

**Minutes of the 186<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Buckingham & District U3A**  
**held on 11 May 2015**

**Present:** Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), Don Horne (Publicity), Valerie Shaw

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies:** Martin Paul (Vice-Chairman and Speaker Secretary), John White (Technical Support), Sheila Everson (New Members), Lilia Bogle (Group Liaison Officer)
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** on 23 March were signed as correct.
4. **Matters arising:**
  - a) Stowe project: 8 members have indicated interest but no one has offered to lead. **Clive** will still go ahead and arrange a meeting with these volunteers.
  - b) Licences for Recorder Group: the group is happy with the advice they have received.
  - c) 50p per head for meetings in a charging venue: Clive has received one letter but has written to explain.
  - d) Several queries about groups have come up; **Clive** will speak to Lilia.
  - e) Maids Moreton Hall: Clive has received a long letter from the director offering many suggestions for co-operation. These do not really conform to U3A principles. Clive will instead write offering ad. space on our website to publicise any of their initiatives.
  - f) Croquet Group's finances: Lesley has explained to Roger Edwards (GC) the U3A position regarding groups holding large sums. He will pay back £50 to U3A account but was urged to apply for funding for equipment if needed.
5. **Arrangements for Open Meeting** on Wednesday 27 May were sorted. **Clive** will liaise with his (Tea Rota) group – Film Study - to send a representative to the next committee meeting.

**6. Chairman's report**

- June Committee meeting will not need another venue this year, as only 2 shadows. **Valerie** to check availability of Council Chamber and invite shadows. More shadows needed; perhaps Glen Roberts for Newsletter? **Carolina** to follow up.
- A letter has been received from RLS Head offering discussions about new facilities. To be followed up, in spite of potential problems. **Valerie.**

**7. Treasurer's report**

- Croquet Group GC has asked for £85 for a new set of hoops. Committee agreed.
- Barclays Savings Bonds: forms to change signatories have been submitted but no response yet.
- Gift Aid return - £1500 – has been received and is in account.
- Social account: £3350, maintained at quite a high level as a buffer against going into deficit, as it cannot be serviced from the current (charity) account. Also incomings/outgoings are out of step
- Cafbank account: £11,579. Clive asked for estimated end-of-year financial position. **Paddy** to firm up and present at June committee meeting.
- Software account packages have been explored but are not appropriate. Paddy proposes we use one of these for the charity side of our finances but keep spread sheets for the social account.
- A letter had been received from Pat Costello querying the treatment of overpayment of subs. (£13 instead of £10) as a donation and noting that last year's accounts were not published in the newsletter. **Lesley** to write back (a) to explain that all have been informed and many members have said they will not bother to change their standing orders.  
(b) to assure Pat that a summary of the accounts for 2014-15 will appear in the newsletter following the AGM. (*Done*)  
**Clive** will send a message to all GCs to underline this.

**8. Membership Secretary's report**

Membership is growing slowly at present. New members joining now are being asked for £10 sub. (not £10.50 half-yearly sub.)

Aylesbury U3A members wishing to join Buckingham U3A Chess Group consider £6.50 contribution to sub. too expensive. **Lesley** to explain this sum is for the whole year.

## 9. Webmaster's report

Carried over to June meeting.

## 10. Newsletter Editor's report

Pleas for new committee members and New Year Lunch details to go in September issue.

**Carolina** to liaise with Lilia re: queries about groups:

- (a) Ukulele Group: information not available about set-up.
- (b) Qi Gong Group: problems with continuity and temperature of venue; GC has reported that the group is not working out as expected.

## 11. Secretary's report

- 80 x 2016 U3A diaries to be ordered from 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- Information for next committee meeting requested 10 days before, if possible.
- National U3A Conference: Clive to attend +one other on Conference days, Tuesday/Wednesday 25/26 August. Buckingham U3A to pay costs and travel expenses.

## 12. Access for disabled members

Clive to include a request in the next newsletter for members to contact the committee if there are access issues. Disability-friendly venues to be sought.

## 13. First Aid

Discussion postponed until June meeting so that Martin can report.

## 14. Social matters

July Social:-

- 20 minutes for Recorder Group presentation.
- Creative Writing Group play – 15 minutes?
- Food – arrangements in hand.
- Drinks: to be discussed at June meeting.

Talks:-

- John Cornwall has offered to show slides.
- Lesley suggested an Arts Pursuits talk on Armenia, to be sampled soon.

## 15. AOB

- Dusty is disappointed in returns from Charity Stall:
  - Open Meetings to be given bigger profile to increase attendance.
  - Martin to feed information on Open Meetings into web site a month in advance.
- Beds/Bucks Group: next meeting – 21 May. **Valerie** to check availability.
- Brackley U3A: pre-launch meeting on morning of 16 July.
- John Bercow: to be contacted again when Speaker position is known.

**Next meeting: Monday 22 June**