

**Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A held on
Wednesday 22nd October 2014 in Buckingham Community Centre**

(Subject to ratification at 2015 AGM)

Present: 124 members, including the committee.

1 **Welcome:** The President, Bryan Weston-Thomas, welcomed members reminding them to sign-in. Bryan Weston-Thomas then thanked Clive Cowdy and the committee for their management of a very difficult year and invited the committee to introduce themselves.

2 **Apologies :** Di Procter and Lindsay Dunham.

3 **Minutes of the last meeting 23rd October 2013**

The meeting accepted the minutes as correct, proposed by Bren Roberts and seconded by Judy Carrick.

4 **Chairman's Report**

Clive Cowdy opened by saying that it had been an interesting year after taking over following Pam Tonge's resignation. He reported on the committee discussions regarding the offer of free places for the organiser of Trips and Holidays bearing in mind the U3A ethos of voluntary commitment and service to the organisation. There had been considerable discussion in committee about this issue and a compromise had been reached that '**anyone organising a trip or holiday was entitled to accept one free place if offered in a U3A financial year, with any further places to be accepted at half price**'. This compromise was unacceptable to two members of the committee who resigned. Members raised questions at this point and the Chairman requested these be taken in the Members Forum at the end of the meeting.

Clive reported membership had passed 750 with 56 groups to date. The Constitution requires a regular changeover of committee after three years, with volunteers coming forward. He expressed disappointment that no-one had come forward for the Secretary's position which could ultimately mean the closure of Buckingham U3A.

Clive continued by thanking the committee for the work done keeping this organisation running smoothly, in particular the retiring members of the committee – Christine Dodds for returning to assist, Val Bradley for organising the groups and support to GCs, and finally, to David Angrave retiring after 10 years of helping with technology and equipment. A round of applause was given for David and the other committee members.

5 **Treasurer's Report**

Joan Hatherley spoke to the Income & Expenditure Account year end 30th Sept 2014, copies of which had been distributed, and explained the two different types of accounts. Membership had continued to grow which was reflected in the increased income from subscriptions. Joan encouraged members to use gift aid. Due to the increase to 50p for group meetings the level of subsidies had been reduced, resulting in a surplus of £1,956.92 making the total to carry forward of £16,916.10 which was approximately 14 months' operating costs. This was despite the cost of an additional newsletter plus postage this year. There were no questions from the floor and Joan thanked Pat Costello for certifying the accounts as Hon. Examiner.

6 **Adoption of Reports**

The meeting adopted the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports, proposed by Pat Walton, and seconded by Russell Tobin.

7 **Election of Officers**

The following proposals had been received -

Chairman – Clive Cowdy, proposed by Russell Tobin, seconded by Chris Kneafsey.

Vice-Chairman – Martin Paul, proposed by Sheila Tobin, seconded by Maureen Sleight.

Treasurer – Joan Hatherley, proposed by Don Horne, seconded by Diana Procter.

Secretary – proposal from the floor – Paddy Collins, nominated by Pamela Tongue, seconded by Lesley Suggate.

All the above were elected by the floor unopposed.

8 **Election of Committee**

The following committee members have been proposed:

Carolina Kenealy – proposed by Pamela Tonge, seconded by Susie Kelly.

Lesley Suggate – proposed by Veronica Baker, seconded by Mike Baker.

Lilia Bogle – proposed by Bryan Weston-Thomas, seconded by Russell Tobin.

Don Horne – proposed by Derrick Oliff, seconded by June Oliffe.

John White – proposed by Sheila Everson, seconded by David Everson.

Roland Simpkins – proposed by Dusty Roades, seconded by Pam Tonge.

All the above were elected by the floor unopposed.

9 **Choice of Charity for 2015**

Lesley Suggate told the meeting that she had received two suggestions, a third being declined as it was very new, but a possible choice in the future. Information was given about the two suggestions – Buckingham Hospital Car Service and Young Carers Youth Club. With a show of hands Young Carers held the majority. Dusty Roades reported that he hoped to have raised £1000 for this year's charity, MIND, with a future quiz and raffle still to raise further money.

10 **Election of President**

Chairman reported that the committee had unanimously proposed that Bryan Weston-Thomas continue as President for a third year and the proposal was passed by a show of hands.

11 **Members' Forum**

Chairman invited questions from the floor and many were received about the committee decision regarding the issue of the Travel and Outings Organiser accepting the offer of free or discounted price for a holiday. The questions and comments covered

- ⤴ comparison with other U3As
- ⤴ how pleased members had been with holidays they had taken
- ⤴ appreciation for the work undertaken on their behalf
- ⤴ should members have been consulted earlier
- ⤴ the responsibility of the organiser
- ⤴ affiliation to and ethos of the TAT – guidelines or regulations

It was agreed that this issue be revisited by the committee.

There were no other questions and the floor requested that a vote of thanks be given to Beryl Carr for her organisation of holidays and trips.

The chairman officially closed the meeting.