

Minutes of the executive committee meeting 5th October 2017

Present: Liz Day (LD, chair) Roman Bednarz (RB) Neil Abrahams (NA) Rona Black (RoB) Lore Arthur (LA) Caroline Knapp (CK) Diana McInnes (DM) Chris Henry (CH); Susan Elias (SE) Mary Fyfe (MF) Di Deudney (DD)

Apologies: Helen Graham (HG) Pamela Ruben (PR)

1. Agenda Review. Membership matters to be reviewed under 8.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising. There were no issue and no amendments

3. Reporting back: The Open Meeting

The Open Meeting on September 15 on Polish Migration was presented by Roman Bednarz and attracted 93 people (80 members, 13 visitors); the talk was well received and stimulated questions and discussion afterwards.. The presentation by Di Deudney, convener of “Art for Beginners” was also appreciated.

Conveners’ Meetings on September 9; these were attended by 41 conveners with 17 apologies. Issues arising from both meetings included possibly setting up of a workshop on aspects of dementia. This will be investigated for the New Year (Action: RoB, NA, and SE).

Herne Market Stall, September 17, was considered to have been worthwhile with a good support from members and eliciting interest from the public, though there were no recruitments. Thanks to CK for its organisation. Silver Screen sessions at the Picture Houses were suggested as popular publicity opportunities.

4. Next Open Meetings and Workshops: Friday 13 on the Golden Age of Caricature. DD and RB designed and distributed excellent posters. Martin Goffe and Francis Hughes to be approached to do an introductory presentation (Action: LD&NA).

It was agreed to continue to register members on arrival at Open Meetings, and maybe review in future. (brought forward from 6).

Hearing workshop (24th) and Financial Planning Workshop (23rd), organised by NA, have attracted good numbers for both, that is 20&37 respectively. If at all possible, it would be good to offer tea/coffee (Action: RoB, NA to investigate).

Changes to Driving Licences was agreed inappropriate for a Monthly talk, but possibly suitable for a workshop. Information about government changes to licences, downloaded by LD from Age UK website, could be distributed to members.

Christmas Lunch, 20th December, at the Golf Club. RoB tabled plans, including Menu amendments (Action: RoB). MF wants to implement different booking system. Booking opens 1st Nov. Membership to be circulated.(Action: MF, HG)

5. **Welcome Leaflet:** This once again provoked a long discussion. The question was raised if we needed it at all, and also if *Members' Guidelines* should be included, discarded altogether or amended. Following a vote (9 out of 11) it was agreed to go ahead with the leaflet but to amend the guidelines (Action: NA, CK, and LD). Thanks to NA for the amount of preparatory work he had put into this.

6. **Interest groups:** there was a long discussion about the number of interest groups, possible new interest groups, or doubling up of popular groups with waiting lists. A list with amendments to the booklet was requested at the next executive meeting (Action: NA/DD).

Conveners of groups to be reminded regularly that they should note membership numbers (Action: SE, HG, and NA).

New Members' Tea: it was reported that these often attracted not just new members but also newcomers who wanted to find out more about the U3A. This caused some confusion and needs to be well managed. (Action: CH to help with newcomers, others to make tea).

7. **Purpose of Monthly meetings:** This was discussed at great length. The increase in membership numbers might lead us to needing a larger, perhaps more permanent location for either the open meetings and/or group meetings. A number of possible venues were mentioned, some had been explored already, and others such as the Nunhead Community Centre were suggested. However, no immediate solution offered itself. It was generally agreed that the Herne Hill Baptist Church was a convenient location for the time being and that other locations will be investigated in due course. (Action: LD and others).

8. **Membership systems:** CK and RB will explore further the Beacon system, though there did not seem a pressing need to change our current registration systems. CK reported that the membership number had now risen to 499.

9. **Charity commission** updates were circulated to all trustees. MF requested item at Nov. meeting on **Treasurer's Report**, Projections and Subscriptions.

10. **External meetings:** South East London Network meeting: MF, NA, SE to attend. MF to send check for 3 members. London Regional Delegates Meeting: LA and CK to attend. LD and RoB are committee members of the London Regional Meeting already. (Action: LD to communicate with AB re SE.London Network meeting dates and reports to D&D Exec.)

11. **Future Planning;** Open Meetings: 15th of January, possibly Benny Dembitzer, on his new book; Daniel Greenwood will give a talk on the Great Northern Woods, and Trees in Sydenham Woods, on March 23rd. Ray Munday on Drug Testing and Rob (the Vicar) might also be considered as speakers. LD reported that Liz Drury, U3A communications officer, is unable to talk to individual U3As.

12. **AOB:** Re Hearing Loops. It was proposed that some research into choosing a hearing loop might be undertaken by members of the Hearing Workshop(NA) Next Newsletter deadline 26th October.