

Minutes of the 188th meeting of Buckingham & District U3A
Held on Monday 20 July 2015

Present: Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Martin Paul (Vice Chair & Speaker-finder), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Roland Simkins (Webmaster), Sheila Everson (New Members), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), John White (Technical Resources), Don Horne (Publicity), Valerie Shaw (Secretary)

1. Clive welcomed everyone to the Villiers conference room.
2. Apologies had been received from Carolina Kenealy.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 June were signed as correct.
4. **Matters arising:** a) Clive has registered for the U3A National AGM and will join discussion groups on committee recruitment, Shared Learning and Chairmanship.
b) Stroke Association project: this has been shelved for the present.

5. Chairman's report

- a steering group for the new Brackley U3A has met. 43 Buckingham members living in the Brackley postcode area will be offered the opportunity to move, stay or belong to both. A short comment will be added to the September newsletter. The group will meet again on 17 August
- Buckingham U3A's first Shared Learning project will be headed by Roger Edwards, focusing, with a limited time span, on the relationship between the Stowe family and the people of Buckingham.

6. Treasurer's report

- "Sage" account is up and running.
- Handbells group request to fund refurbishment of bells: committee agreed to supply total cost (£653.04) + travel expenses but all members who use the bells will be asked to contribute a small amount regularly, which will be held in a ring-fenced account against future repairs. **Paddy** to work out formula. A valuation will also be requested from John Taylor & Co.
- For accounting purposes, our fixed assets are assessed as zero but **John** will list the assets worth over £250 that we hold.
- Singing for Fun Group request for funds to buy a new set of song books: committee agreed to the £258 (a 5% discount may apply) and also to get rid of the old keyboard. **Paddy** to discuss with GC whether a new one is needed or alternatively whether use could be made of the Church piano.
- Painting Group request for funds: these needed for occasional use of sitters. Committee agreed to a grant of £100.
- Gift Aid form: new signatories required. Clive, John and Don agreed. Janti also to be approached.

7. Membership Secretary's report

There are 759 members (496 on e-mail, only **268** receiving newsletter by e-mail). Applications on-line are working well but no Gift Aid forms are coming through. **Lesley** to add a form with each membership card. Janti would like to take over the data base from 1st September. This was agreed.

8. Group news

- Shirley Webb has taken over as GC of French Improvers
- New Chess Group will share accommodation with Board Games and has 4-6 members. They will not be entering leagues at present.
- Strollers has a waiting list
- John Bercow could come as speaker when Parliament is recessed, perhaps for the October AGM or the December Christmas Social. **Martin** to investigate.

9. Secretary' report

- a) CLA licence renewal agreed. **Valerie** to send off with cheque for £60.
- b) Booking of Committee meeting room to be left until December. Villiers or Council Chamber?
- c) AGM notices – agenda, committee members proposal forms – to be sent out with September newsletter, ALL by post. Sheila, Lesley and Valerie will not be standing; all other committee members agreed to stand but a new post of Social Coordinator would be created, possibly to cover the

role of new Members' Liaison Officer as well as overseeing the 7 annual social functions. **Lesley** to compile a Job Description.

10. Social matters

a) July Social:

- Glasses to be hired from Festival Hire. **Clive** to collect, with cheque. Glass jugs from the Community Centre.
- **Lesley** to pick up scones etc.
- New social committee will organise table settings and preparation.
- Strollers will help and serve.
- Sheila and Valerie will buy and prepare Pimms and soft drinks, served on entry.
- Entry for preparation from 12.30, tea served at 3.30.
- Mics required – **John**.
- Buckets for donations to AED project agreed to be available.

b) GCs' lunch: to be cancelled, as nobody will organise it.

10. Any other business

- Dusty has resigned as charity organiser. **Valerie** to write to express committee's appreciation. Buckingham Hospital Car Service to be offered as charity for 2015/16 and Clive to ask Dusty for advice for the future of the project.
- U3A President to replace Bryan Weston-Thomas after the AGM?
- New Year Lunch: friends wanting to sit together to be asked to submit forms in one envelope.
A link for New Year Lunch to be added to website. **Roland**
- It was agreed the July Social should be free.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 21 September at 10.00am in the Council Chamber