

Minutes of the Exeter U3A Committee Meeting

Held at 12 Noon on 25 January 2024 in the Worship Area at The Mint

Present for the meeting:

Committee members:

Ann Harper (minutes secretary), Steph Ward (treasurer), Julie Crichton-Smith (acting chair & groups coordinator), Anne Barwell, M J Morgan, Annabel Nater, (co-groups coordinator), Ian Murray, Dave Parsons, Terry Ancell (membership secretary), Rosie Hydar

30th Anniversary Celebrations Planning Lead – Mike Arstall

Apologies – Bill Cross

Absent – Steve Fabian

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting had been called at short notice specifically to discuss the plans for the Exeter U3A 30th Anniversary Celebrations. Mike Arstall had circulated some proposals for a number of events in the last week of September 2024 and decisions were needed to confirm venue bookings and agree an outline budget.

Issues Discussed and Agreed

Questionnaire for members

It is difficult to plan activities without some idea of the numbers involved. A questionnaire at this stage would not give definitive information but would be a useful indicator of numbers to plan for.

Action: Steph to draft questionnaire as Google Form and circulate for approval

Tuesday 24 September – Public Open Day to be held at St Stephens Church

The venue is not as large as we might like but it is ideally located on the High Street to attract passers-by and reasonably priced.

[Post meeting note – Cost £160 for full day hire. No availability for 24 September so 19 September booked instead after e-mail consultation with committee members].

Wednesday 25 September – Subsidised Cream Tea for members in the Cavendish Suite at the Mercure Exeter Rougemont Hotel

The venue can hold 70 - 120 guests with cream tea priced at £9.50 per person. There is a second option of the Devonshire Suite which can hold 100 – 220 people with cream teas at the same price plus an additional £200 room hire fee. Agreed to book Cavendish Suite for 70 initially and increase numbers later if necessary.

Action: Mike to confirm booking

Thursday 26 September – Local Celebrity Speaker at monthly meeting

Our usual venue of the Worship Area at the Mint can hold 180+ people and costs £113.50 at the moment for our normal meetings including use of the technician for slideshows and

microphones. Larger venues would be much more expensive and not necessarily as convenient for access. Agreed to stick with the Mint.

Action: Speaker team already looking for a suitable speaker.

Friday 27 September – Evening Drinks event at the Topsham Brewery

The venue can hold 50 to 150 guests in their upstairs room with a private bar. Cost for 50 people for 4 hours is £300 and they can arrange catering at an additional cost if required. There is no lift so accessibility is not ideal but it is difficult to find a large, pleasant reasonably priced evening venue for hire. Agreed to book for 50 people and increase numbers later if necessary.

Action: Mike to confirm booking

Budget

Agreed: The maximum budget for all the 30th Anniversary events is £3,000