

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF BARNSELEY & DISTRICT U3A HELD AT PRIORY CAMPUS
ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT: Dave Alton (Chairman), Sue Stokes (Vice Chair), George Gibb (Treasurer), Anne Smith (Business Secretary), Beth Rudkin (Buzz Editor), Eric Bell (Development Officer), Chrissie White (Social), Helen Dew (Membership Secretary), Mike Nevins (Room Bookings Officer), Di Allaway (Minutes Secretary), Trudy Ritchie (Membership and Gift Aid), Sue Rowley (Choir representative)

APOLOGIES: Mike Maher (Website)

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 19th Annual General Meeting. Copies of the Agenda and Minutes of the 18th AGM were available for every member attending. The Chairman and Trustees' Annual Report and the Income & Expenditure Account were included in the September (2014) issue of the Buzz.

The meeting was declared officially quorate.

2. MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH AGM

Members were asked to read their copy of the Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting.

The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman and Trustees Annual Report for the year 6/10/14 to 5/10/15 which will be presented to the Charity Commissioners was approved by a show of hands.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, DAVE ALTON

This AGM sees the end of my two years as Chairman. A period of change.

The website has developed and continues to develop with on-line membership coming soon.

Finances have proved an on-going issue as room rental rose, as did the Blue Box contributions before going down when subscriptions went up. Financial security is vital for our U3A to continue to exist. Charity Commission demand a reserve and no deficit.

Continued growth in membership even with occasional dips.

Continued growth in the number and variety of groups. Some have gone, which is natural, but more have emerged. The role of coordinators is central to the U3A, which could not function without them.

There have been frictions and differences of opinions, but that's inevitable in any organisation. That they can be resolved is the important factor, even if that requires compromise at times.

Then there are the changes to come. As well as those members of the Executive Committee who are standing down, it was my intention to do likewise. However, with new members coming on to the committee and changes to our constitution in the offing, and in the absence of another candidate emerging, I have offered to put myself forward again. If agreed by this AGM, I will remain Chairman, but only to our next AGM which could be next June – more of that in a moment.

I have become increasingly concerned, and have mentioned it at a number of monthly meetings and in The Buzz, about the difficulty in finding people to fill vital roles in our U3A. The U3A is not a provider of courses and activities. We are a mutual organisation, which means every member has a responsibility to contribute to, as well as enjoy the benefits of, the U3A. If people do not serve on the Executive Committee, acting as trustees, Barnsley and District U3A ceases to exist however large its membership.

Our present Development Officer is having to step down for personal reasons, but no one has come forward to fill that role. This means we will have to carry on without someone actively encouraging and developing new groups until someone does. As I have already indicated, I must stand down at the next AGM due to personal commitments. I am quite sure the U3A can continue perfectly well without me, but not without a Chairman. The chairman is one of the 4 standing roles that constitutionally must be filled or the Executive Committee cannot function.

If you value the U3A, then everyone has the responsibility of either putting themselves forward or encouraging those they know could do these vital jobs to come forward. Next year is the 20th anniversary of the founding of Barnsley U3A: it shouldn't be marked by being, potentially, its last year. So, my plea is, when you see requests for people to sit on the committee or act in certain roles please don't think, 'This is nothing to do with me, someone else will do it'.

Change has been the theme of this report. One I didn't mention earlier was our moving of our financial year in line with the tax year. Because this requires a change in our financial reporting, the timing of our AGM is now out of synch. Therefore, the Executive Committee proposes changing the date of the AGM from October to June. Please don't think I regret becoming Chairman, it has been an absolute pleasure and an honour to represent this U3A in a variety of circumstances. I have said what I've said today because I care about the long-term health and continuing development and vitality of our U3A, and I know you wouldn't be sitting here today without a similar commitment.

Let's work together to ensure that in its 20th year Barnsley and District U3A continues to go from strength to strength.

Resolution re Constitution Change

The proposal to change the date of the AGM from October to June was approved by a show of hands.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT, ERNEST BRADLEY

The accounts were approved by a show of hands.

7. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT, ERIC BELL

Eric is standing down from his role as Development Officer.

The current membership of Barnsley and District U3A is 759 (513 female/246 male). There was a significant drop in membership in April of this year but numbers are gradually increasing. Despite this, we have increased the number of groups from 85 to 87. Four groups have ceased during the year but several new ones have started. The main problem when trying to introduce new groups is finding coordinators.

100 of our present membership are either coordinators or deputy coordinators. The Development Officer's role is to facilitate finding coordinators and the lack of volunteers can be a problem.

