

**Minutes of the 189<sup>th</sup> meeting of Buckingham & District U3A**  
**held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

**Present:** Bryan Weston-Thomas (President, taking the Chair), Don Horne (Publicity), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), Lilia Bogle (Group Liaison), Janti Mistry (Nominated Membership Secretary), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Sheila Everson (New Members Liaison), John White (Technical Resources), Roland Simpkins (Webmaster), Valerie Shaw (Secretary)

1. Bryan welcomed everyone, especially Rosemary Gadd and Jo Taylor who came as observers. Bryan expressed dismay at the news of Paddy Collins' emergency admittance to hospital and hope of a speedy recovery.
2. Apologies had been received from Clive Cowdy and Martin Paul.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 July were agreed after two errors were acknowledged.
4. **Matters arising:** a) Brackley U3A launch was considered a great success, with 200 attending and some of our own members happy to switch to Brackley.  
b) The July Social was judged good but with a poor attendance. Catering was for 160 but only 110 attended, with only 12 of 14 tables used. The drinks therefore were over-supplied (quantities are on file) but the suggestion was that it is better to cater too generously than not have enough.

**5. Chairman's report**

In the absence of a Chairman's report, which will be delivered at the October meeting, Bryan went through the check list for Wednesday's Open Meeting. (*See separate list*)

**6. Treasurer's report**

The committee discussed requests for funds from Local History 1 and the Recorder Group. There was a strong feeling against paying for speakers for interest groups, since this is contrary to U3A practice and because other groups have been financing speakers from their own members. **Valerie** will write to explain. Music for the Recorder Group was agreed but **Valerie** will write to explain the situation regarding the Treasurer and ask for patience before a cheque can be written.

**7. Membership secretary's report**

A revised summary of membership data was passed round. Janti emphasised the fresh data regarding households, now that the data base has been tidied up. Membership stands at 762.

**8. Group news**

The new members' meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September was reported as very successful with a lot of enthusiasm. A Science-Technical Group was proposed and interest shown in setting up other new groups. However, Lilia suggested that as the U3A focuses on learning as well as laughing and living, we should be generating enthusiasm amongst existing members too. Music Appreciation still needs a GC. A member had asked if the U3A had a forum for promoting outside events? – The newsletter was considered an unsuitable medium.

**9. Secretary's report**

- a) It was noted that Dusty Roades had graciously offered to run raffles and quizzes for charity. He has decided not to publish a Buckingham U3A calendar this year but to try again in 2016/17.
- b) A BACO (Bucks Association for the Care of Offenders) would like to put a plea for volunteers in the Newsletter. This is acceptable.
- c) TAT mailing was handed to Roland for display at Wednesday's meeting.
- d) Buckingham U3A has been invited to create a page for the new Bucks Care Advice web site. Don reported that this is difficult to negotiate. **Valerie** to write back to say we are considering it and will contact the Project Officer later.

**10. Social matters**

- a) Nominations for committee members seeking re-election should be signed and given to Sheila at the beginning of Wednesday's meeting or sent to the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

- b) U3A President? It was agreed that one is needed. Valerie to ask Pat Costello to cover the position for a year.
- c) Christmas Social: the team from the July Social may be willing to organise this (Lesley is persuading them) but will not cover New Members' Coffee Mornings. The GCs' lunch will not take place this year but may be organised in 2016.

## **11. Any other business**

- Bryan thanked Carolina for a great newsletter.
- Paddy needs a shadow to take over temporarily. The SAGE finance package could be transferred to the U3A computer, once the password is known. Geoffrey Shaw has offered to help as short-term treasurer if needed. Roland offered to transfer all Treasurer's e-mails to him. (*The paying-in book has now been transferred to Lesley but she needs the other one.*) NB Don and Lesley are signatories.
- Low attendance at Open Meetings: to combat this, it was suggested the dates of meetings should be printed on the back of the membership card; all other information is available on the web site or newsletter.
- Members should be alerted to the fact that positions at Committee and GC level are still not filled.
- E-newsletter sent out by Janti to all on-line members was welcomed.
- U3A 2016 diaries were probably left with Paddy after July meeting.
- Carolina had to buy 250 envelopes to cover mailing.