

## WOOLER u3a NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2025

Dear Member of Wooler u3a,

Your Committee met yesterday and matters discussed may be of interest to you:

### **FINANCE**

The Committee agreed that the subscription for 2025 to 2026 should be increased to £10 per annum. Although we have a little over £3,000 in the bank, we think that this is insufficient given increasing costs. In particular, after paying the annual fee to the national u3a, the Wooler u3a is left with only £1 of the subscription to operate. In other words, we do not see 80% of the subscriptions we pay as we have to pay it to the national u3a.

Many of you will remember that the subscription was £13 and the reduction to £5 was only meant to be temporary; so £10 does not even match the old subscription.

### **GROUP FINANCES**

The cost of hiring a room at the Cheviot Centre has increased to £9 per hour. It is an essential principle of the u3a that larger and/or more profitable groups subsidise smaller ones. That stated, the Committee ask firstly, that Group Leaders only book a room for their group for the time that they think that the group meeting will take; say for 1.5 hours rather than 2 hours.

Secondly, Group Leaders should, as far as possible, ensure that the fees collected from members cover the cost of room hire and, ideally, leave something of a surplus for Wooler u3a funds. Of course, there may be occasions when attendees at a meeting are too few to cover the cost of the room but if this becomes an ongoing problem, then we suggest that the fee charged to members is increased.

**SOCIAL MEETING** *{We are wondering what to call our bi-monthly non-speaker meetings so {polite} suggestions are welcome}*

As you all know, **THE NEXT SOCIAL MEETING IS ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** at the usual time of 10-45 am for an 11 am start. Pat Boyd has kindly agreed to introduce a social activity at the meeting. Do come along and enjoy yourselves – with cake and either tea or coffee provided.

The Committee is concerned at the lack of people coming to the non-speaker meetings so do come along if you can. We need your contribution to let us know what we are doing right and how we can improve.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> June meeting, we should also like to gauge support, if any, for trips. One possibility, which will be relatively cheap and easy to arrange, is to the Northumbrian Water facilities in Wooler.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

We are keen to increase the number of members of the Committee. If you are willing in principle to participate, please come along to the Social meeting on Monday and ask a committee member. Members are always welcome to attend; and the next Committee meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> August at 10-30 am.

## **PHOTOCOPYING**

Our costs for photocopying have decreased substantially; so thank you to everyone for using this sparingly.

## **NORTHUMBRIAN REGION u3a**

Judith Oughton, our Secretary, has placed on our noticeboard at the Centre details of various regional and national u3a activities.

## **DISAFFILIATION**

The Committee has set up a working party to consider whether the Wooler u3a should disaffiliate from the national u3a. We get very little from the national organisation which we could not do for ourselves better and at lower cost. That stated, there is much work to do before we should contemplate such a major step and the Committee is anxious to proceed very cautiously.

## **NOTE THAT THE AGM IS ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

With best wishes,

Peter Davies

Chairman, Wooler u3a