

BURNLEY & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10a.m. on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2016 at the Unity Centre, Padiham

Present: Shelagh Limmer (Chair), Peter Hartley, Margaret Bushby, Melinda Jackson, Marjorie Philp, Pat Ferguson, Alan Wiseman, Brenda Hayman, John Bridge, Maureen Hartley

1. Apologies: Freda Whittle, Gwyn Markin

2. Minutes of previous meeting: These were accepted as correct.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence received and Secretary's Report: There had been no correspondence and nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report: At 27th October enrolment of members for the current year stood at 263. At the same time last year membership numbered 254.

At 21st November the Main bank account balance stood at £8,124.78, and the Social bank account held £480.20.

The Main account paid £350 for the printing of 90 calendars for 2017 on behalf of the Photography group, selling at £5.00 each. It is understood that a new Christmas tree and trimmings is to be purchased to represent the U3A at the Padiham Road Methodist Church tree festival.

The Social account paid £912 this month for the Christmas event at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel. Members attending paid £760 in total and thus benefited from a subsidy from the account.

Committee members were asked to submit their expenses for the year end as soon as possible after they have been incurred.

The Treasurer is investigating the possibility of changing the size of the 2017-18 membership card so as to be similar to a bank card. There are advantages and disadvantages. The Committee were asked for their views. Cost implications are to be explored.

6. Group Co-ordinator's Report: The History Group started off with a membership of approximately 12 and was well received.

The German Group, which is scheduled to start in January has not yet got enough interested members to be viable. This is surprising as initial interest was high.

Margaret Jones is stepping down as Leader of the Philosophy Group due to health issues. A possible replacement has volunteered.

The Group Leader's meeting was considered and it was agreed Margaret should approach Ighen Leigh to book the room and refreshments on the 21st February, 2017. Suggestions for the Agenda are welcome.

7. Publicity Officer's Report: Leaflets have been placed in local libraries.

Christmas trees are to be put in the Unitarian Chapel and Padiham Road Methodist Church by Brenda and Pat.

8. Web Editor's Report: The website has been updated with amended information obtained from the monthly newsletter. Little copy has been received from group leaders. Some of the specialist group pages are rather sparse on information for prospective members and in some cases are probably out of date.

Anyone who has information/events/photographs etc. which they would like to appear on our facebook page should e-mail John Bridge at johnbridge@gmail.com. U3A members who have a Facebook login can post using the Visitor Post option (all posts are moderated before being published).

The number of e-mail enquiries, either general or about specific specialist groups, is starting to increase. Statistics will be recorded. These are normally forwarded on to the specialist group leader for action. It cannot be confirmed that these are actioned as there is not always a response from the group leader.

Website stats were circulated.

9. Speaker's Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

10. December Meeting: Alan reported on progress.

The Photography Group slideshow is complete as is the Folk Dancing Group video. The Ukulele Group intend to have words of songs projected so the audience can sing along. They will have to perform off stage. The 'Daring Duo' have not yet responded to an email but it is hoped they will appear.

There has been a good response for members to appear, including the Bell Ringing Group, the Poetry Group and the Singing Group. It is a concern the programme may overrun. Alan was thanked for all his work organising the event.

11. 10th Anniversary of B & D U3A. Margaret has sent out invitations and received acceptances from Gill Russell and Julie Bradshaw of Clitheroe U3A. The Mayor of Burnley's Secretary has replied to say it is not possible for a decision to be made until the new Mayor is elected in May.

The format of the meeting was questioned with two members expressing concern that it was not a celebration of the U3A. After some discussion it was decided that the Speaker be cancelled but given her fee of £40.00. A performance, similar to the December meeting was suggested with members being asked to volunteer and also make suggestions as to the format. Concerns were also raised about the practicalities of serving afternoon tea to a large number of members and guests. Shelagh suggested a sub-committee be formed to manage the event. Margaret, Pat, Alan, Maureen, Brenda and Freda (in her absence) agreed to be on this. Margaret is to arrange a meeting.

12. A.O.B. Maureen was thanked for her services as Newsletter Editor for the past 10 years. John Bridge agreed to take over the role.

Shelagh presented a précis of the key points of the U3A Insurance policy. Some points were queried by Peter. Shelagh is to ask for clarification.

13. Next meeting: To be held at 10.00a.m. on Tuesday, 9th January, 2017 at the Unity Centre.