

# **West Wolds U3A Group Leaders Meeting**

## **8th October 2025**

### **Held at Market Rasen New Life Church.**

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#### **PRESENT**

**Committee** – Terry Francis, Gary Beighton, Sharon Rupp, Nick Wilson, Pam Britton, Kay Green, Cathy Whelan.

**Convenors & Helpers** – Gillian Anderton, Marion Blackstock (on behalf of Eva Smith), Vera Brisbane, Pauline Cooper, Sandra Dean, Gail Dennis, Dave Ebbage, Paul & Anna Ettridge, Steve Field, Sue Flower, Caroline Foster, Jane Guy, Ken Howitt, Steve McCarthy, David Oliver, Christine Pearce, Bill Roberts, Dawn Stopper, Stanley Sheil, Janet Wilson, Brian Ward.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The purpose of the morning was to give a huge thank you to our Group Leaders who are the life blood of the u3a, The Committee members recognise that although the Committee run the day-to-day admin, the GL's are more important because without them, there would be no u3a.

Every GL gives their time, patience, knowledge, hard work and commitment and for that we are very thankful.

#### **2.GROUPS SHOWCASE 2026**

Nick Wilson (Groups Co-ordinator) took over to propose suggestions for next year's showcase, and encourage discussion and ideas.

It is proposed to hold the event in a community space (for example in the old Lloyds Bank once it is refurbished) in town on Market Day for a full morning, with free refreshments, and open to the public. To include as many groups as possible, even if it means merging a combination onto one table (e.g. Crafts), and include performing groups also.

Suggestions from the floor were:

Tie up with a special event in the Market Place e.g. Gardeners or Food Fair

Properly advertise the event

Some felt early spring was a good time although others pointed out the better weather encourages footfall

It was generally felt to be a good idea.

Other venues were suggested: Salvation Army, Empty office on Market Place (although access may be an issue),

#### **3.OTHER IDEAS**

As discussion went on several issues arose.

Is our publicity good enough? Binbrook have a village Newsletter – Paul Ettridge will find out more details so we can advertise. Can we advertise on local radio? We will look into this. Social media- Caistor have a page; that will be investigated, and now items are on the Wragby page, one GL reported feedback from residents, so this is getting our name out.

It was suggested we try to think of an unusual event or situation that would garner interest from the press (think Calendar Girls).

Increase the variety of what we offer.

It was also suggested we hold the monthly meeting in another village occasionally as we are 'West Wolds' not just Market Rasen. Although travelling for current members may be an issue, holding a pop-up event at different venues may be solution to consider.

It was suggested an event could be held at Fletcher Court promoting one or 2 groups which may attract members – to be investigated.

Use Libraries – leave information and maybe a banner etc there permanently.

#### **4. POP-UP GROUPS -Dave Ebbage**

Dave outlined his idea for pop-up groups, i.e. a small one-off meeting on a subject which may lead to the setting up of a new group. He will have a table at the monthly meeting to generate interest and will run the first one on AI.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP CARDS-Terry Francis**

Can GL's please check if their members have collected their cards or take them for their group. He ends up with 40 or so cards that are never collected.

#### **6. CLOSE**

The members indicated this more relaxed format was preferable for future meetings, although one would prefer it to be shorter.

Chair closed the meeting thanking the GL's once again for their hard work, and requested that they keep giving us their input.

Sharon Rupp