

Minutes of Banbridge and District u3a Meeting

Tuesday 9th May 2023

Bannside Presbyterian Church Hall

1. Present

There were 28 members in attendance plus one visitor.

2. Apologies

Anne Buggy, Florence Chambers, Emily Gardner, Gabrielle Graham, Joan Howlett, Adrian Howlett, Peter Kearns, Anne Lavery, Sean Lavery, Gillian Mitchell, Margaret Murphy, Susan McGaw, and Dorothy Shannon.

3. Welcome from the Chair

Veronica welcomed everyone to the May meeting, including our speaker, Lauren Agnew from The Ulster Society for the Prevention Cruelty to Animals (USPCA). Lauren is the new Community and Outreach Officer with the charity.

4. Business

- a) June Outing. Veronica reminded members about the outing to Lissan House, Cookstown on 13th June, all attending should meet at Tesco carpark on the Castlewellan Road at 10:00am. Travel will be carshare and passengers should donate £7 to the drive to cover fuel. Coffee/tea and scones will be served on arrival at Lissan House. (This will be covered by the 'deposit' paid). The tour of Lissan House will be met from u3a funds. Lunch has been booked at Glenavon House Hotel at 1:30pm. Cost - £14.95 for one course and £17:95 to include a sweet. In all cases tea and coffee will be served.

Florence, Janet, Keith, Rosemary, Sharon, Valerie, and Veronica indicated they are willing to drive.

- b) Northern Ireland u3a Summer School will be held at Greenmount College Campus at Antrim on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June. The Northern Ireland Regional Committee, (NIREC). For further information please speak to Veronica.

- c) Safeguarding Policy

A Safeguarding Policy and Procedure Policy has been drawn up for Banbridge u3a, this will enable the Committee to act appropriately where

instances or allegations of actual abuse or neglect come to their attention. A copy of the policy is available on the Banbridge u3a website.

5. Interest Group Update

Interest groups are continuing as per information in the Newsletter.

Veronica passed on a message from Margaret Murphy, re the planned history group trip on 12th May. The visit to Cavan Trenches will not take place as the venue has been temporarily closed to allow for repairs. The next history group outing will be in September.

6. USPCA

We were delighted to welcome Lauren from The Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA). Lauren began by providing a brief history of the charity. It is the second oldest Animal Welfare Charity in the world and was founded in 1836 by Commander Francis Anderson Calder, a retired navy officer, as the Belfast SPCA. The eventual name changed from Belfast to Ulster SPCA acknowledged the scale, scope, and success of the Charity's expanded operations across the province.

The Charity's first initiative was to erect water troughs across the city for the sustenance of the heavily burdened working horses in industrial Belfast. Just over a year after its inception the charity had successfully lobbied for the Act of Parliament 'relating to the cruel and improper treatment of animals' to be extended to Ireland. One of these can still be found in Custom House Square Belfast.

She went on to outline some of the work and services they provide – veterinary clinic, wildlife rescue, rehoming, campaigns, and animal cruelty investigations for example Lauren explained that in recent times badger persecution, cock fighting, dog fighting, puppy farms and the illegal trafficking of pups have all been subjected to USPCA scrutiny.

Following a lively question and answer session Jill thanked Lauren and presented a donation for the work of the charity.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th September 2003 from 2:00pm at Banbridge Church Hall. Have a wonderful summer!

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Secretary

Date: _____