



## **Buckingham & District U3A**

### **Minutes**

For the 226th Committee Meeting held on Monday 25 February 2019 at 10am in the Buckingham Community Centre

**Present:** Martin Paul (Chairman) Dusty Roades (Vice-Chairman) Paddy Collins (Treasurer) Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer) Lorna Joy (Membership Secretary) Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Secretary) Derek Morgan (Webmaster) Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary) Robert Winks (deputising for Secretary)

### **Apologies**

Cliff Dammers

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January were read and approved.

### **Matters Arising**

Regarding the shadow for Beryl Carr it was noted that a lady named Jackie had helped in the past but the emphasis needed was to assist with planning and to go on the trips as well. The chairman undertook to pursue the matter.

## **Liaison with the Medical School**

As agreed this was a separate agenda item and so the future relationship was discussed at some length. It was noted that with an approximate membership of about 850 help with trials could make a positive contribution. Some members had already volunteered their support. The Director of Studies Claire Stocker had been busy with the GMC visit to the University (for which a glowing report had been received ) She would now be available to come to an open meeting with two other colleagues to expand on plans for co-operation and 22 May is proposed.

## **Any other business**

Carolina Kenealy had put forward an agenda item of "Members' concerns" and it was agreed to discuss this as AOB early in the meeting rather than at the end. She explained that several members including group co-ordinators had approached her about their difficulty in accessing Roundcube as a means of communicating and receiving messages. Derek Morgan maintained that so far only new groups, or groups where the GC had changed were currently using this procedure or where GCs had complained about spam and the only problem with the new Antiques and Collectables group had been quickly resolved. Steve Heywood confirmed he had received many comments about the complicated system of access and that the use of personal email was preferable. He commented on some issues with a new flower arranging and proposed table tennis group. Martin Paul questioned the legality of including private email addresses. Carolina Kenealy proposed the inclusion of telephone numbers as in the past Derek Morgan pointed out that the website has phone numbers as does the Quick reference list. Lorna Joy confirmed that members of her group undertook not to share email addresses outside the group. Derek Morgan stated that he had not heard of problems and all agreed that any IT complaint should be sent to him directly. The committee acknowledged that the process of IT access was one of a perceived problem especially with some members' inexperience in this field. The chairman recognised that

the problem needed attention with the possibility of reverting to the old system and agreed to flag this up at the Group Co-ordinators' lunch in May.

### **Treasurer's report**

There was nothing significant to highlight. Funds were flowing satisfactorily in and out. Paddy Collins noted that a Third Age Trust conference was due to take place on 29 August where one issue under discussion would be the Motion Picture Licence Corporation.

### **Group Co-ordinators' report**

Steve Heywood reported that the first meeting of the new Calligraphy group had taken place at the end of November and the new Antiques and Collectables group enjoyed a very successful first meeting in February with a "full house". Two new groups were underway :

Flower arranging with Sally Chittenden, as from 28 February at the church, Barbara Willis was due to stand down from her group.

Table tennis probably at the venue of the Buckingham Youth centre on a Monday, being set up by new member Jim Whatmore .

An upholstery group had been mooted but without any concrete strategy at present. Discussion took place about a Group co-ordinators' meeting and it was agreed that an initial lunch at 12-12.30 with finger food would make it more of an occasion. Roughly 50 attendees could be expected and the Chairman would contact Karen Burton about the catering. Thursday is the most appropriate day and dates of 9th or 16th May were proposed.

### **Membership Secretary's report**

Lorna Joy distributed a summary of membership status which showed current numbers. She commented that she had resolved a problem with mail merge and where some members had not received emailed membership cards, they should check in their spam box. Derek Morgan confirmed that group members using BT internet

had reported some problems. Guidance to members on the October mailing would be put in the next newsletter - cut off point for items to be included is 31 March.

### **Speaker secretary's report**

Roland Simpkins advised that the calendar was fully drawn up for the current year and reminded committee members of the speaker and topic for the imminent monthly meeting on 27 February - Paul Ketteridge on Anguila's breakaway from St.Kitts. He referred to the importance of sound checks and suggested that some brief unpressured microphone training for committee members would help with audibility issues. John White could be invited to attend the latter stage of the next committee meeting at about 11.00am for this purpose.

Lorna Joy commented on the usefulness of a microphone stand.

Carolina Kenealy advised that after the April monthly meeting she would take charge of the tea and coffee arrangements. It would no longer be the responsibility of designated groups.

The Vice-Chairman had nothing to report. The prompt circulation of Minutes of the January meeting had been appreciated.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

**The next Committee Meeting is to be held in the main hall of Buckingham Community Centre on Monday 25 March at 10.00am**