

Minutes of the 185th meeting of the Buckingham & District U3A
held on 20 April 2015

Present: Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Martin Paul (Vice-Chairman & Speaker Secretary), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Don Horne (Publicity), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), Roland Simpkins (Website), Sheila Everson (New Members), John White (Technical Support), Valerie Shaw (Secretary) and Barbara Willis (representing the Flower Arranging Group)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially Barbara, the first rep. from an interest group to come and meet the committee.
2. **Apologies:** Lilia Bogle (Group Liaison Officer).
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** on 23 March were signed as correct.
4. **Matters arising:** a) Library – no firm news on reduced opening times.

5. **Arrangements** for meeting on Wednesday 22 April: all responsibility slots were filled. Cheque required for Speaker Georgie Perrot of £60

6. Chairman's report

- o GCs' Meeting minutes have now been published.
- o Contact has been made with Stowe House to investigate if there are any projects which U3A members could help with. The links between the Temple-Grenville family and Buckingham have been proposed for research. This information to be passed to all groups, hoping to recruit about 6 members and a leader.
- o Area Quiz: Buckingham came an honourable second, missing victory by 2 points.
- o Recorder Group: the new GC has requested information about music copyright and performing licences. There is no blanket copyright, although some music will be free of copyright. (John Wrigley to be approached about the Choral Society's practice). For performance, there is no certain answer, although some venues will have a licence for music. It was suggested groups should advise Nursing Homes etc. before the event not to record or film any performance.

7. Treasurer's report

Transfer of signatories now complete with most accounts but 2 Barclays bonds maturing in October will need further forms signed. Gift Aid will be completed in May with Lesley.

Croquet Group: GC asked to reduce weekly fee to 50p; this was agreed. However, concern was raised about the group's £80 account.

New Theatre Group: Diane Proctor could run this via U3A account, as it would be "educational".

All groups should pay 50p a head for each meeting at a charging venue, unless exceptional circumstances apply. **Clive** to explain this in the next newsletter.

The Treasurer is investigating the offer of a Lloyds Subscription Account.

8. Membership Secretary's report

Lesley presented statistics, which included the total number of current members as 746. She will e-mail all members to ask about receiving the newsletter on-line. We have received information from TAT about a new Membership Systems: Lesley has filled in the questionnaire to record interest. Our present system will change in September to accommodate the new £10 sub.

9. Webmaster's report

Roland is working on a programme for the electronic payment of subs, including the automatic transfer of data to Membership Secretary.

The web site picks up 2000 spam e-mails per week but only 20 get through.

10. Newsletter report

Carolina apologised for the late posting of hard copies, due to communication problems from the printer.

Art Appreciation had been left off the Reference List but is still on the web site. The Committee offered their congratulations to Carolina.

11. Secretary's report

Attention was drawn to items on the TAT letter: a Forum on U3A Committees, registration for the AGM (done) and information about 3 events which will be posted on the notice board.

12. Social matters

Mary Price has agreed to cater for the Summer Social at £1 per head. Carolina has already bought paper plates, and serviettes. **Lesley** will confer later with Mary about details.

Barbara will ask Flower Arrangers to provide flowers for each table (x15). Anne Liddle to be consulted about cost but £25 max. was thought reasonable. Drinks will be discussed nearer the time.

13. AOB

- New member numbers are growing faster each year. **Clive** to discuss with Lilia how to manage their absorption into groups.
- Barbara reported the new Android has now been purchased. The new group will start in September.
- Carolina's new "New to drawing" group has 6 potential members. She can book Council Chamber to organise venue and dates and will ask Val Bradley and Lilia about possible venues (Well Street Centre, United Reform Church, Golf Club suggested). Clive reported the U3A has been approached by the Scouts about being potential users of their Embleton Way premises when refurbished. It was agreed that they Scouts could reference the U3A as potential users in their applications for funds.
- Next meeting for new members will be on Thursday 17 September. Sheila has booked the Small Hall and kitchen. **Lesley** will include date in welcome letters.
- First Aid: Pocket First Aid guides will be distributed to every GC. A brief introduction to use of the defibrillator at the start of a meeting and a table at the back for demonstration and questions during tea were suggested, to be followed up by a more detailed First Aid course for those interested. More consideration on this at the May meeting.
- Friendship Group at Moreton Hall? This suggestion could raise difficult issues. **Clive** to deal with this query.

NB Next committee meeting: Monday 11 May at 10.00am