

MINUTES OF THE U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH
FEBRUARY 2017 AT BMC STARTING AT 1.30PM

1 Apologies – none. Present: Sue Blackley, Marie Potts, Celia Billau, Margot Gale, Jo Muxlow, Lucy Beardsley, Breda Cooper, Richard Eddleston, Steve Austin, Malcolm Brookbanks, Chris Chater, Janis Patterson, Elizabeth LeMB.

2 Minutes of the January meeting: passed and signed.

3 Matters Arising: The new white board is now in the store cupboard in the church hall. The date of the next wine tasting evening is Friday 8th December at the Resources Centre. Postcards sale still to be completed.

4 Reports:

Chairman: Sue extend a huge thank you to Janis for a superb Burns Evening last month. The amount of work done by Janis and her small band of helpers was much appreciated and a repeat performance for next year is already being looked forward to. Sue was very pleased with the way the Group Leaders meeting had gone and thanked Chris Chater and Anne Pinnock in particular for their presentations. Sue has ordered 100 Group Leaders badges which should be available for the next big event, the Groups Fair and the sub-committee organising this will meet on Wednesday 8th. The setting up of the church hall will be done on the Wednesday evening 1st March and will those who can help meet in the church foyer at 7.30pm. The Slimming World group which is using the hall that evening will finish at 7.30pm [I have checked with Karen today that this is correct] The other rooms being used will not be available in the evening so we will be at the church at 8.30am on Thursday 2nd to set up the Wesley and Guild rooms and the church. There was much discussion about how we can avoid new members being overwhelmed by the numbers and noise at the open meeting and putting the drink stations in another room was decided to be the best move. This will be further discussed at the March committee meeting. The development plan has been updated.

All Committee Members

Treasurers Report: Malcolm presented the financial statement. Chris raised a concern about the equipment claim and was advised that this was a late presentation of an invoice from last year. Malcolm will let Helen Stewart know that the payment for the website for Writing For Pleasure group has been agreed by the committee.

MB

Membership Report: We now have 724 members as we had 14 new ones. We had 7 visitors and in total 206 people attended the talk. The Beacon System is now up and running so Margot and Malcolm are on a learning

curve. Margot will be sending a list of the 2016/17 membership information to the people who will input the information. **MG**

Business Report: Richard and Steve visited Nottingham University and this will be reported in Publicity.

Group Co-Ordinator: Trish Jacobs has given up the facilitator role of German Conversation Group for Beginners – this is because strictly it is not a beginners group and the name should be changed to explain this. Chris will be meeting with the group on 7th February. 4th Book Group are now meeting on 3rd Monday of the month at 1.30pm at the White Lion, Beeston. Prospective new Groups: Beginners Polish Group – the first meeting did not go ahead due to the leader being unwell. Chris will attend the rebooked first meeting on February 7th. Real Ale Group [RAG'S] a small number attended the first meeting and Margaret Hicks has volunteered to be the facilitator but only with help from other members. No further information available at present. Jeff Watkins who is an IT professional and interested in programming has given some details for a Programming Group to Chris who has forwarded them to Steve to follow up. The following groups have been suggested – Medieval History, Searching Antiques and Needles and Wool – Chris will have a table at the group fair so that interested members can put their names down for these groups and Marie will send out an email advising the membership of these possible new groups. At a previous meeting Margot had suggested a new group for men who would like to learn how to cook – last week a member suggested that a small cooking group could be set up for both sexes who want to cook for family and friends and learn short cuts and various techniques. The Resources Centre has been suggested. Watch this space.

Publicity: Steve advised that the recorded interview in which a student from Central College, Hazel Brooke and Stella Taylor were in conversation with Mark Dennison of BBC Radio Nottingham about the joint co-operation between the college and Beeston U3A had been heard on January 11th. The college ran another taster session on Wednesday 1st February and one of our members Hazel Brooke emailed Steve to say how she really appreciated the help and commented on how nice the students were. However the college is struggling to set up one-to-one sessions at times to suit our members because of resource issues and it might be that taster sessions are the way forward. A meeting took place between Steve, Richard and Ben Beranek of Nottingham University who has good contacts with Campaign and Alumni Relations and the Students Union. Steve has sent an article about last Decembers Wine Tasting to Third Age Matters.

Speaker Seeker/Outings Organiser: Lucy has booked Charles Hanson for the 2018/19 programme and is hoping to organise a follow up trip to his auction house. Hodsock Priory is sold out - Lichfield filling up nicely – Blenheim Palace needs more bookings so will be offered to Stapleford and Long Eaton U3A's and local Probus groups – Thursford – needs to sell 42 places, a deposit has been sent to secure the booking. Visits to The Globe and Stratford were suggested for 2018. **LJB**

Communications Officer: The transition process with Marie and Celia is going well. Celia will be responsible for the flyer folders, which have all been updated and the non-email posting of the newsletter to start with. Sue Wilde will be contacted to set up a new email address for Celia which will be communications@beestonu3a.org.uk. Marie will retain the title of editor. Marie has checked with Karen about tables available for the Group Fair. Information about an outing being organised elsewhere about Battle Field Walks will be put on the Community Board by Richard at the open meeting. **MP/RE**

Event's Organiser: Janis reported on the Burns Night Supper and advised that she had booked the Chilwell Manor Golf Club House for the Quiz Night on Friday 7th April and tickets are already being sold and it will be open to non-members. Sue will organise the quiz itself and Nelson Blackley will score it.

5 Group Leaders Meeting: already discussed. Anne Pinnock had a number of Group Leaders contacting her after her talk.

6 Group Fair: The sub-committee is meeting on Wednesday to discuss the finer points. Visitors will not be charged, there will not be a speaker but there will be displays and participation in events by some of the groups.

7 Beeston U3A Forum: This was suggested by a member at the group leaders meeting. It was decided that it should be open to everyone and Steve will look into it. **SA**

8 Job Description: Already discussed.

9 Notts Network Meeting: Margot reported on the meeting she had recently attended and reported that the Regional Council for the East Midlands had been disbanded. The NN asked that we send their newsletter to all our members and this was agreed and that we could send some of our newsletter articles to be included in the regional one. Marie will make the choice. The April meeting which Margot and Sue will attend will focus on communications. Lucy and Breda + 2 others will be going to the Speaker Seeker session and it was agreed that their fees

would be reimbursed. Margot will put a piece into the next Beeston newsletter. **MP/MG**

10 Priorities for the Future of Beeston U3A: Sue has asked us to think about this and bring suggestions to the next committee meeting.

11 Nottingham Trent University Link: We have been asked by Nottingham Business School which is part of NTU to take part in a research project looking at "The Ageing Population and retail".

12 AOB: It was suggested that we should have a presence on Twitter and Facebook and it was decided to discuss this at next month's meeting. Mike Allery had requested that the committee support a request from Bennerley Viaduct Preservation for Lottery funding – it was felt that the walking group should themselves send the letter. Dr Bill Pavilidis wanted to help the committee but for various reasons couldn't take on a full time role. He seems a prime candidate for the RUG group and he would be asked to help at the Group Fair. A member had requested that the committee photos be put on the website – this was not agreed but Marie will make several copies of the committee's photos and have them pinned up in prominent places at the open meeting. **SB/MP**

13 Agreed Future Meetings: April 10th @ 1.30pm to be held at The Lounge at Christ Church. May 8th @ 1.30pm in the Wesley Room – apologies from Elizabeth.

Suggested dates for June, July and August – June Monday 5th @ 1.30, July Monday 3rd 1.30pm and August 4th Friday 1.30pm – all in the Wesley Room – these were agreed and have been booked.

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