

Chess Valley U3A Convenors' Meeting, 30th March 2017

Chesham Town Hall

Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved.

Groups Convenors' Report

Reminders

- The need for Convenors to keep a list of the members of their Groups and to record who attends each meeting (this is to meet the requirements of our insurance).
- The need to have a second Convenor (or at least a second contact person) for each Group so that Group members can be contacted if necessary if the Convenor is unavailable.
- If a Group has a waiting list, please let Sue or Marian Bangs know so that they can investigate the feasibility of starting another Group.
- Possible new Groups. If Convenors know of any people interested in these, please let Sue or Marian know:
 - Line Dancing. So far, only five people have expressed interest, which is not enough to make it worthwhile to start a Group.
 - Tai Chi. Only seven people have expressed interest so far.
 - Knit and Natter – only two people so far.
 - Ukulele – currently working with other U3As to get enough interest.
 - Music. Tony Frost has got 8 people together but it struggling to find pieces for the variety of instruments to play. Currently operating under the aegis of the Eclectic Music Group. (Sue suggested asking the musicians to entertain us at the pre-Christmas Convenors' meeting.)
- Convenors should make sure that they know the postcode of their venues, in case there is a need to summon the emergency services.
- There are risk assessment and accident report forms in the Convenors' Handbook (and also available on the Chess Valley U3A website – www.cvu3a.uk).
- Attendances at the monthly General Meetings have been very good recently, regularly topping 100.
- Members of other U3As (and other visitors) are welcome to attend up to two General or Group meetings as visitors but, after that, they must be asked to join Chess Valley U3A.

Chairman's report

Eric Magson reminded Convenors that the Annual General Meeting will be the first item at the General Meeting on Thursday 8th June. After the AGM, the Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan, PM for Chesham and Amersham, will talk to us about 'Parliament and Democracy'.

At the AGM, Tony Biddle will stand down as Vice-Chairman of Chess Valley U3A. On behalf of the members Eric thanked Tony for all his hard work since co-founding our U3A and this was warmly supported by the Convenors.

Eric said that 2018 will mark Chess Valley U3A's 10th anniversary and he invited Convenors to suggest events that we could stage to commemorate the date. He pointed out that any events should be inclusive and open to any of our members.

Vice-Chairman's report

Tony Biddle reported that Chess Valley U3A has now purchased a first-aid kit for use at the General Meetings, since that provided in the Broadway Baptist Church was not up to standard. It was agreed that tweezers should be added to the kit.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that Chess Valley U3A would reimburse any Groups which decided to purchase similar kits for use at their meetings (a guide price of £20 was agreed).

Treasurer's report

John Anderson had nothing to report.

Membership

On Derek Gardner's behalf, Sue reported that we now have 700+ members.. She said that Derek is trying out the use of 'Dropbox' to make restricted information available to other Committee Members.

Derek is also interested in hearing from Convenors if they have information why members have NOT renewed for 2017.

Website

Valerie Garrod asked Convenors to let her know of any changes or additions to their entries on the website, which is their 'shop window' to the wider world.

Newsletter

Liz Stoelker drew attention to the planned 'Members' Noticeboard' which will be in the next newsletter (see page 24 of the march-May newsletter for more information).

The copy deadline for the next newsletter is 22nd May.

Events and study days

Jackie Cobb reported that the planned outing to Dover Castle had been cancelled due to a lack of interest. The trip to Brighton on 16th May is going ahead but only because several non-members have been allowed to join the outing. Jackie asked for suggestions for outings in 2018.

There is also a planned outing to Oxford on 27th September.

Chess Valley U3A will have a stand at the Schools of Chesham Carnival on Saturday 10th June. Jackie invited people to come along and help man the stand.

This year's Chairman's Quiz Night will be on Saturday 18th November. The venue is being finalised and, this year, members will be invited to bring their own food along.

Finally, Jackie mentioned Keith Hoffmeister's talk on the impact of HS2, at the Broadway Baptist Church at 2pm on Friday 31st March.

Any other business

A list of available venues was distributed for Convenors looking for somewhere new to hold their meetings.

A list of school holidays is available which Convenors might want to consult to avoid date clashes when planning events.

Our National website of the Third Age Trust, our umbrella organisation (www.u3a.org.uk), has a members area (where you have to register) but then various discounts are available.

Meeting closed at 11.15 for refreshments

Next Convenors' Meetings

Thursday 29th June 2017 at 10:00.

Thursday 30th November 2017 at 10:00