

Minutes of the 190th meeting of Buckingha & District U3A
held on Monday 26th October 2015

Present: Clive Cowdy (Chairman), John White (Technical resources), Lilia Bogle (Group Liaison Officer), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor), Roland Simpkins (Webmaster), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Don Horne (Publicity), Martin Paul (Vice Chairman and Speaker Secretary), Valerie Shaw (Secretary) and Geoffrey Shaw (to speak on Treasurer issues).

1. Clive welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies had been received from Janti Mistry and Sheila Everson.
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st September were signed as accurate.
4. **Matters arising:** a) Pat Costello has agreed to be President. She was proposed by Carolina and seconded by Lesley.
b) There were two additional thoughts about encouraging groups: a regular drop-in coffee morning for everyone and the practice of inviting a representative from each group in turn to attend a committee meeting to be re-instated.

5. **Chairman's report**

Clive reported that 300 attended the national U3A weekend with 500 at the AGM. He attended a session on the Chairman's responsibilities and a study on how to encourage volunteers to join the committee. There were 2 talks: Shared learning on hospices and working with a university (Plymouth). Clive concluded that all U3As are different in structure.

6. **Treasurer's report**

Paddy has all the cheque books and control of the accounts but while he is still recovering at home, Geoffrey Shaw has used his figures to present the accounts, which show that the U3A has been successful in reducing the money held on account. He thanked Lesley for all her support in this and was in turn thanked by the Chairman for stepping into the breach. It was strongly agreed that the Treasurer should have a shadow. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting. A query was raised about payment for the September speaker: **Martin** to talk to Paddy.

7. **AGM**

- a) 10 nominations have been received. 2 other committee members may be co-opted at a later date.
- b) Members' Forum should include a discussion about the future of the Charity Stall after Dusty's resignation and may produce questions about accidents/incidents: all GCs should hold an Accident Form; the Committee will produce guide-lines for GCs for dealing with emergencies but they should not feel responsible for First Aid.
- c) There will be 13/14 Group Display tables. 25 quilts will be displayed across the stage, one to be raffled.
- d) Intermediate French Group will be responsible for teas. Other responsibilities were noted. A runner with the mic at the Forum will be requested on the day.

8. **Membership Secretary's report**

Lesley presented the breakdown of membership but explained the figures are always changing, especially as subscriptions are awaited. It was agreed that the membership Secretary should not release information from the data base except to Trustees. Lesley wanted to record her thanks for a great working relationship with Roland, Janti and Paddy. Lloyds Bank staff had also been very helpful. The Chairman thanked Lesley for her years of service.

The membership card proposed by Janti, with Open Meeting dates on the back, was approved, with a query about the final size.

9. **Group news**

Lilia reported that a) Roger Short was the new GC for the Wildlife Group, Italian was splitting into Advanced (GC – Linda Shiner) and Beginners (GC needed). Music for Pleasure is re-forming with Peter Franklin as GC but now needs members. Mahjong needs a new GC and Bridge for Beginners is up and running.

b) Groups proposed and/or just starting: Classic Guitar, Understanding the Koran (??), Dance (ex-professional dancer Hazel Thurlow is willing to lead) and Ukulele. Science & Technology has a viable group of 4/5, for which the Royal Latin School have offered their new premises, shared lectures and a shared 6th Form session on Wednesday afternoons. Chris George (head of Science) has identified a possible source of funding for community involvement and invites all to an inaugural lecture on 18th November at 5.30pm given by Dr Kevin Moffat on "Living with Dementia".

c) Lilia showed TAT information for GCs on how to run a group and suggested a pack to be given to all GCs to include this booklet. **Lilia** to order 100 "More Time to Learn" booklets and also suggested a GC Training Day; Martin offered to help.

d) Meetings for new members should have available lots of leaflets, books and information about the U3A

e) to encourage more interest in group activities:

- **Lilia** to announce new groups at Open Meetings
- e-mails could be sent out to all GCs reporting on new groups.
- links with UofB, especially the new Medical School, could be explored.

10. Secretary's report

An incident form had been received and is on file. TAT information on the legal helpline and news from Bromley was highlighted.

11. Social matters

Christmas Social, Wednesday 16 December: Lesley reported that Maggie Pringle has agreed to organise this. (Plans attached). It was agreed she should work on an attendance of 160 with a budget of £300. Maggie should be invited to come to the November meeting at a specific time. (**Valerie** to liaise with Rosemary). GCs' Social: Maggie will also organise in the New Year a simple meal of cheese and wine (lunch-time agreed) to thank GCs for their work.

New Members Coffee Mornings: Caroline agreed to manage teas and coffees. The Small Hall was considered very suitable, creating a good atmosphere. These should happen more frequently. **To be discussed at November Committee meeting.**

Welcoming new members: A meeting after the following Open Meeting was proposed. Janti would send out, with the welcome pack, an invitation to stay behind to chat. Small Hall would need to be booked*.

Discussion of this suggested at AGM Forum and next committee meeting. (**Secretary**)

12. Any other business

- Martin has been approached by Buckingham Care for a speaker slot or a link to the web site but it was pointed out that Age Concern offers all the appropriate information.
- Carolina needs news and articles for the next 2 newsletters. She will include an article asking for a successor but will stand by if needed.
- Lesley reported that the new Brackley U3A has been informed that all groups must be totally self-sufficient, including paying for their own venues. This infers they need a float. **Clive** to investigate.
- Clive asked if there was support for a committee meal together. It was agreed a lunch in November would be welcome.
- Valerie has been approached by a member interested in finding out more about joining the committee. **Valerie** to pass on details to new secretary so that she can be invited to a committee meeting.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 23rd November at 10.00am
in the Council Chamber.**