

MINUTES OF THE U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH 2017 AT BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH STARTING AT 1.30PM

1 Apologies: Margot Gale: Present: Lucy Beardsley, Breda Cooper, Chris Chater, Janis Patterson, Marie Potts, Susan Blackley, Steve Austin, Richard Eddleston, Jo Muxlow, Malcolm Brookbanks, Celia Billau and Elizabeth LeMB.

2 Minutes of the February Meeting – agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising: Marie has still to send out an email asking if there are any yoga practitioners who would consider running a group and 56 quiz ticket have been sold. **MP**

4 Reports:

Chairman: Thanks went to Marie for another fantastic newsletter and we are very pleased that she will continue as newsletter editor and we are pleased that she will continue to be a committee member. Also thanks to Marie, Celia and Margot who did the bulk of the work for the very successful Group Fair. The rest of the committee were thanked for their help in setting up the rooms. Malcolm, Margot and Anne Pinnock are still working on the Accessibility policy. Thanks also to Lucy for an excellent trip to Hodsock Priory. Bill Pavlides will shadow Chris in her job as group co-ordinator and further meetings will be arranged. Also he will be asked to come to a committee meeting as an observer and then stand in for Chris when necessary. There were discussions about the AGM.

Treasurer's Report: Finances are in good shape. Malcolm pointed out that our U3A year isn't in sync with the U3A financial year which should be looked at. Also we will have to consider what equipment will be required once the Beacon project is up and running.

Membership Report: Renewal of membership is going well and 185 have done so already. There were 21 new members joined in the past month.

Business Secretary: Richard reported that Celia, Margot, Malcolm, Richard, Jo, Breda and Christine will need to be re-elected in May and he has the forms. An email for anyone to stand for election needs to be sent out, though they would need a proposer and a seconder from the membership and again Richard has the forms. We agreed last year to amend out charitable purposes in line with the accepted U3A model and this will have to be put to the members at the AGM. Sue pointed out that our website is still showing the 2011 constitution and should be changed to show the 2012 version and Richard will send it to Steve. Richard has form if anyone wants to put themselves forward for the National Executive Committee. The annual return is being worked on and Richard

has received the Motion Picture Licencing Company Umbrella Licence.

### **MP/RE/SA**

Group Co-ordinator: German Group: this has split into 2 groups, one for total beginners tutored by Chris Denby and another for more advanced members, tutor Gerda Kuklik and they will run side by side at the White Lion on Middle Street, Beeston and the next meeting of the groups takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> March. 4th Book Group now called Between the Covers: Up and running and full. Beeston Real Ale Group [BRAG'S] 28 members have joined and a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting has been arranged to meet at the White Lion, Middle Street, Beeston. IT Programming Group: 4 members have joined. Medieval History Group: 6 members have joined the above group and Gill Morral will be in touch. Searching Antiques Group: 8 members have joined but there is as yet no facilitator. Needles and Wool Group: this has 12 interested members but as yet no facilitator. 3 members have shown interest in a Golf Group to be run by Sue Liddle. Architecture Group: has 5 interested members but no facilitator. The following possible new groups to be advertised – Flower Arranging, Russian Conversation, Beginners Recorder and Walking Netball. Polish Group: Due to illness Dana no longer feels able to run this group at present, Richard will get in touch with Dana. Sergio from the White Lion has asked for help in improving the English of a group of non-English speaking business men – the request will be put on the community board. **RE**

Publicity Report: Computing: no further sessions have been booked and Steve thinks they are struggling with resources. Business Plan- University Involvement: Nothing further from Nottingham University but the Nottingham Trent University involvement is still on the burner but will take some time to arrange. Article for Third Age Matters on wine tasting has not appeared. Heritage Open Day Stand – we have been asked if we would like to participate – this will depend on the venue.

Speaker Seeker/Outings Organiser: Lichfield has only 3 places left – Lucy has heard from the Lichfield Tourist Information Centre that the Staffordshire Hoard is still in Lichfield but can be moved back to Birmingham without notice. Blenheim June 2017: there are a few places left. Hanson's Auction House to see Filming of Bargain Hunt 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017: Numbers are limited – Lucy will be visiting Etwall later this month to check layout etc. Thursford Spectacular November 2017: 24 have booked so far need to sell 40 tickets. Hodsock Priory – House Tour and Bluebells May 2018: This will be a morning visit – further details later. This is a wheelchair accessible house.

Communications Editor: Marie has received a report from Celia who suggested contacting the group leaders for their feedback and this was agreed and Celia would action this via email to be answered by 31<sup>st</sup> March. A letter had been received from Peter Noon with his comments about the morning and noted that when the singing, dancing and music was on in the church then a lot of members left to watch and this meant that the group leaders and helpers were left not doing much. The committee then discussed this and suggested perhaps putting it all on in one big room – Sue will check how many tables the Pearson Centre has when she next goes to table tennis. **CB**

5 Any Special Arrangements for Aprils Open Meeting: Jane Barnes will need a table in the foyer for selling her cheese.

6 Group Fair – done.

7 Moving the Coffee Stations: It was agreed to hold a 3 month trial of having the refreshments in the Guild Room – this would also allow for tables and chair to be put out to allow the members to sit and have their coffee etc. The Lunch Clubs will move to the space left by the coffee table removal. Sue to advise Elaine Neville. **SB**

8 AGM: - done.

9 Money Held by Groups: Ron Jones had raised this and it was agreed that the sum held by groups would raise to £100. Chris will email the group leaders and advise them. **CC**

10 Priorities For The Future of Beeston U3A: Malcolm named Beacon [the new membership system] as a priority, how is it going to work, what equipment will be needed, who will be involved. Celia said a shortage of people coming forward to help run the groups and the organisation. How do we help members gain confidence and feel able to take on roles in the U3A. Members need to be spoken to face to face rather than asking them to come to us via email. Steve said that the U3A is very female orientated and we should look at other U3A's to see what male orientated groups they have that could encourage more men to join the organisation.

11 Beeston Forum: Steve has put the form on our website but group leaders have not been informed – Celia will contact them. **CB**

12 Twitter and Facebook: Celia will look into these groups. **CB**

13 Agreed Future Meetings: Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1.30pm **to be held in The Lounge at Christ Church**. Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1.30pm, June Monday 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1.30pm, July Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1.30pm and August Friday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1.30pm – all in the Wesley Room.

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