At Committee it was agreed that there were advantages to having 3 people covering the role of Development Officer. One person would be the nominal head who would attend Committee meetings, the deputy concerned with the setting up of new groups and a third member of the team who would assist both but with particular responsibility for liaising with Mike Nevins (room hire) and the Treasurer. Anne Smith has volunteered to act as deputy.

The Development Officer needs to have enthusiasm for the U3A, computer/IT skills and good communication skills, both verbal and written. Eric appealed for members to come forward to take on the roles.

There is an interest list for the revised Local History group which will meet monthly, initially at Priory but maybe at Monk Bretton Methodist Church in the New Year.

The new Tudors group is proving very popular.

The Bread making course is starting in the near future.

There are 5 names on the interest list for Darts.

8. NOMINATIONS & ELECTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Dave Alton

Vice Chair: Ernest Bradley

Business Secretary: Pam Clayton

Treasurer: George Gibbs

The nominees elected to the Executive Committee: Helen Dew, Michael Maher, Sue Rowley, Trudy Ritchie, Chrissie White, Mike Nevins, Max Senior, Margaret Maher (Minutes Secretary).

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS OF ACCOUNTS

Barry Coburn and Lynn Maloney have agreed to scrutinise the accounts.

10. CO-ORDINATORS' UPDATES

Social, Chrissie White: there are a few tickets left for the Annual Lunch at Burntwood Court.

Travel Group, Sue Stokes:

The bus for the National Arboretum leaves the bus station at 9.30.

The balance for the Thursford trip should be paid direct to Welsh's by October 8th.

Royal Albert Hall Spectacular proposed dates March 16th-18th 2016. Interest list on board.

Italian Night, Alan Swann: 26th November at Mezzaluna, Mapplewell.

Stitches, Suzanne Dinsdale: there will be a Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning at Emmanuel Church on 20th November, 10-12. £2 entrance to include refreshments. In aid of Barnsley Hospice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE 2016

Thurs 9th 6.30pm New Members' Meeting Priory Campus

Mon 13th 1.30pm AGM and BUZZ Priory Campus

Fri 17th 9.30am Executive Committee Emmanuel Church

JULY 2016

TUES 5TH 11-4 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE METRODOME

7pm ANNIVERSARY CONCERT METRODOME

Fri 15th 9.30am Executive Committee Emmanuel Church

AUGUST 2016

Mon 1st 1.30pm Monthly Meeting Priory Campus

Tues 2nd 2pm Choir Summer Concert Emmanuel Church

Thurs 11th 10am Coordinators' Meeting Priory Campus

6.30pm New Members' Meeting Priory Campus

Fri 19th 9.30am Executive Committee Emmanuel Church

SEPTEMBER 2016

Mon 5th 1.30pm Monthly Meeting and BUZZ Priory Campus

Fri 16th 9.30am Executive Committee Emmanuel Church

Classics, Beth Rudkin on behalf of Jeremy Dinsdale: new group starting tomorrow (Tuesday) at Emmanuel, 2-4pm. Weekly.

Cardmaking, Betty Higginbottom: every Monday afternoon, 2-4, at Alder Close Community Centre.

Wine tasting, Hugh Kennon: a new coordinator is needed for this group.

Ukulele, Beryl Clarke: membership now open. New members must attend 4 introductory sessions, fortnightly. 6 gigs are booked before Christmas. Another workshop due to be held with Chris McShane. The group played at the Amnesty International Concert.

Out and About, Barrie Haigh: The proposed trip in October to Western Park Museum and the Graves Art Gallery is not well supported and may not take place.

Currently there has been no interest in the proposed December trip to Kelham Island Christmas Market. Barrie will wait until closer to the dates before making a decision as to whether they will go ahead.

Quizmasters, Barrie Haigh: new members welcome.

Writing for Pleasure, Barrie Haigh: new members welcome.

Photography, Barrie Haigh: a couple of vacancies have arisen.

Choir, Tony Jermy: tickets for Christmas Concert, 8th December now on sale, £5. Tony thanked Max Senior for inviting the Choir to sing at the Amnesty International Concert.

Guitar, Dave Alton: room for new members. Manor Court, Royston, Thursday 11am-1pm, weekly. The group played at the Amnesty International Concert.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The raffle raised £115.

Regional workshop for new trustees to be held at Doncaster on 20th November.

Next Coordinators' Meeting 12th November, 10am at Emmanuel.

New Members' Meeting Thursday 22nd October, 6.30 at Priory.

Roy Marsden asked that the U3A banner be displayed at Annual General Meetings. He also pointed out that the June meeting was a 'Buzz' meeting.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 6 June 2016 at 1.30pm at Priory Campus.