

MINUTES OF THE U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH
APRIL 2017 AT THE LOUNG, CHRIST CHURCH STARTING AT 1.30PM

Apologies: Celia Billau, Richard Eddleston and Anne Pinnock

Present: Sue Blackley, Marie Potts, Steve Austin, Jo Muxlow, Chris Chater, Janis Patterson, Lucy Beardsley, Breda Cooper, Margot Gale, Malcolm Brookbanks and Elizabeth LeMB

Minutes of March Meeting: Agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising: Marie did not send out an email to the members re Yoga teachers as another solution had been found. Dr Bill Pavlides who will be Chris Chater's group co-ordinator "buddie" will attend committee meetings as an observer. Richard has been in touch with Dana re the Polish group but there is no conclusion yet. The coffee station move was not as successful as the committee had hoped and it was agreed that more signage was needed and all refreshments to move to the Guild room. Sue will contact Elaine Neville to discuss it. Information about the forum to go on the rolling notices and Celia to send an email to all members.

SB/SA/RE/CB

4 Reports:

Chairman: The Quiz Evening was a great success and many thanks to Janis for her efforts. Helen Stewarts trip organised for Art History through Travel Editions went very well and Steve told us about it and Helen has written a piece for the newsletter. Thanks to Malcolm, Margot and Anne who continue to work on the Accessibility policy and Anne will be at the AGM to introduce herself as the Welfare Officer. A small group of the committee met last week to sort out the arrangements/paper for the AGM and the notice of the AGM will be sent out by April 13th and the paperwork to follow ASAP. Since our last meeting 3 members have died. A procedure was put in place in Feb 2015 but group leaders seem reluctant to let their group members know about the deaths if they are not in their groups, so it was decided that in future the Communications Officer would email all the members to let them know.

CB

Treasurer: Malcolm took us through the financial report for last month, the general fund and the budget for 2017/18 and explained his changes to it. It was agreed to wait until January 2018 to decide about any changes to the subs.

Membership Secretary: At present Margot is running both the Beeston members list and the Beacon list in tandem so is doing a lot of extra work. During the last month we had 13 new members and 213 members/visitors attended the talk given by Jane Barton. Margot has

asked Steve to amend both the rolling notices and the website to read that all renewals must be done by 1st May. **SA**

Business Secretary: After much discussion it was decided that the chair would not need to put herself forward for re-election. Steve will make interim changes to the constitution. These changes were agreed at the 2016 AGM. The names at the end of the constitution will be removed. **SA**

Group Co-Ordinator: The following groups are up and running, Architecture, Beeston Real Ale Group or BRAG'S, Learning to Program, both German groups, Searching Antiques, Beginners Ukulele and the Golf Group. Beginners Polish is on hold and Medieval History, Needles and Wool are still in the throes of being set up. Prospective new groups are: Psychology and Sociology, 2nd Medium Walks, Beginner Recorder Group and the 5th Book group. A query was made about the financing of the first session of each new group and Karen to be contacted to ask her to show these payments separately. Chris will also check the wording in the group leader's manual re £50 payment as this now needs to be removed. Chris to let Sue know how many new groups have started since the last AGM so that it can be put into Sue's report. **CC**

Publicity: Steve told us of a meeting he had with Nelson Blackley about a study he is undertaking as NTU. The focus of the study is the accessibility of retail, attitudes towards and uptake and use of technology in the retail context, attitudes towards healthy eating and the importance of shopping in general. It will start initially with an online survey to be completed by our members and then possibly semi-structured with those members who agree to be interviewed. Steve has also been approached by another NTU student who is undertaking a higher degree and this one is about how easy or difficult it is for mature women to find it to shop for attractive well-fitting clothing in the UK. Further details to come. Computing at Central College is grinding to a halt as students are reluctant to come to Beeston – Steve to contact them, Sue said that Stapleford have an IT group and they are happy for our members to join. The Silver-Surfers group at Bramcote is a friendship group with IT. **SA**

Speaker Seeker/Outings Organiser: Lichfield trip will take place on the 21st April. Farm visit will take place on Friday 14th July but no costing yet. Blenheim Palace trip has enough people and the Charles Hanson/Bargain Hunt trip has enough takers. Thursford trip has a few places left and there are several places on the Hodsock Priory trip in May 2018. Lucy would like some suggestions for trips in 2018. Lucy to let Sue know which trips she has organised since last year's AGM. **LJB**

