

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT U3A HELD AT PRIORY CAMPUS ON MONDAY 5 JUNE 2017

PRESENT:

Alan Swann (Chairman), Ernest Bradley (Vice Chairman), Max Senior (Treasurer) Pam Clayton (Business Secretary) Peter Smithies (Assistant Treasurer) John MacKinnon (Membership Secretary), Helen Dew (New Members) Sue Stokes (Buzz Editor), Chrissie White (Social Secretary), Robert Green (Development Officer), Sue Rowley (Choir)

APOLOGIES: Mike Nevins (Room Hire), David Lambert (Website Manager)

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the twenty-first Annual General Meeting - copies of the twentieth AGM minutes and agenda were available in the Buzz, along with the Chairman's Annual Report and the Income and Expenditure account.

A minutes silence was held in respect of members who had passed away during the last year.

2 MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members were asked to read their copy of the Minutes which were then accepted as a correct record. Proposed - Marione Brown and seconded - Mike Pease.

3 MATTERS ARISING

The U3A banner (collage) will be on display at every AGM. Also, the Executive Committee will be seated at the front of the hall in order that members can see who is representing various posts.

4, CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- The Chairman expanded on the report saying that Barnsley U3A maintains its vibrant position in the region. The Anniversary event attracted a good number of new members and along with our newly established partnership with Age UK Barnsley this has made a significant increase in our membership figures. However, this increase in numbers means we need to be able to offer enough opportunities for new members to join in group activities. We now have a free town centre space available courtesy of Age UK Barnsley who have also agreed to distribute copies of the Buzz to members who cannot make the monthly meeting.
- We are working with Age UK Barnsley to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst retired people and in particular in the Penistone Area. New groups are being formed to encourage new members to join from the Penistone area.
- A major administrative success has been the introduction of the Beacon System which allows members to renew subscriptions on line. The majority of Co-ordinators are now trained on the system which provides them with easier communication with group members. Corporate messages can also be sent from the Executive Committee, enabling members to be up to date with any important information.
- Our website now contains the new Constitution and several new policy documents including 'Working with Vulnerable People', 'A Protocol for Recruitment' and a 'Behaviour Policy'. Information regarding accessibility to all the premises we use for group activities is also available on our website.
- Thanks were extended to everyone who has worked to support the U3A in particular the Co-ordinators and Executive Committee who put in considerable time and hard work to ensure the continued success of the Barnsley U3A.

Following the report thanks were extended to Alan Swann, Chairman by Marjorie Exley

for his continued dedication to the success of BU3A.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT (Max Senior)

The accounts are made available in the latest edition of the Buzz. It has been a successful year financially and has enabled the Committee to agree a reduction in the annual subscription which is now £12. The Treasurer outlined this year's costs as follows: £3.50 capitation fee per member which goes to National, £3,000 pa for production of the Buzz, 20th Anniversary event £6,000. Members were reminded of the high cost of room hire and emphasised the need for Co-ordinators to inform Mike Nevins (Room Hire) when sessions are cancelled. The accounts were accepted as a true record - Proposed - Trudy Atkinson, Seconded - Peter Higginbottom.

7 BUSINESS SECRETARY'S REPORT (Pam Clayton)

There were no issues to be reported at this point.

8 SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (Chrissie White)

The raffle today had raised £107 and over the year this figure is over £1,000. Another successful year of social and Chrissie outlined future events which are detailed in the Buzz. As Chrissie is standing down this year she was presented with a bouquet along with thanks for all her hard work in the role of Social Secretary.

9. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Robert Green)

- Robert Green and Helen Dew outlined the joint venture with Age UK Barnsley which has been initiated to address loneliness and isolation, in particular in the Penistone area where members found it difficult to travel to some of the venues for meetings. An appeal was made for help with people who can no longer get to groups. The Penistone Project now has four groups - Crown Green Bowling, Crafty Chats, Quilting and a Walking group. Also under consideration are Cricket, Eating Out, Indian Cookery, Board Games, and Cinema/Theatre. A meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 June to update members regarding this.
- A report regarding development is included in the current Buzz. Robert detailed prospective new groups - DIY, Family History - including capturing oral history, Literary Group (Beth Rudkin) Old Blowers 2 (Max Senior), Drama Group (Lynn Maloney), Memory Training (Alan Swann), Short Mat Indoor Bowling.
- Following on from a presentation at a recent meeting, the Digital Champions offer a course to equip people with the ability and confidence to use computers at home. 40 BU3A members have joined up to this course.
- TAFs (Third Age Friends) is now partly to be replicated by the One Club - an interest sheet will be available at the July meeting (contact Vanda Outram for more information).

10 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Business Secretary read out nominations to Executive Committee:

Ernest Bradley - Vice Chairman

Pam Clayton - Business Secretary

The nominees for the Executive Committee were - Peter Smithies, John MacKinnon, David Lambert, Robert Green, Helen Dew, Michael Nevins, Sue Rowley, Margaret Saxton

A show of hands from the quorum of members present accepted the above as elected to the Executive Committee.

11 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS OF ACCOUNTS

Les Roberts and Lynn Maloney were appointed to check the annual accounts for 2017/8.

12 PREMISES ACCESSIBILITY

The Chairman updated the meeting in respect of accessibility to our venues for members with limited movement. Co-ordinators were asked to report any problems.

13. CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATES

- Travel Group - Lynn Maloney gave an overview of group activities for the year. All trips have been successful and enjoyed by members. Future events were outlined and everyone was encouraged to join in. Ideas for future events would be welcomed.
- The Memory Course has 5 members. There will be three sessions followed by practice of memory techniques.
- The next Italian night will take place on 27 July at Pinocchios.
- The Choir concert is scheduled for Tuesday 1 August at the Emmanuel, tickets £5.
- Curry evening - Gate of India, 29 June.
- Hearing Aid equipment - an interest list is available (Jackie MacKinnon).
- Old Blowers - an opportunity to learn music - first week in August (details to be confirmed - Max Senior)
- Drama Group - introduction to drama, including technique, movement, confidence. To commence in September - details will be announced later.
- An appeal was made for members to join the Stringalongs Beginners Group - 4 sessions (Beryl Clarke).
- Choir for people who can't sing - interest list available (Robert Green).
- Beth Rudkin announced there were still places available for a Facebook lunch she has booked at Barnsley College on 16 June (£10.95).
- A number of support opportunities are being offered by Age UK/Barnsley - free 4 week Felting course, Dementia Awareness, and help with Switching Energy provider.
- Sue Stokes announced that she now has assistance from Trevor Winslow and Mike and Hilary Newton with Buzz production and distribution and pointed out the slight change in layout of the telephone list. She also pointed out that a number of discounts are available from local businesses for U3A members and asked members to let her know of any more that were aware of.
- A new barcoded membership card is soon to be issued to all members.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.00pm.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 4th June 2018