

BURNLEY AND DISTRICT U3A

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE UNITY CENTRE, PADIHAM, 2 MARCH 2015

Present - A.Wiseman (Chair), M.Bushby, J.Bridge, F.Whittle, B.Milne, B.Hayman, M.Philp, J. Hartley, P.Ferguson, J.Green -Guest.

1. Apologies for absence - G.Markin, J.Devlin, M.Hartley
2. Minutes of previous meeting - Accepted as correct and signed by A.Wiseman
3. Matters arising - The AGM on April 23rd will commence after the general meeting on that date.
4. Correspondence received and Secretary's Report -

We have received the following from the Trust:

Notice of the 2015 AGM to be held in Nottingham on 27th. August.

A booklet explaining the Direct Mail Scheme for the next subscription period, the only change is that a new database can now be submitted for each issue free of charge.

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' paper on Networks and Small grouping of U3As.

A flyer listing the grants available from The Trust which now include:

- a new £500 exhibition grant towards the cost of a stand/exhibition space at a local or county show
- a maximum of £200 to organise an open event to raise awareness of the U3A
- a maximum of £200 towards the cost of organising an event to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta
- a maximum of £500 to assist with the organisation of workshops/seminars on topics relevant to the running and future development of the U3As

Our PPL Licence for 2015

A copy of the latest 'Who's Who' of National Officers

A flyer advertising the 24 hour legal advice service provided for all members

An events flyer listing courses still available for booking at the national summer schools

A sample of the new bookmark and new quotations leaflet which are available for order in the online shop

An offer of help for those struggling to attract new members or having difficulty getting people to volunteer

MB stated that copies of 'Frequently Asked Questions' have been circulated.

5. Treasurer's Report

Membership reached 258 on 12th February with two new members joining at the January Open Meeting. This figure compares with 237 members in February 2014.

At the present time JH has received 10 of the 6 monthly accounts from Group Leaders for groups operating from July to December 2014.

The accounts for the financial year have been audited and accepted by John Scott and will be presented to the members at the AGM. JH suggested that the usual token of appreciation be offered to John.

The value of assets held by Burnley & District U3A for the year ending 31st December 2014 was £625.

On the 30th December the General Account stood at £6,474.91 and on 24th December the Social Account stood at £404.70.

The token of appreciation for John Scott was approved by the Committee.

Concern was expressed that members may have not have been able to obtain places for outings because non-members had used the available places. It was pointed out that non-members are not covered by U3A insurance. BM is to remind Group Leaders that a register of those attending is required for each U3A event.

6. Groups Co-ordinator's Report

1. The get together at Molly Rigby's seemed to go quite well
2. The computer assistance group is up and running
3. Its aim is to meet regularly to discuss issues or problems and inter-teach but primarily to respond to general queries from U3A members who want help

"Computer skills assistance group

To help with aspects of software or applications including power-point, wordprocessing, emails etc.

One to one help provided by U3A members

Regular "knowledge sharing" meetings at Padiham Unitarian Church every third Thursday of the month at 14:00hrs.

Concern was expressed about possible problems regarding the one-to-one computer instruction in people's houses. It was suggested that there be a contact person in case of complaints. Advice to be obtained from the Trust.

4. There are planned inaugural meetings of the chess and bridge groups in March:

"Planned meetings of the Chess and Bridge groups:

Wednesday March 18th 13:00-14:00 hrs in the Hambledon Room

Chess 13:00-13:30hrs Bridge 13:30 till 14:00 hrs

5. The walking group are thinking of extending their activities to have a few days in the month when members who wish to do a smaller walk (e.g. 3 miles) are to be catered for."

6. Gill Beeke has agreed to help with memory course if we can get two other volunteers!

7. Publicity Officer's Report

PF thanked GM for helping at the Pensioners' Fair at Nelson.

There was quite a bit of interest at this venue, but the week before, at Brierfield, the attendance was poor, partly due to bad weather.

Friends of Pendle Heritage had a stand at both fairs and Alex Whitlock, from the Pendle Heritage Archeology Group would be happy to give a talk, possibly entitled 'Pendle's Hidden Valley'. They did ask if they could put up a display about Friends of Pendle Heritage at the talk.

Helen, Kean, who had a stand for Lighthouse Tai Chi, would also give a talk and demonstration about Tai Chi.

Details to be passed to JD

A gentleman called Ian Ashworth was interested in joining our U3A and setting up a chess group. He did run Nelson Chess Club.

Linda Simcock, a solicitor, talked about people who have no relatives and would like to leave donations to worthy causes. She saw us as a worthy cause.

Finally, PF thanked JB for sending photographs for our scrap book.

Committee Resolution - It was agreed that a copy of 'Wills, Legacies and the Third Age Trust' should be sent to L.Simcock.

8. Web Editor's Report

Web Site and updates - The website has been updated with amended information received from Group Leaders (very little) and with other information obtained from the monthly newsletter.

I have also received images from the Outings, Science and Photography groups. There is also a new image on our current home page which will be changed on a monthly basis - images supplied by the Photography group.

Website Redesign and Hostings - The purchase of hosting for the new web site has now been completed in conjunction with the Treasurer at a cost of £89.90 plus VAT. renewable annually.

Work continues with the re-design and transferring of data from the old site with a 'go live' date of Monday 6th April if all goes well and no technical hitches occur.

Accessing www.burnleyanddistrictu3a.org.uk will display a page informing visitors of our impending new site and a link to take them to our old (existing site) to be able to keep up to date with the latest information.

9. Speakers' Secretary Report

Speakers booked up to August.

10. A.G.M.

To be held after the general meeting on Thursday April 23rd.

Committee members required for election - Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 committee members

It was suggested that copies of the Accounts should be made available to members before the AGM. It was decided that this would not be necessary at this time.

11. A.O.B.

It was decided that, as from April, the (middle) Centenary room is to be used for refreshments. This will allow for more room and less congestion in the Main Hall during the monthly meeting.

Enrolment Forms to be made available at the general meeting on March 26th. These can then be completed and handed to the Treasurer with the subscription fee.

12. Next meeting

Monday 27th April at 10 a.m., at the Unity Centre, Padiham.

