



## **Buckingham & District U3A**

### **Minutes**

For the 232nd meeting held on Monday 23 September 2019 at 10 am in the Buckingham Community Centre

**Present:** Martin Paul (Chairman), Lilia Bogle (Vice-Chair), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Derek Morgan (Webmaster), Lorna Joy (Membership Secretary), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor) and Cliff Dammers (Secretary)

#### **Apologies**

John White

Roland Simpkins

The Chairman welcomed the Committee Members and opened the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2019 were approved with the addition of apologies from Lorna Joy.

#### **Matters Arising**

The Committee discussed the Beacon system. Potential adoption has been suspended as the system seems to be in a state of flux. The Third Age Trust is looking for someone to run the Beacon system. The Association will continue with RoundCube. The Webmaster is adding filters to reduce the amount of spam. Users should put any spam they receive in the Junk folder, without opening it.

The Committee discussed the Newsletter and voted a thanks to Carolina Kenealy for her work as editor. The Committee discussed how often the Newsletter should be published. It was decided to move from three times a year to twice a year, in September and March.

The Committee discussed whether to hold a workshop for intending Group Co-ordinators and decided that a separate meeting is not necessary but that a workshop for members intending or considering becoming a Group Co-ordinator will be added to the annual Group Co-ordinators' meeting. Intending and potential Group Co-ordinators will be invited to the meeting. It will probably be held in May and will include a lunch.

The Committee agreed that at the May Open Meeting Group Co-ordinators will be encouraged to attend the Third Age Trust annual general meeting. There are many useful and interesting workshops at the agm.

The Committee decided to invite one or two Group Co-ordinators to future Committee meetings.

The Committee discussed the Christmas Social. It will be held on 18 December. The budget for catering is £500. The Chairman will ask Karen Burton and Jo Taylor to provide the catering. Entertainment ideally should be from members of the Association. The Recorders Group is happy to perform provided the members are quiet while the Group performs. Other possibilities are the Poetry and Creative Writing Groups.

The Committee agreed that the Association would hold a New Year's lunch at the Villiers Hotel on 12 January 2020. The Secretary agreed to make the arrangements. Notices will be sent to the members in November. The Association will subsidise the lunch if the price is too high. It was £22 or £23 in 2017, the last time the Association had a New Year's lunch.

The Chairman reported that the Association will need a replacement for Beryl Carr who is retiring from organising outings at the end of 2019. The Chairman will make an announcement at the Open Meeting and a notice will be put in the Newsletter and the website.

It will also be necessary to find a replacement for John White, the Technical Co-ordinator. His deputy is Simon Kelly.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that the Association is in excellent financial condition. The reserves are approximately £16,000. The Committee decided that some of the funds could be used to pay for speakers for the Open Meetings, up to £200 per speaker.

Most of the Groups are paying their own way but some of the smaller Groups are finding it difficult. Many venues are increasing their charges.

The 2020 diaries are available and will be offered to the Group Co-ordinators.

The Treasurer has ordered 1000 emergency contact cards. It was pointed out that mobile phones have a facility to show an emergency contact number. A notice about this will be put in the newsletter.

There is a lot of pressure from users of the Community Centre. The Committee will meet on 27 January and the Open Meeting will be held on 29 January. Committee Meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month from February through July 2020 except for May when the fourth Monday is a Bank Holiday. Therefore the May 2020 Committee Meeting will be on 18 May. From September through November the Committee will meet on the fourth Monday of the month and in December the Committee will meet on the 14th and the Open Meeting will be on the 16th.

### **Group Liaison Officer's Report**

The Group Liaison Officer reported that 23 new members have joined recently and that is not enough for a new members coffee morning. A lot more are expected in November and he wants at least 35 in order to have a successful coffee morning.

The Bell Ringers would like to do a demonstration at the New Members Meeting. Ginny Booth is organising it.

There are two Spanish language groups and they are doing well. The Singing A Round group is struggling for members. The Flower Arranging Group is meeting but is having difficulties. The Antiques and Collectibles Group needs a Group Co-ordinator.

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

There are a total of 853 members of the Association. All but 80 members have an e-mail address.

### **Webmaster's Report**

The Webmaster briefly reported on the website.

### **Newsletter Editor's Report**

The September newsletter has been published.

There are occasional discrepancies between the Group Co-ordinators in the Newsletter and the Association's website. The Webmaster and the Newsletter Editor will co-ordinate. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had received a request from TalentED, a charity that matches retired and part-time teachers with small groups of disadvantaged high ability young people to help them achieve their potential. The Committee decided that TalentEd would be allowed to put a notice at the back of the hall at an Open Meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

The Vice-Chair reported she had attended a session of the Alzheimers Society on "Memory Loss". Only four or five people attended although the presentation was excellent and presented a great deal of amazing information. The Society is willing to speak at an Open Meeting. The Vice-Chair will speak to the Speaker Secretary about the offer.

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 21st October 2019 at 10 am in the Buckingham Community Centre.**

Charity No. 1177534