Communications Officer: Celia thanked Marie for the safe and unhurried transition of the communications officer duties from herself to Celia. Celia had sent a survey to the group leaders by email asking about the group fair and had received several responses. No complaints and quite a few compliments but the overwhelming view was that we need to be in a bigger hall where all the groups could be so that every group would have a chance of being seen by all that attended. It was agreed by the committee that they would look at the Pearson Centre which has an enormous sports hall – Sue will make enquiries about booking it. However they do not have enough tables so Margot said she would look into hiring them. The Pearson centre also has a stage in the hall so that any showcasing of Beeston U3A talents would be seen by everyone. SB/MG Celia has been offered a place at the Birmingham Beacon Conference and will write a report. Celia said that the forum is in place but needs to be advertised and she has also set up a Facebook page for us – it is a closed group but any of our members can join they just have to apply – again this needs advertising.

SB/CB

Event's Organiser: Janis said that a member has suggested that we have a Dance-a-Thon but it was decided that it wasn't suitable for our members but an evening of music and food set in a particular decade similar to the 60's evening was approved. It was agreed that a summer barbecue with disco in August - 4pm to 8pm to be held at the Recourses Centre would be organised [date to be confirmed]. Outdoor games could be a possibility and Margot will look into the possibility of hiring them. Celia will make the tickets when all the arrangements have been confirmed. Janis would like someone to help her with the events and a request to be made at the AGM.

JP/MG

5 Any Special Requirements for May's Open Meeting: tables and chairs in front of the stage.

6 Groups Fair – done.

7 Accessibility Workshop Report: Margot took us through the results of the groups meetings. In the feedback from the member's questionnaire it became clear that speakers were not using the microphone properly and when questions were asked then members could not hear the question so it was agreed to buy another microphone which would be handed to the questioner. Also members who sat upstairs could not see the speaker if they moved away from the stage. So it was agreed that each speaker would be made aware of the importance of standing just in front of the stage. A suggestion of a camera which could film the proceedings and show them on the church screens – Mike Allery to be contacted to see if

this was feasible. Another item to come out of the meeting was the change of the wording on the outings form and this was agreed – disclaimer to be changed to behaviour. Group Leaders were also asked to give their response and they were mostly positive about the Welfare Officer role. One group leader raised concern about the steep stairs as The White Lion and Anne said that she would carry out a Risk Assessment of hired venues other than BMC. There is to be a grant application form for members with additional needs who still wants to go on trips and a sum will be set aside for this purpose. **SA**

8 Nottinghamshire Network – Group Conveners’ Workshop held on Wednesday 29th March 2017: Lucy, Breda and Margot attended this course and Lucy wrote a comprehensive report. The main points to come out of the report: [a] every member who takes/collects money MUST have authorisation from the committee – this will be discussed at next month’s meeting. [b] In future – when booking a trip/event FULL payment must be made at the time of booking and should the member cancel then monies would only be refunded if the member found someone to take their place – to emphasis the point this will be put on the rolling notices, in the newsletter and on the booking form and via an email to all members and it will apply to both Lucy and Janis’s events. Another item which came up was whether non-members were covered by Members U3A Public Liability Insurance, are these people to be treated as visitors and will therefore have to pay a visitors fee as well as any financial cost - Malcolm to check. Would this affect groups such as AGV when occasionally a partner joins the member on the trip? Finally holidays must never be arranged by yourself – only through an agent. **MP/MB/SA**

9 AGM – done.

10 Beacon System – done.

11 Chairs Cluster Meeting: Sue said meeting went well and Beeston seems to be doing very well by the amount of advice she was giving out to other chairs. Chris to contact Group Co-ordinators at cluster groups to arrange a meeting. Derby wants to join our cluster group but the feeling was that they were too far away. **CC**

12 Future Social Events – done.

13 AOB: Helen Stewart had raised the subject of availability of group leaders at the open meeting. After much discussion it was decided that it would be difficult to keep tabs on the group leaders at an open meeting but we would encourage them to wear their badges so they were a little

more visible. It was agreed that Janis, Celia and Anne would need badges with their name and position on – Steve to organise. **SA**

14 Agreed Future Meetings: May 8th @ 1.30pm, June Monday 5th @ 1.30pm, July Monday 3rd @ 1.30pm and August Friday 4th @ 1.30pm in the Wesley Room.

Signed..... Dated.....