

**Minutes of the 172nd Committee Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A held on
Monday 24th March 2014 in Buckingham Town Council Chambers**

Present: Pam Tonge (Chairman), Clive Cowdy (Vice Chairman), Joan Hatherley (Treasurer), David Angrave (Technical Resources), Roland Simpkins (Webmaster) Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Dusty Roades (Speaker Seeker) Gina Crouch (Publicity) Val Bradley (Business Secretary) Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor) and Jennie Smith (Minutes)

1 **Welcome:** Pam welcomed everyone.

2 **Apologies:** Di Procter (Minutes Secretary)

3 **Minutes of the Last Meeting 24th February.**

Item 9 Website: Di Procter had requested an amendment to indicate there had been a vote to include Committee Minutes on the website. The minutes were then approved and signed.

4 **Matters Arising:**

Shadows for Committee Members:

Barbara Willis for Gina (Publicity/New Members Support) but not willing to go onto committee at AGM. Liz Loutfi for Val (Business Secretary) but not willing to go onto committee at AGM.

Janti Mistry (currently Roland's shadow) for Lesley (Membership Secretary), with a view to taking over in two years' time. Shadows were still required for Carolina (Newsletter Editor) and Joan (Treasurer). On July 14th there will be a meeting with shadows at Buckingham Golf Club at 10.00am.

Action: Pam to let Carolina have job descriptions for Newsletter

Theatre Bookings: There was a lengthy discussion about Beryl Carr's decision to give up theatre bookings, whilst continuing with holidays/outings. It was agreed it was timely to re-assess the role and management of these and to publicise to members. Beryl had been invited to the Committee Meeting but had a previous engagement. Pam and Joan to arrange a meeting with Beryl to discuss and agree procedures to begin in the new financial year, including appropriate discounted/free holidays. Irene Parsons was shadowing Beryl on outings but did not want to do theatres. Beryl had returned the U3A debit card to Joan.

Local Transport Survey: X5 to continue to stop at bus station (by hospital) via London Road, exiting to the by-pass (not using Lace Hill). 90% of survey forms indicated no problem and therefore it was not necessary to issue with newsletter. Ongoing discussion about parking at SMH for volunteers. Next meeting in June which Clive will attend.

Equipment – David reported that the digital camera, video camera, 35mm projector and overhead projector were available for 'disposal' to members – no charge but he suggested a donation to our current charity. The Jazz Group's CD player is now with the Italian Beginners Group.

Venues – Mezzanine Room in Buckingham Centre – no news yet, Dadford village hall was £5 per hour c/o Ivy Cakebread and Chantry Chapel (not Tues or Fri) £5 per hour.

Membership Cards: Lesley had discussed with Philips about the addition of a coloured corner on membership cards for next year at no extra cost. It was agreed that it was up to individual members if they wished to add emergency contact details on the back of their cards.

GCs' lunch Thurs 5th June: **Agenda item next month.**

5 **Chairman's Report**

Charity Update – February £85.50 with total to date £200.50. Jigsaws this month.

Gallery Event MK – Carolina and Pam attended and reported that Barbara Willis the Chairman of the Third Age Trust had opened the proceedings. A high standard of exhibits was on display, including Buckingham U3A leaflets – good venue for promotion. No other U3As from Beds-Plus Network were present. Carolina's poster was exhibited and admired, prompting suggestions for her to do a Buckingham U3A logo. **Action: Pam to check position with TAT**

Beds Plus Quiz 29th April – venue MK Christian Centre, Oldbrook MK. Refreshments from 1.30pm, Quiz from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Payment sent for two teams, three places still to fill.

New Members' coffee morning – June 12th 10.15 at Buckingham Golf Club.

6 **Treasurer's Report**

Joan referred to the February accounts -

- i) transferred some items from Cafbank general a/c to the Lloyds social a/c e.g. Christmas and Summer socials - expenses would be paid from Lloyds a/c (approx £700 for both).
- ii) Minimised use of cheques at Cafbank by transferring subs/venue hire costs to Lloyds and then transferring back using a single cheque.
- iii) Holidays, outings and theatres: Income & Expenditure – money still to be received
- iv) HMRC – registered on line services with user ID and passwords to Lesley
- v) TAT payment – we had to use highest membership in one month out of previous 12 months x £3.50

7 **Group News:**

Val Bradley reported -

Keep Fit – now meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the Chantry Chapel (16 members) – GC: Vera Moyle-Maton. (Poster for noticeboard)

Croquet – restarting 4th April at Buckingham Cricket Club Ground at 2.00pm (Poster for noticeboard)

Board Games – slow start

Woodwork/Carpentry – not started, as appropriate facilities unavailable

Computer Group – Barbara Willis GC starting with 'basics'. **Action: Pam to find out if we can use Computer Suite at University of Buckingham.** Will possibly include using iPads if internet connection available. David confirmed it was available in the Council Chambers and that the U3A book "iPad for the Older and Wiser" was an excellent reference book.

Singing for Fun – Barbara Franklin had donated a Yamaha keyboard (and for others to borrow) for which she had been thanked for her kindness. Pauline Wright will be the keeper of this equipment.

There was no TAT correspondence. Val also reported that she has several boxes/files with minutes.

Action: Val to check with Di Procter if she also keeps a set.

8 **Membership:**

Lesley reported that everything was ready for gift aid transfers. Membership numbers: current 727, lapsed 42, GADs 433, payment by s/o 416, email members 455, receiving electronic newsletters 215. Lesley enquired about membership capacity and it was confirmed that 2nd groups were being set up in some cases. It was thought numbers were currently manageable with an average of 180 at monthly meetings where the maximum for the venue was approximately 250.

9 **Website**

Roland reported that GCs photos were still awaited for inclusion on the website

Action: GC email. Pam thanked Roland for paying £18 for the outstanding invoice for the server.

10 **Any Other Business**

Relay for Life: Carolina asked if members would like to join her team to enter this event later in the year – fund raising for Cancer Research UK on 28th/29th June in Bourton Meadow. This was not a U3A team as we were already fund raising for our chosen charity for the current year but Pam will announce to members.

26th March Meeting: Strollers will do Tea Rota. Apologies from Val, Clive and Lesley. Joan was asked to collect new members' forms and any payments for Lesley, Gina to meet and greet with Barbara if Di is not available. Roland to help Pam set up boards. Speaker's title: Bedfordshire's Secret War (not walk). David pointed out that the speaker had her own projector using a memory stick and he had asked Simon to note its use and ask about cost, as our own digital projector was 'getting old'.

April Meeting: Songs for St George's Day. Speaker has own keyboard and accompanist. Dusty to provide some roses.

Bucks 50 Plus Forum: (Older People's Conference) – Clive and Rosie to attend 26th March, Aylesbury

Bucks Herald: Gina had been asked about advertising and had bought a recent copy to confirm that it was probably not worthwhile for us.

Xray Buckingham Hospital: Lesley reported that new equipment (£130K) now permitted this facility.

Bucks Integrated Sensory Drop-Ins: Pam reported on this – available in Buckingham Library.

Beds-Plus Forum: next meeting 3rd May. Neither Pam nor Clive able to attend.

Holiday: Pam confirmed she would be away from Wednesday 30th April to Sunday 4th May, inclusive.

11 **Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 14th April 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers. NB early due to Easter.