**Minutes of the Kent u3a Network**

Held Thursday 10th March 2022 at 2pm over “Zoom”.

Present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Committee** |  |  |
| Chair | Carole Dickenson | Present |
| Vice Chair and Trust volunteer | Sue Brimlow | Present |
| Acting Treasurer | Angela Howe | Present |
| Minutes and incoming secretary | Eleanor Brooks | Present |
| Outgoing Secretary and Trust Volunteer | John Russell | Present |
| Regional Trustee | Susie Berry | Present |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **U3a** |  |  |
| Ashford and Wye | Barry Andrews | Present |
| Bearsted |  |  |
| Canterbury and District | Christine Plant | Present |
| Cranbrook |  |  |
| Dartford |  |  |
| East Medway |  |  |
| Edenbridge |  |  |
| Faversham and District | Babs Stone | Present |
| Goudhurst and District | Ian Agnew | Present |
| Gravesend | Sandra Parker | Present |
| Hawkhurst | Bridget | Present |
| Isle of Sheppey | Heather Thomas-Pugh | Present |
| Kings Hill | Melanie Blewer | Present |
| Knole |  | Apologies from Magna Sweetland |
| Maidstone |  | Apologies from Stephen Bush |
| Maid. Invicta |  |  |
| Malling | Chrys Short | Present |
| Medway | Angela Howe | Present |
| Meopham |  |  |
| Paddock Wood |  | Apologies from Michele Sinclair |
| Pembury | Michael Cartwright | Present |
| Saxon Shore | Val Johnson | Present |
| Sevenoaks | Beryl Mansell | Present |
| Shepway and District | Linda Fellows |  |
| Swanley |  | Apologies from Sandra Treloar |
| Tenterden | Jenny Stevens | Present |
| Thanet |  |  |
| Tonbridge | Frani Hoskins | Present |
| Tunbridge Wells | Eryll Fabion | Present |
| Weald |  |  |
| Westerham |  |  |
| White Cliffs Country | Jill Jones and  Sue Edwards | Present  Present |
| Orpington  (also in London Region) | Pauline Dawson | Present |

1. Carole Dickenson warmly welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes of the Kent Network Meeting held 13th January 2022** were agreed. There were no matters arising.
3. **National and regional news.**

Regional Trustee Susie Berry filled us in with news from the recent Board Meeting held in Milton Keynes.

1. The national AGM on 6th October will be held in person in Milton Keynes but with the opportunity to join by zoom. There will be some changes to our Articles to remove unnecessary restrictions of who can serve on national Committees.
2. The next South East Region meeting will be on 7th April and will focus on the 40th Anniversary. U3As will be asked for their best memories over the last 40 years and information about what they are doing for the anniversary.
3. Summer School with be in June at Chichester. The arrangements group are looking for some new blood for a task that is more fun than onerous!
4. There have been a couple of changes to committees with the D&I changing its name to “Equality, Diversity and Inclusion” and its chair from Sue Southwold to Sue Shannon Jones. Network Link is changing chair from Hilary Jones to Sue Russell. National committees used to change at the same time as Trustees, but this will be different from this year. Committees will now change at the start of the financial year to stagger the change in roles.
5. Working groups update. Social prescribing is starting up again and will ensure GPs have accurate information about what u3as can offer and which patients might benefit. A group is supporting staff with regards to abusive calls and emails. A group is overseeing the move of our website from “Site Builder” to “Word Press”. There will be training for webmasters, but it is expected that the change will not be arduous. The website is different to Beacon. Beacon now is safe with a team looking after it and releasing upgrades as needed.
6. The Plant a Tree project is going well, and the target has had to be increased from 5000 to 10000! There is a contract in place to ensure the wood is looked after for 5 years.
7. **Future of the network**

Discussion highlighted that it may well be easier and more effective to continue as a formal Committee and volunteers were found for all posts, whose names will be taken to the AGM in July. The volunteers will meet briefly after this meeting. It was agreed that this is now the clear way forward.

1. **Any other business.**

Several attendees mentioned how useful they have found the Kent Network and what knowledge and support it offers. Particularly Carole and John were thanked.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The AGM will be called in July. *Subsequent to the meeting, a provisional date has been set for Thursday 7th July at 2pm. To be held as a face-to-face meeting at Detling Village Hall , with Zoom access if possible, and lunch preceding at the Cock Horse next door.*