



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes

For the 227th Committee Meeting held on Monday 25 March 2019 at 10 a.m. in the Buckingham Community Centre

Present: Martin Paul (Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Roland Simpkins (Speakers Secretary), Lorna Joy (Membership Secretary), Derek Morgan (Webmaster), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), John White (Technical Resources) and Cliff Dammers (Secretary)

Apologies

None

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2018 were approved with the addition that it was agreed that group co-ordinators are to be permitted to revert to the old system for using RoundCube. This will be flagged at the Group Co-ordinators Meeting. The problem with spam is not the fault of the RoundCube system but is due to some users' infected e-mails. Roland Simpkins will make a presentation at the Group Co-ordinators Meeting.

Matters Arising

No shadow for Beryl Carr has been identified.

A meeting on liaison with the Medical School is scheduled for 22 May.

Steve Heywood has sent out a notice of the Group Co-ordinators Meeting and has had 22 replies. It will be necessary to prepare an agenda, to include: (1) full groups, (2) RoundCube, (3) emergency contact numbers, (4) suggestions from the Third Age Trust on what group co-ordinators should be doing and (5) any other business.
The hall has been booked and the catering has been organized.

The Chairman will make a plea for someone to fill the vice-chairman's position if no-one has been identified by the date of the meeting.

The Chairman reported on Dusty Roades' health. He had sent an e-mail to Pam Roades wishing Dusty well. The Committee must consider a replacement for Dusty.

The Chairman is unable to attend the April Open Meeting; Paddy Collins will chair the meeting in his absence.

The Chairman reported that Roger Edwards has resigned from the Committee with immediate effect. The Committee agreed not to replace him.

Treasurer's Report

Paddy Collins stated that it is necessary to file a membership return with the Third Age Trust and pay the capitation. He will do these, reporting a maximum number of paid up members in the last twelve months of 844.

Group Liaison Officer's Report

There is a proposal for a new French Beginners Group; a member(Mike Pilbro) has volunteered to act as the co-ordinator and plans to call the group "Absolute Beginners Guide to Speaking French".

There is interest in a new Spanish beginners group.

Nine members want to form a ukulele group; there will be a meeting on 4 April to explain how to go about setting up and running the group. Keith Newman may act as co-ordinator.

Steve pointed out that many members think that the language groups need a teacher but is possible to use on-line resources instead, including MOOCs see website for links. The new calligraphy and flower arranging groups are doing well. The Antiques and Collectibles Group had a meeting on silverware.

Membership Secretary's Report

Lorna Joy reported that the association has 844 current members; 44 members have joined since 1 October 2018. 573 have paid by direct bank payment and the remainder by cheque. Cash was not taken last year.

36 members are also members of another U3A association.
73 members let their membership lapse.

Lorna will submit the Gift Aid claim in the next fortnight.

Speakers Secretary's Report

Roland Simpkins reported that the speaker for the next Open Meeting was lined up.

The Committee discussed alternative programmes for the Open Meetings and decided to carry on with speakers.

The Committee agreed that up to three groups are to be allowed to set up a table at Open Meetings to promote their group.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Carolina Kenealy reported that the deadline for submissions to the next issue of the newsletter is 31 March.
In the future contributors will be asked not to submit contributions in PDF form.

Webmaster's Report

Derek Morgan reported on the Third Age Trust health check.

He stated that he is disappointed with how few members look at the website.

He will e-mail the group co-ordinators the Third Age Trust guidance on the role of group co-ordinators.

Technical Resources Officer

John White reported that he has had a play with the sound system in the Community Centre. There have been problems when speakers' presentations include audio embedded in their presentation. In the past speakers with embedded audio brought their own speakers and there was not a problem.

Two or three members use the audio loop.

John will talk to the Community Centre to try to determine what device the Association needs in order for speakers to be able to plug into the existing Community Centre sound system.

Any Other Business

None

Next meeting to be held on Monday 23 April 2019 at 10 am in the small hall in the Buckingham Community Centre.

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