Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Michael Brockway, Ian Diggory, Tim O'Brien, Steve Rozario, Kate Stephenson, Fran Fuller, Andrew Rigg and Ann Atkinson.

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Fran Fuller and Andrew Rigg introduced themselves as new members of the committee. Apologies were received from John Dark	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** Kate reported that Third Age Matters had gone up to £4	
4	**Chair's Report**: Garden Party – A spreadsheet was distributed of the quotes and catering provision for the garden party at the racecourse using their caterers and outside caterers. Figures were based on 80 attendees. Barrie asked us to consider the appropriate cost to members, how much we would subsidise and whether non u3a guests would be able to attend. Kate informed that up to £1500 had been put aside for the event. Following discussion it was agreed that the event should be limited to 100 people We would go with the quote from the racecourse as we would receive better support e.g. provision of a bar and access to a large internal room if the weather was poor. The cost would be £10 a head for members and £25 for non members and include the summer buffet. The event would be adults only. Barrie informed that nearer the time attendees would be asked to let us know if they need transport to the racecourse and an arrangement would be made for members to provide lifts. This will be included in the booking form which will go out in the newsletter in June. Tim was asked to include a piece in the newsletter about the Garden Party asking members to save the date and state that further details would follow in the next newsletter. Barrie asked the committee if we could consider other activities we might want to include at the Garden Party. Jason Arnop would be providing musical entertainment. Andrew and Fran would be managing and coordinating the event and members should contact them if they have any issues to raise. The date of the Garden Party will be Wednesday 9th July 2pm – 5pm.	TB All
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann informed that she had sent out regional and national information to committee members. She raised about including Third Age Trust information in the newsletter if appropriate e.g. u3a Friends. She had completed the Annual Return for the Third Age Trust. At 31st March we had 582 full members.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate had provide the Charity Commission with the Annual Return and informed that we currently had £17,000. In relation to Third Age Matters the postage and packaging is increasing to £4 so there will be a need to increase the subscription from 1st September. Kate to inform John.	KS
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Fran and Andrew are jointly taking on the role of organising events and had met to discuss possible events. Fran informed about a possible trip to Tanfield Railway that would include afternoon tea, a coach trip to Marchmont House and	

	a Heritage Walk in Corbridge that had been arranged for June 25th at 10.30am for up to 15 people. A trip to Ad Gefrin, Anglo-Saxon museum and whisky distillery at Wooler which would include a 90 minute tour and brunch for £20 a person. This would involve members sharing cars and Christmas afternoon tea at Wallington Hall had been booked for 2nd December. Andrew informed of a possible trip to Nissan, a trip to the Oriental Museum in Durham and an Organ tour. For next year a trip to the Gannetry at Bempton Rocks in North Yorkshire was being considered. Barrie suggested that Fran and Andrew could get an idea of the level of interest at the monthly meeting and also put the details on the Facebook page. They were informed that in the past at monthly meetings there were sign up sheets for events to gauge the level of interest.	FF/AR
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve informed that he had purchased a remote access device to use at the County Hotel which groups could use. Two groups have decided to purchase their own for their group. Steve informed that there were ideas for new groups but no one was prepared to convene a group.	
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim informed that members were poor at providing information for the newsletter by the deadline. April's newsletter was a bumper addition of 11 pages and he had received contributions from groups who had not contributed before e.g. scrabble.	
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 95 members attended the April monthly meeting Ian informed that a couple of people were disappointed with the talk on the Art Treasures of Durham University as it was not what they expected. He was aware that there was a need to be clearer about the content of the presentations. Tim felt that the sound was not very good at the last meeting and difficult to hear at the back of the room The next meeting is on Alan Turing. Ian has written an article for the newsletter encouraging groups to organise specialist talks likely to be of interest to the wider membership.	
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** In his absence John provided a report. There were seven new members in March and three up to the third week of April. Twenty four attended the coffee morning in March which was a successful event. The 27th June was suggested by John for the next coffee morning for new or potential members. This was agreed as a suitable date which Steve and Barrie could attend.	JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael stated that he did not find Beacon user friendly. He informed that he had given Andrew and Fran access to Beacon and asked what there named roles would be Events Secretary(1) and (2) was suggested.	MB
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie informed that he had attended the regional zoom meeting led by the regional representatives at national level to discuss how they represent u3as across the region under the new structure. 15 chairs of u3a's had attended. Barrie felt that their presentation was confusing and at odds with the rest of u3as. No one had shown an interest in taking up the role of chair at a regional level. If there is no one coming forward by the AGM next month then region will have to wind up. Barrie informed that 35% of u3as do not have regional representation.	
14	**A.O.B:** Nothing to report	
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 2pm.**	

Meeting ended at 15:20

Minutes Approved **Dated: 22nd May 2025**