



Buckingham & District U3A

Minutes

For the 236th Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am 27 January 2020 in the Buckingham Community Centre.

Present: Lilia Bogle (Vice Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Derek Morgan (Webmaster), Roland Simkins (Speaker Secretary), Lorna Joy (Membership Secretary), Carolina Kenealey (Membership Secretary), Pam Tonge, Dorothy Morgan) and Cliff Dammers (Secretary)

Apologies:

Martin Paul

The Vice-Chairman welcomed the Committee Members and opened the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2019 were approved. The Treasurer reported that he had submitted the Association's accounts to the Charities Commission.

Matters Arising

The Committee discussed the upcoming Group Co-ordinators Lunch. There will be some sort of talk. The Group Liaison Officer will send a heads up to the Group Co-ordinators.

The lunch will be held on 14 May 2020 and will take place from 11 am to 2 or 3 pm.

The Committee reviewed the New Year's Lunch and agreed that it should be an annual event. The service at Villiers Hotel was very poor and the Committee agreed that the Association should use a different venue in the future. Two possibilities are Whittlebury Hall and the Best Western.

The Committee discussed GoRaise's using the Association's name on its webpage. It is not a live page, i.e., one cannot make a contribution. The Webmaster has made representations to GoRaise and the Association's name has been taken off the website. GoRaise has issued an apology.

The Committee decided to purchase a second-hand digital projector. It should cost between £100 and £130 and will be available for use by the interest groups and as a backup for speakers at open meetings.

The Committee discussed the desirability of changing to a different e-mail system. RoundCube suffers from a great deal of spam. Google offers a system for not for profit organisations. Once it is set up members will be able to use the same e-mail addresses as on RoundCube. It will be necessary to set up a reply system so replies come to both gmail and RoundCube. When all the users of RoundCube are on the Google system the Association can drop RoundCube.

The Committee decided to start with a pilot project using only Committee members.

The Committee discussed space in Buckingham Focus. The Association already has space in the publication but the copy is not very exciting. It is the Association's only publicity. The Committee decided that the Newsletter Editor should update the copy. The deadline is 31 January 2020.

The Third Age Trust AGM will be held on 27 August 2020 in Nottingham. Lorna Joy has attended in the past and found it very worthwhile. The talks and workshops are very informative. The Secretary volunteered to attend. The Chairman will make an announcement at the Open Meeting about the AGM. A small bursary will be available from the Association's funds.

Group Liaison Officer's Report

Steve Heywood reported that the groups are doing well. There is interest in a Russian for Beginners group, the French groups are very popular, Calligraphy has 12 members and is full, there are 74 members in Art Appreciation and Line Dancers Beginners has started.

The Committee discussed venues for the groups. There is a list of available venues but it is not up to date. Paddy Collins will update it. The Kings Head is willing to offer a room, the room in Tesco is being used by several groups and the Association does not want to wear out its welcome, Prezzo has a room and the White Hart has a dining room as does the Best Western.

Speaker Secretary's Report

The Speaker Secretary reported that speakers are lined up for all of 2020. He has rearranged the speaker for the Open Meeting on 29 January 2020: Jane Osborne, poet and magician.

The Community Centre is used for the pantomime and that causes scheduling problems for the January Open Meeting. The date of the pantomime in 2021 will not be known until June 2020.

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported that there are 793 current members and 128 lapsed members. She will send out a reminder to the members who have not paid their subscription.

The Committee agreed that the newsletter should include a plea that members pay by standing order and an announcement will be made at an Open Meeting.

New members continue to join.

Newsletter Editor's Report

The Newsletter Editor reported that Richard Gallimore, who has been proofreading the Newsletter, has indicated that he may be willing to take over the Newsletter.

Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster reported that the Third Age Trust magazine has included a warning calling for caution in U3A association's participating in medical research.

Any Other Business

The Secretary reported that the Buckingham Fair Trade organisation had written to the Association to ask what we were doing about Fair Trade coffee and tea. The Committee instructed the Secretary to respond saying the Association is committed to Fair Trade and will start purchasing only Fair Trade coffee and tea as soon as the current supplies are exhausted.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 24 February 2020 at 10 a.m. in the Buckingham Community Centre.

Charity No. 1177534
