

Dulwich & District U3A Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday 10 February 2022, 10.15am, at Rosebery Lodge

		Actions
1	<p>Present & Apologies: Present: Angela Brown (AB, Chair), Neil Abrahams (NA), Keith Ball (KB), David Beamish (DB), Ruth Colvin (RC, Treasurer), Jane Coupe (JC), Richard Elliott (RE, Secretary), Helen Graham (HG), Helen Robertson (HR), Sandra Tait (ST) Apologies: Pam Cohen (PC), Caroline Knapp (CK), Anne Sharpley (AS), Maggie Smith (MS) In the absence of MS, DB had agreed to draft the minutes.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of meeting on Thursday 13 January 2022: The revised draft minutes were agreed with amendments as follows: —Spelling of Richard Elliott’s name corrected. —In item 6, “AB to visit SCID meeting” amended to “AB had requested to visit SCID meeting”. —In item 7, delete “to” after “thanked”. —In item 14, the event on 16 February is a London Region Network “Link” (not “Meeting”).</p>	DB to post on web
3	<p>Matters arising: In relation to item 12 (u3a 40th anniversary) it was noted that there was as yet no more news on the procedure for booking a stall at the Dulwich Park Fair (15 May 2022).</p>	
4	<p>Review of Open Meeting: The talk by the Revd Nicholas Henderson on 27 January on “How to ‘read’ the English country church” had been attended by 17 people at the Francis Peek Centre and 40 on Zoom. The Zoom had reportedly worked well. One or two trustees queried whether there had been over-emphasis on “church”; on the other hand, there had been requests for the speaker to be asked back to talk about churches from the Tudor period to the present day. It was thought that the requirement to pre-book a place had discouraged members from attending in person; so there was no such requirement for the next meeting (15 February, Professor David Perrett on “Who has done more for Health: The Doctor, the Scientist, or the Engineer?”).</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer’s report: Current account £9,249.60, Deposit account £10,030.28 January 2022 income: New members £80, Renewals £0, Table tennis £129 Spending: Zoom £14.39</p> <p>RC noted that reserves were still satisfactory. The issue which had now arisen was that Barclays were declining to open the new account for which almost all trustees had completed the formalities. Maggie Smith’s appointment at the Lordship Lane branch had been cancelled at two hours’ notice.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that Barclays’ behaviour was unacceptable, and asked the Treasurer to write to Head Office to protest. It was suggested that the upcoming London Region meeting might provide an opportunity to learn about the experience of other u3as and identify a way forward.</p>	RC
6	<p>Membership Secretary’s update: Current 656, Deceased 4, Lapsed 93, Resigned 45 New since last month 6, New since 1 April 2021 74 Members with Email 99%</p> <p>JC had been liaising with Karen Chessell, who was undertaking an initiative to support new interest group convenors, to identify recently joined members whose application forms had indicated interest in helping to run groups. Good progress</p>	

