



Future Plans for the Group

Current Situation

- We have 24 members registered for the group.
- This is the maximum number we can fit in the room whilst doing activities (e.g. practicals), or using the projector.

The maximum seated in rows (without the projector) is 30 people.

- We already have 5 people on a list waiting to join the group.
- We have a very low turnover of members, so these people will likely have to wait a long time!
- We are aware some other U3A members were considering joining, but were put off by the “**We’re full**” notice on our website.

Options

(A) Do nothing, they will just have to wait !

This doesn't fit in with the ethics of the U3A, which is to encourage everyone to "Learn, Laugh and Live" during retirement. Some of you may know someone who would like to attend. Is it fair to exclude them ?

(B) Look for a larger venue, in Beccles or elsewhere.

We have tried to find other venues in Beccles and failed. If we moved out of Beccles, some members would incur additional travel costs. This doesn't seem fair either.

We also get 4 hours hire from the Quakers, but currently only use 2 hours.

(C) Hold 2 sessions.

After a bit of discussion, Graham and myself feel we could support 2 sessions here.

However, we would like your help !

Proposal

- We will hold another session starting at 9am on the same day, also to be held in the Quaker Rooms.
- We will invite those on the waiting list to join this session, plus anyone new.
- Initially, we would do this for a trial period (January), to see if we can make it work.
- As far as possible, the 9am session would receive the same content as the 11am session.
- Members of both sessions would pay the £2 subs, everyone is equal.
- The vision is to eventually have 2 sessions, of equal standing and treatment.

Proposal – Talks and content

- If Graham or myself are doing the talk, each session would receive the same talk on the same day.
- If someone else is giving a talk, they could either do both sessions 😊, or Graham and myself would share their slides with the other session, at the next slot.
- Our intention is that each session would receive the same tuition, videos, practicals, as far as possible.

Proposal – Challenges and Walks

- Each session would receive the same challenges and be able to enter the same number of photos.
- Graham would show a combined slideshow at both sessions and on the website.

This would have images from members of both sessions.

- For safety reasons, there has to be a maximum number of members on our photo-walks.
- To be fair to both sessions, I will hold a number of places for each session, which can be reserved, by email. Once a session has used all its spaces, anyone else in that session will go on a reserve list for the walk.
- **Until numbers grow significantly, I don't see us ever hitting the limit, so don't worry !**
- Eventually, we will probably have 2 walking groups, with separate leaders.

Proposal – Refreshments and Party

- Each session would be responsible for its own refreshments.
- So Linda would only need to cover 1 session.
- We would hold 2 Christmas Parties, 1 per session 😊

We need your help

- Graham and myself will need a break between the sessions, to recover !
- We would like to hold session 1 from **9am** to **10:45am**
- We would like to alter session 2 to **11:15am** to **1pm**
- **You would still be welcome to arrive from 11, to have a chat etc.**

- Graham and myself will now incur parking charges, as we can't park in Tesco for 4.5 hours. So we would like to stop paying the £2 sub, as compensation.
- The group will not lose out, as the new members will pay in their subs. Hopefully, this will eventually allow us to purchase equipment/treats etc.

We need your help

- It would be great if some of you would volunteer to come at 9am, to help the newcomers settle in ! If you're not sure, you can try this in January as a trial.
- At the end of the trial we would ask you to make a firm decision about which session you want to attend, so that neither session has too many attending.
- No-one will be given your 11am place during the trial period.
- All new people will be offered a place at 9am, until session numbers are balanced.

Over to You !

- Any thoughts or questions ?