

## **Minutes of the executive committee meeting January 8, 2018**

Present: Liz Day (LD, chair) Roman Bednarz (RB) Neil Abrahams (NA) Rona Black (RoB) Helen Graham (HG) 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)

**1. Angela Brown (AB) chair of South East London Network**, had been invited to attend this meeting for the first 45 minutes. Angela set out the aims of the network which consisted of 7 U3As with one representative from each. AB represents our group. The network has undertaken a number of joint activities/workshops. There is a newsletter to which all U3A network members can subscribe, and a website. Committee members appreciated AB's talk. It was agreed, that there should be good communication and collaboration. All future events planned by the network would continue to be publicised on the D&D newsletter. Dates for the South East Open meetings at Goldsmiths should be circulated to our members. LD to receive minutes of the network committee meetings, from AB

**2. Minutes** of last meeting approved given the following amendments: Item 2. Spelling of Michael Baum (not Baume); Item 12. Treasurer's report: the chair would make recommendation concerning the appointment of a new treasurer to the forthcoming AGM(not committee). Item 14. NA had asked RB to look into insurance of members attending meetings in private houses. NA had brought to the meeting the loop system as a hearing aid for evaluation and approval.

**3. Reporting back:** The Quiz with about 80 people on December 13 was considered to have been very successful. There were no problems with hearing; the screening of the questions worked well.

The convenors' meetings on December 15 was attended by 45. There was a good atmosphere, the food was excellent. New convenors found this meeting particularly helpful. There is a possibility that the next convenors' meeting would take place in Bell House. (Action: LD to investigate). A further point to note: if a convenor cannot attend this meeting, she/he should send a deputy. (Action: NA, HG, SE).

Christmas lunch 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. 76 members had joined the lunch. The atmosphere was excellent and the venue/ food very good. About 20 members had received the invitation by post, and 2 had paid but not turned up.

**4. Treasurer and Membership updates:** There was no Treasurer's report. MF stated that the finances were healthy but the invoices for the lunch had not yet been paid. CK tabled a report stating that that there were now 523 members. CK proposed a half yearly subscription reduction instead of three. This was discussed at some length. It was decided

that CK and MF should prepare a short paper for the next executive meeting outlining the pros and cons of a possible change before decisions would be made (Action: CK, MF).

**5. Programme updates.** NA presented the two-sided leaflet which will be sent to all members and copies will be handed out at the next Open Meeting on January 15. The leaflet was considered to excellent. Telephone numbers of convenors should be added.

The new programme booklet will have to be finalised in March/April. DD to liaise with NA about contacting convenors directly.

D&D U3A members may get booklet before or after they have paid their membership subscription. Time table to be proposed at next meeting (NA,DD)

**6. Future Planning: The AGM.** In her report CK had proposed to shift the Interest Group Fair to some date in September – rather than as part of the May AGM, as it happened previously. This would mean that planning for such an event would have to take place in June/July. Convenors would have to be warned. This proposal discussed at some length and was agreed by the committee. This will have implications for the AGM – which, it seems likely, will attract fewer people than in previous years. Furthermore, there would have to be a speaker following AGM. RoB has a speaker in mind. It might not be necessary to book All Saint’s Church. LD to investigate dates and change of plans. To be discussed at next meeting (Action: LD).

**7. London Regional Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.** LA and RB to attend.

LD presented a draft programme for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February Workshop: Active Learning and Research – a workshop for enquiring minds” and hoped for support from committee members.

**8. Monthly Open Meetings:** Monday January 15 (Rob May); Wednesday 21 (Henry Hemmings) Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (Daniel Greenwood) Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April (Benny Dembitzer); all speakers have been invited. Further Open meetings to be discussed at next meeting.

**9. Any other business.** RB reported that he had investigated the matter of insurance and, having consulted national guidelines, confirmed that we were covered for most instances. No further action was required.