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	<p>had been made: convenors had been identified for groups devoted to “Park Strolls” and “Meditation/Mindfulness”.</p> <p>JC offered to review the application forms of more members (going further back in time) in the same way.</p> <p>RE noted that people occasionally “unsubscribed” to emails sent by Mailchimp. This meant that we could no longer send them any email communications.</p> <p>Trustees approved his proposal to send a standard email to such people giving them the opportunity to resubscribe if they had not intended to end all communication.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>RE</p>
7	<p>Inclusion & Diversity:</p> <p>The minutes of the SCID group meeting on 17 January had been circulated. It was noted that MS had retired from the group.</p> <p>In the absence from the meeting of any member of SCID, the Committee discussed D&D u3a’s objectives and the role of SCID. It was noted that significant work had been undertaken on accessibility by the Interest Group coordinators via the private homes risk assessment and the encouragement of Convenors to attend the National workshops and complete feedback for suggested changes. Additionally Sandra Tait has worked on raising the issue of hearing loss via meetings and Newsletter articles.</p> <p>The Speakers group have invited more diverse speakers.</p> <p>We have not made as much progress on attracting new members from our “districts”.</p> <p>As Robert Holden had offered to display new recruitment posters in the display notice boards at Herne Hill, AB had asked SCID to design a new poster. It is understood that this is now in hand.</p> <p>It was also noted that SCID had expressed a desire for some new members. AB to offer to place an item in the Newsletter.</p> <p>As regards feedback from Convenors responding to the questionnaire given to them, the SCID minutes had “welcomed points from participants” and noted recommendations “for future use”.</p> <p>AB noted that she had received two further feedback forms from convenors, one of them successfully sent by post to Rosebery Lodge (Dulwich Park, Dulwich Common, London SE21 7EX): trustees might find this a useful facility.</p> <p>Other points arising in discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Might we be able to learn from the experience of other charities, or other u3as? It was understood that Croydon u3a had run a successful programme. · Might it be necessary to establish a new u3a in Brixton/Camberwell in order to attract a more diverse membership? 	<p>AB & SCID</p> <p>AB</p>
8	<p>Coffee mornings:</p> <p>ST was holding another Zoom coffee morning on Wednesday 23 February.</p>	ST
9	<p>New members’ teas:</p> <p>ST was arranging another new members’ tea to be held in person during March. She would contact the Group Coordinators (HG, CK and HR) and JC to encourage them to attend.</p>	ST HG, CK, HR, JC
10	<p>u3a 40th anniversary celebrations:</p> <p>ST reported that her Newsletter item seeking volunteers to join a group to organise D&D u3a’s celebration of the anniversary had produced one volunteer so far, though the closing date for replies was not until 21 February. She was likely to have to seek out some specific skills: publicity and communications’ local networks, arranging catering, etc.</p> <p>As regards tree planting, D&D u3a might wish to join in the Third Age Trust scheme for planting trees in the Brecon Beacons at a cost of £7.50 each. That scheme was to end in March so we would need to move soon. After discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor one tree for each of our 14 areas, costing a total of £105: Brixton, Brockley, Camberwell, Crystal Palace, Dulwich, East Dulwich, West Dulwich, Forest Hill, Herne Hill, New Cross, West Norwood, Peckham, Streatham,</p>	ST, RC

		Actions
	<p>and Sydenham. A piece on this should be written for the Newsletter, ideally with a photograph or photographs.</p> <p>As regards planting a tree locally, ST had written to Lambeth and Southwark Councils about their tree planting schemes and awaited a reply. In Lewisham there was a scheme for residents to sponsor schemes in their own streets, with the residents planting and maintaining the trees. ST had also written to the Friends of Brockwell Park about the possibility of planting a tree there. The Dulwich Estate was another possibility.</p> <p>The Third Age Trust website was encouraging u3as to hold picnics over the Queen's Jubilee weekend in June. After discussion, the Committee agreed not to pursue this.</p> <p>It was agreed that the 40th anniversary should now be a standing Committee agenda item.</p>	Newsletter team
11	<p>Digital skills:</p> <p>KB reported that about 25 people had signed on for the session on Friday 4 February ("Mobile Photography and Sharing on Social Media"). Three more sessions had now been announced, on the remaining Fridays in February. He thought it would be useful to start to repeat topics, as it could be difficult to absorb more than two or three points from each session.</p>	
12	<p>Carnegie Library Fair, Saturday 5 March, 11am to 3pm</p> <p>CK has received an email from the Friends of Carnegie Library: "The Friends' committee will be very pleased if u3a take a stall. It is a library fair and educational groups are particularly welcome, even more so when they are self-organised. There is no charge for a stall but if you do find you have something to sell, we expect you to donate 10% of the proceeds to the Friends." It was agreed that D&D u3a should participate, and NA, RE & HR indicated that they hoped to be able to help run the stall (alongside CK). It was agreed that an item should appear in the mid-month mailing asking for more volunteers.</p>	CK, NA RE, HR Newsletter team
13	<p>Establishing which interest groups are operating and how they are meeting:</p> <p>HG said that she had considered surveying convenors but instead proposed simply to update her records when notified of changes. She was asked to circulate her current list to Committee members.</p> <p>DB asked to be notified of any changes so that the relevant page on the website could be updated.</p>	HG HG, CK, HR
14	<p>Format of open meetings:</p> <p>The Committee agreed that hybrid meetings (in person and on Zoom) should continue for the time being.</p> <p>It was noted that recently difficulty had been experienced in confirming bookings of the Francis Peek Centre. An alternative might be the Horniman Museum's Education Centre.</p>	
15	<p>Plans for recruiting/replacing trustees:</p> <p>It was noted that an AGM would be held in May or soon after and it was agreed to make this an agenda item at the next meeting.</p>	AB
16	AOB: None	
17	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 10 March at 10.15am at Rosebery Lodge</p>	
	The meeting closed at 11.45 am	