

Minutes of Banbridge District u3a Meeting

Tuesday 13th February 2024

Bannside Presbyterian Church Hall

Present

There were 43 members in attendance, including one new member and two visitors.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Sean and Anne Lavery, Deborah Martinet, Janet McAlister and Margaret Murphy.

Welcome from the Chair

Veronica welcomed all to the February meeting. She was delighted to report that Sue Dale had agreed to be co-opted to the Executive Committee, that means the executive committee has been restored to a full complement of 12 members.

Business

Tak£500+ Members will have read in the February Newsletter that we have applied to ABC Council for funding under the Tak£500+ programme. A Market Stall event will take place in Banbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday 9th March from 10:30am – 2:30pm. This is an opportunity for each group to showcase their ideas. We would strongly encourage everyone to come along and vote for Banbridge District u3a. Our proposal is finance for a recruitment event to encourage new members and secondly a cultural coach trip in June.

Geraldine Foley said the Inland Waterway had also reached Stage 2 of the process and invited us to also vote for their project.

On the day there will be music, entertainment and spot prizes and Veronica asked that members should go along and support Banbridge District u3a.

AGM

Veronica highlighted the forthcoming AGM, she went on to say that it is important to always have a fully representative committee to keep our U3A running. Under U3A rules each person's commitment is time limited. Consequently, at the AGM in April, when the whole committee stands down and there is re-election by members, she and Peter Kearns will not be available for re-election. She asked members to consider whether they know of any member who could be an asset to the committee and consider seeking that person's permission to propose his/her election. The current committee would be even more delighted to hear of anyone volunteering themselves.

Update on Interest Groups

There was a general update on Interest Groups, these are detailed in the February Newsletter.

Our speaker this month is Billy Stewart from Banbridge Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). This is a statutory body established under the Justice Act. Its aim is to make our community safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most to people in the ABC council area. Billy concentrated on scam avoidance and crime prevention.

Keeping safe is important but scams are everywhere and in this digital age, it is hard to avoid them. So how do you protect yourself? Scammers will often try to create a sense of urgency. They put you under stress to affect your judgement, but you don't need to give your number, your banking code or anything right away. Billy advised us to stop, talk to somebody, and think about what you're doing. He explained that there are countless ways that criminals can cheat people out of their money but

there are steps we can all take to be wise to these scams. There were examples from Billy and members shared their experiences.

When you receive e-mails it is so easy to let your finger tap on that link in the message. Curb your curiosity, do not click on any links. Be wary especially of emails, messages and calls claiming to be from delivery and toll companies, the HMSO and MyGov. Remember scammers have access to sophisticated spoofing technology that can make something appear like it's from a legitimate company.

He went on to discuss how to keep our home and property safe by taking some straightforward measures.

There was some lively discussion and members were able to avail of the of information leaflets and items for individual protection e.g. 'no cold calling' window cards, personal alarms, credit card protectors and keyless car signal blockers as well as 'in case of emergency' contact information cards which he strongly encouraged us to complete and carry with us at all times.

Veronica thanked Billy for coming along and sharing his experience and knowledge with us, hopefully we now will all be more aware.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 March 2024 when our speaker will be David McCready who will speak about local garden birds and wildlife.