

Minutes of the executive committee meeting February 8, 2018

Present: Liz Day (LD, chair) Roman Bednarz (RB) Neil Abrahams (NA) Rona Black (RoB) Lore Arthur (LA) Chris Henry (CH); Susan Elias (SE) Mary Fyfe (MF) Diana McInnes (DM) Pamela Ruben (PR)

Apologies: Caroline Knapp (CK) Di Deudney (DD) Helen Graham (HG)

1. John Brent, Trustee for the London Region, had been invited to attend this meeting for the first 60 minutes. John initially outlined his roles and activities within the Barnet U3A, now 10 years old. Barnet has a thriving membership 16 500 and about 180 interest groups, 180 conveners and various subcommittees. Barnet had obtained a Healthy Living Grant of £10 000 which supports activities such as Nordic Walking. However, John's main talk concerned his role as trustee for the London Region (London Region Network). As such he represents London at the National Executive of the Third Age Trust. One of his tasks is to support new U3As, to offer advice on insurance, serve as a trouble shooter across the London Region among others.

John's main concern focusses on the Objectives of our Constitution. In the past U3As were encouraged to keep separate financial accounts for education and social activities. This has never been an issue for us. However, to keep in line with requirements by the Charitable Trust U3As need to change our current objectives

to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Dulwich and its surrounding locality.

to the one recommended by the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust, that is

“The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who have retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”

It was agreed RB would inform the Trust by March 20th that would implement such change to our constitution, probably at our AGM in May (Action RB).

John also reminded the committee that individual group convenors should not hold U3A accounts. There should only be one account to be administered by the Treasurer. MF confirmed that this was the case anyway.

Finally, John confirmed that the Third Age Trust will in future issue Newsletters, in lieu of emails to date, which will be sent to the respective Secretary. It is recommended that committee members sign up to receive the newsletter at u3a.org.uk/email

2. **Minutes** of last meeting approved given the following amendments: 9. any other business: NA and RB, not just RB. Otherwise agreed.

3. **Reporting back:** The Open Meeting on January 15 led by Rob May, Minister of HH Baptist Church was well attend .The content, addressing ‘the common good’ and informal discussion was considered to have been successful;

4. **Future Planning:** The next Open Meeting will be held 21st February at the HH Baptist Church. The Speaker will be Henry Hemmings. RoB to introduce speaker. Convener’s presentation may involve Trevor Roberts of the Photography group.

March 23rd. Daniel Greenwood on Sydenham Woods. LA to liaise with Dan urgently so that publicity can be sorted. Action: LA). April 25, Benny Dembitzer on his new book The Famine Next Door Action :(LD)

New Members’ Teas: March 20th. MF raised concern that Rosebery Lodge was unwelcoming and too small given the number the meetings attract - though its location in Dulwich Park had advantages since it can attract interested non-members. The suggestion was made that Dulwich Library or Francis Peake centre might be more suitable in future. It was agreed to leave the matter for the summer months and investigate alternatives in the future. (Action SE, CK with Angela Brown).

5. **Conveners’ Meeting on March 16th.** 10.30-12.45. This will now take place at Bell House when all conveners can come together at the same time. Angus will give an introduction, LD to talk on Enquiring Minds. There will be a problem solving session and a viewing around the house.

It was reported that DD is currently contacting conveners directly with the view of updating the booklet which should be ready in time for the New Members’ Tea on March 20th.

6. **The AGM.** This will now take place on May 23rd at the HH Baptist Church when the Objectives in the Constitution would need to be amended (see above). CH and RB stated that according to the constitution we require 20% of our membership to be a quorum. Of that 2/3rds will have to agree that change. To be investigated further (Action RB)

MF put forward ideas about placing members in groups around tables, 10-12 per table. Members would be given a set of questions for discussion about their expectations of and wishes for the U3A. This was enthusiastically received and will be discussed further at the next executive committee meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report: MF reported that of the 25 members who had previously only paid the quarterly membership fee, 20 had paid the full amount when renewing for the year. It was therefore agreed that there was no need to change from 3 payment options to 2 in the coming year. MF would be away until April 16. Membership renewal notices are to be sent out at the end of March. CK had agreed that subscription cheques should be posted to her address during that period. If members paid online, MF was hopeful that she could obtain a secure line in Australia to register them. Reminder notices to be sent out in April and May after which membership would lapse if not renewed.

NA to obtain new Membership Cards printed in a different colour so that Group Conveners can easily check if members of the group are paid up U3A members...

8. Membership report: CK's report cited that there are currently 545 members.

9. SE London Network. Angela Brown had sent the SE London Newsletter. A workshop on the Beacon system has been arranged for March 24. CK, MF, RB, NA and one other to attend. Cost £5.00. There will be a Study Day about the Suffragettes on June 8—possibly at DPG.

10. Third Age Trust: EGM 21 March in Birmingham. No volunteers to attend.

11. The Newsletter: General approval. Good pictures and committee profile. Entries for March required by 23 Feb. Photos welcome.

12. AOB

Table Tennis Group: MF reported a request for seed funding which she had previously circulated. Request for funding the first 3 session at £30 each plus possible cost of bats and net, after which the Group would probably be self-funding. This was agreed to be a good use of seed funding and was approved.

The Programme Update leaflet showed the April Open Meeting (Benny Dembitzer) as 19th April, but this had now been changed to Wednesday 25 April. Any leaflets being distributed should have this change marked on them. An electronic update would be done and it would be made clear in future newsletters and communications.

Meeting closed at 12.45 with thanks to DM for hosting.

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