

**Minutes of the 187<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Buckingham & District U3A**  
**held on 22 June 2015**

**Present:** Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Roland Simpkins (Webmaster), Martin Paul (Vice Chair & Speaker-finder), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), John White (Technical Resources), Sheila Everson (New Members), Don Horne (Publicity), Valerie Shaw (Secretary).

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and especially Janti Mistry (shadow for Membership Secretary and standing in for Lesley today) and Maureen Sleight (representing Film Study group)
2. Apologies had been received from Lesley Suggate and Lilia Bogle.
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 11 May 2015 were signed as correct.
4. Matters arising:
  - a) **Stowe Shared Learning Project:** a meeting will be held with those interested on Friday 26 June at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.
  - b) **RLS as a venue:** David Hudson, Headteacher, is very keen to establish links with the community but the room in the new Science block, taking up to 12, would probably only be available in the evening or on Saturdays. Unless weekday arrangements could be made available, this would be unsuitable for U3A groups. **Valerie** to write to keep in touch.
  - c) **U3A National Conference:** Clive invited others to join him; if no one else available, he will book for himself.
  - d) **Disabled access:** no response needed to the 2 TAM letters but **Clive** to write in September Newsletter as in May Minutes.
5. **Arrangements for Open Meeting** on Wednesday 24 June were sorted. The Speaker will bring a memory stick for U3A projector (Janti to bring) but will have to supply own computer. **John** to make direct contact.

**6. Chairman's report**

- Uof B lecture in Radcliffe Centre: **Clive** to send details to Don for publicity and web site.
- Sending flowers to ill members? Committee agreed this might set a difficult-to-control precedent. Better for groups concerned or individuals to respond.

**7. Treasurer's report**

- End-of-year estimate gives a minor surplus, so is acceptable.
- Treasurer recommended Sage account package @ £120pa as easy to manage. Committee agreed to go ahead by Direct Debit.
- Barclays need one form to change signatories to be re-submitted.
- Croquet request for equipment, including added funds to cover new group members, has been processed.
- Pam Gower (Painting Group) has requested funds for art tutors. Committee sympathetic but need details of how much etc. **Paddy** to liaise.

**8. Membership Secretary's report**

Janti explained the stats list and expressed concern about the number of printed copies of the newsletter still being sent out at considerable expense. It was pointed out that members who cannot open the newsletter electronically can access the copy on the web site.

**Open Meetings:** it was noted that numbers at Open Meetings are decreasing. To counteract this, it was decided to:

- a) **E-mail** members to remind of forthcoming meeting, starting in September; **Martin** to obtain some details from speaker 2/3 weeks in advance and send to Roland.
- b) Newsletter would feature a big announcement of speaker programme. **Carolina**
- c) Groups could take over Open Meetings from some date in 2016 and find speaker or demonstrate activities. This could be a topic for the Forum at the AGM.

**9. Webmaster's report**

- Automatic transfer of data to Membership Secretary is now working well.
- The web site is being used more.

## 10. Newsletter Editor's report

- Deadline for September issue is 31 August.
- Inclusion or otherwise of AGM notices to be discussed in July.
- Chairman would write about disabled access and AGM participation/nominations.

## 11. Secretary's report

- a) Beds+ future role: may be irrelevant to Buckingham U3A in the future, as several local U3As (Towcester, Brackley, Bicester) now make a more reasonable combination. More structure is not needed in these groupings and top-down governance is not consistent with U3A principles. **Clive** to respond.
- b) U3A Management System: this was considered too far-reaching to work in the near future as we have developed data organisation that suits Buckingham U3A.

## 12. First Aid Training

- A 15-minute demonstration of defibrillator use by Martin and Dr Roger Dixon was agreed for the start of the July Social.
- Jane Libby from the Stroke Association would like to roll out a project for testing for the atrial fibrillation heart condition in the north of the county. More details are required. **Valerie** to enquire again.

## 13. Social matters

- a) 4 volunteers have come forward to organise social meetings. No one wants to lead but this should work well. A meeting will be held at Lesley's house on Wednesday 1 July.
- b) July Social, Wednesday 22 July:  
Programme: Defibrillator demonstration – 15 minutes  
Recorder Group – 20 minutes  
Creative Writing Group play – 15 minutes  
Drinks: Pimms (2 bottles left over from last year)  
Soft drinks  
Glasses to be hired to avoid washing-up  
Organisation: Quantities to be checked against last year's records (**Paddy & Valerie**). 2/3 helpers will be needed on the day from 1.30pm. **Clive** to announce on Wednesday to advise members that food will be served.

## 14. Any other business

Chess Group: **Paddy** will meet new GC after Open Meeting on Wednesday to sort out details.  
Pilates Group?: has been suggested but some of the committee thought this would need a regular professional teacher so would be outside the scope of a U3A.  
Walking Group is full?? More details needed.  
John Bercow: a speaking invitation could possibly be arranged to fit in with his duties. **Martin** to approach him again.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July**