

BURNLEY AND DISTRICT U3A

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE UNITY CENTRE, PADIHAM, 11 JANUARY 2016

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

1. Apologies for absence - None received, all committee members present.
2. Minutes of previous meeting - Accepted as correct and signed by A.Wiseman.
3. Matters arising from the minutes - None raised
4. Correspondence received and Secretary's Report -

Group Leaders' Meeting - Ighten Leigh Club has been booked for 1.00 pm Tuesday 9th February. Menu to be decided.

MB has downloaded a copy of Todmorden U3A's Winter newsletter which is 13 pages in length. Interested members can view on the Todmorden U3A website.

Received from the Trust:

The minutes of the 2015 AGM

A flyer on the new legal helpline.

A newsletter from Lesley O'Malley, the new national Subject Advisor for Craft

A newsletter from Alastair Sharp, the national Subject Advisor for German.

A note from Sylvia Dillon on behalf of the Aughton and Ormskirk Memory Course Team - there are concerns that the course has been misused. It is stressed that the course must be delivered exactly as demonstrated at the workshops and must not be modified in any way.

There are new subject advisors for Archaeology, Bridge, Classical Greek, Geography, Military History, Petanque, and Poetry. Further information is available on the web pages.

English Folk Dance Advisor Ann Taylor is looking for new dances and new CDs which can be shared.

U3A Online Chess League - Steve Lawer is running an online league for U3A members. Contact him for more details (His contact information available for MB.)

Roll of Honour - any U3A can nominate a member for the Roll of Honour to recognise outstanding service to the U3A movement.

Website Notice Boards Research - this will contain all requests for help with external research and external projects.

General - this will contain all requests for help and advice from U3As.

Royal Navy Presentation Team is willing to speak to U3As across the UK to explain the role of the Navy. There are no fees and talks last 40 minutes.

The Army Engagement Team is also willing to explain the role of the Army. Again no fees.

The NEC would love suggestions about how to celebrate the 1,000th U3A which could be around March 2016.

A copy of the August 2016 National Summer Schools brochure.

A cover note for the public liability insurance policy

A poster for the Legal Helpline

A letter of thanks from the "Lifeboats" speaker for donations received at the monthly meeting in October 2015.

There will be a series of workshops in Manchester. The first is Participative Learning on 2nd February. Managing your U3A in April/May, and Planning Ahead: More Time to Learn, Laugh and Live, in July/September.

Several members of the committee have expressed interest in participating in the Managing your U3A course, subject to the date being convenient.

5. Treasurer's Report

1. At the end of 2015 the U3A had 255 members.
2. At 31st December the Main Account balance was £7471 and the Social account balance was £627.
3. The Photography group has sold 99 out of 100 calendars by the end of December, yielding a surplus of £115.
4. The Main account cashbook and bank account have been reconciled in preparation for closing the books at 31st December 2015. Draft accounts are being prepared. Janet Barton, an accounts manager in Darwen, has agreed to examine the drafts, and final accounts will be presented to the trustees at the committee meeting in March.
5. Group's 6-monthly financial statements for July to December 2015 are now due.
JG to send reminders to group leaders to submit their accounts.

6. Groups Co-ordinator's Report -

There has been little change since the last committee meeting.

Points to note are:

Indoor Bowling will be restarted shortly at Padiham Road Methodist Church.

My Story group will have its final story on 13th January.

The Committee expressed thanks to Andrew Gill for the entertainment he organised while the Group ran and also the story tellers for putting the effort in.

Pam Wood has said that if anyone has a story to tell she will keep a record and if there is sufficient potential stories it may be possible to re-form the group.

There is also the possibility that once enough background research and information has been done a history group looking at Pre-Columbus American history might be formed, but its early days yet.

Due to unforeseen circumstances JG said he had been unable to make any progress on producing possible proposals for improving group publicity. It looks like the new Group Co-ordinator will have to give this their attention.

Group Leaders Lunch and Meeting booked for Tuesday 9th February at Ighten Leigh Club, 1 p.m.
Group Leaders during the last 12 months to be invited.

8. Publicity Officer's Report

FW attended the event at Pendle Heritage centre early December, and although the crowds were not in evidence there was quite a bit of interest in our stand, so definitely an event worth doing.

With regards to the Pensioners Fairs, FW believed that only those in Nelson and Colne were worth attending. The Barnoldswick Fair was too far away to generate any interest.

FW put up the Christmas tree in the Unitarian Chapel, which she hoped members had a chance to see. This is now stored along with the decorations in the cupboard where the boards are kept.

Photos of some members for the boards at the monthly meeting still required, AW or JB to arrange.

9. Web Editor's Report

Web Site and updates- The website has been updated with amended information obtained from the monthly newsletters and photos provided by the web editor and members. The Science Group provided a Christmas Quiz which is downloadable (including answers) as a PDF from the web site. No material has been received from group leaders.

Committee Agendas & Minutes - Archived committee agendas and minutes are now available for download from the website.

Social Media - The possibility of creating a Facebook page for Burnley and District U3A to enable members to post items photos and other content that do not generally fit in with the context of the website was briefly discussed at the last committee meeting. As an example, Todmorden U3A have a Facebook page which can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/u3atod>.

The committee agreed to investigate this further.

10. Speakers' Secretary Report - Nothing to report.

11. Arrangement for AGM

PF and BH have volunteered to stand again for election.

A Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Group Co-Ordinator need to be elected at the AGM.

Requests for nominations for the committee to be included in future newsletters and at monthly meetings.

12. Format of Newsletter - Held in abeyance until the next committee meeting.

13. Report on Beacon training session - It was decided not to pursue installation of the Beacon system at this time, but would reconsider in the future should the system be of benefit.

14. A.O.B. -

FW invited the U3A to hold a book-stall at the table-top sale in the Chapel hall on February 13th 2016, 10 am-2pm.

GM reported that new members were mainly recruited by word-of-mouth from friends, but some did come via the website.

15. Next meeting

Monday 7th March 2016 at 10 a.m., at the Unity Centre, Padiham.