look for new volunteers and also to take forward moving from WordPress to SiteWorks. **Action: HW**

3- Group Leaders' meeting 14 March: Speaking Sue, Hazel and Rosie **Action: HW**

Bringing new people on to the Committee. Ask to rejoin retirees to rejoin? **Action HW**

4- AOB Speakers Hazel to e-mail Helen for info on speakers, **Action HW.** Cathy, Glynis and Gwen offered to help confirm speakers already booked. **Sharing Groups with other u3as** Deferred

Meeting closed 12 noon

Hazel Ward