

U3A WETHERY & DISTRICT

Minutes of meeting held at 10 Croft End, Wetherby
7 March 2011

Present: MB; LN; PE; ME; IW; AP; JG Apologies: JT

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
Prop: AP sec: LN

MATTERS ARISING

Constitution

MB had circulated copies of the final version of WU3A Constitution which were approved by all
Prop: ME sec: AP

Coffee Morning/Membership Renewal

It was decided that refreshments would be available on a self-service basis from the serving hatch and that a donation towards costs would be requested via a notice at the serving hatch. Committee members to supply cakes and/or biscuits. Tables for 4 would be set out

Communication

MB suggested that we should plan for the year ahead. She thought at least 6 months of dates for various meetings etc should be fixed so that everyone knows what's happening and can plan well ahead. With this in mind it was decided that next committee meeting should be a planning meeting.

It was suggested that the minutes of committee meetings should be published on line. A link to website should be set up. Minutes to be distributed to committee first for any corrections/objections and linked to website after one week.

Prop: LN sec: ME

The £10 reduced membership fee can now be removed from website. RH to be advised.

AP said that BD & RH have given a deadline for info for NL & for website. Nothing can be accepted after midnight on 9th of publication month.

AP also pointed out that at present there is no section on website detailing what services we offer to members. He suggested a new section detailing membership services. (eg ~ software for students; resources from U3A Central Office etc). The section can also point out local facilities available such as various free library services and British Library reading room.

Having a Community Section in order to enhance community links was also discussed. This was not felt to be wanted at the moment.

LN raised the question of buying a digital projector for groups. LN checked prices on Amazon and cost is approx £300 including carry case. LN will check how many groups would find this useful. Group leaders might need some training in its use.

AP suggested opening an account for U3A with Comet. This is free and would entitle members to a small discount on goods. This might be cheaper than buying from Amazon.

Prop: PE sec: ME

FINANCE

PE said that bank balance looks quite healthy at the moment.

	£
Received	6965
Payments	<u>3688</u>
Balance	3277

If we finish the year with 350 members the surplus for the year should be approx £225.

If membership rises to 400 surplus rises to £785.

At the moment there are 386 members. We have received 75 renewals and 2 new members. Expenses were claimed of £224 for 700 stamps; £20 for printer cartridge and travel expenses to Doncaster for CN/PE/ME

NEWSLETTER (NL)

AP spoke about costs of the NL. He handed out copies of a budget sheet showing various options concerning printing and distribution costs. The merits of black & white NLs or full colour were discussed and it was generally felt that colour was the best option.

Cost of distribution is a major financial item and various methods were discussed. AP has checked with other U3As and all seem to have same concerns. A major part of most U3A budgets.

PE pointed out that the costs of the NL takes more that 25% of subs and asked if this amount could be better spent on other things eg: committee has previously discussed buying our own projector etc. It was generally agreed that the benefits to members of the NL was very important as it is the only means of keeping all members in touch with U3A activities and amenities..

The idea of sending most NLs via email or by simply posting it on the website was discussed but some committee members (IW; JG) felt strongly that a hard copy was important as even those with internet access might well not read it on-line. Communication should remain a priority.

IW suggested that a line could be added to front page of next NL requesting members to state if they would prefer to receive NL via email (pointing out positive green environmental issues). JT's membership list could then be modified to show which members would be happy to receive NL this way. Thus a firm idea would be gained of how many hard copies of NL need to be printed. These could be available at the following Open Meeting (OM) and those not collected would be posted to members.

Prop: AP sec: IW

The dates for the printing of future NLs was raised and there was some discussion on whether this should be Jan/May/Sept as preferred by BD or Feb/Jun/Oct - advocated by AP. The latter option was agreed by committee.

Prop: PE sec: MB

The next NL will be in June.

GROUPS

LN reported that the Italian for Beginners Group looks to be getting off the ground with another meeting arranged for end of this month.

Family History group is having initial meetings.

LN has arranged several Group Leaders meetings this month to discuss progress and viability of all current groups. She is waiting to hear back from some group leaders.

The Theatre Group has folded. Some investigation needed to establish causes as this was the largest group with seemingly very enthusiastic members. It was reported that of the last 4 trips arranged only 4 members responded. Possibly conflict of ideas within group? DW to investigate. Group leaders report that very few people offer to make tea/coffee at meetings. Group leaders should try to organise rota within groups.

OPEN MEETINGS (OM)

IW said that he now had the format from Bardsey Debating Soc. for the OM debate on March 29th. Debate topic - **“That This House Believes the Scientist Is More Valuable Than the Artist”**.

The Debating Society will chair the debate. The motion will be put to the audience at start of the meeting and a show of hands taken regarding agreement with the motion. Two Bardsey Debaters will be given 10 minutes each to put the case for and against. This will be followed by input from the audience (seeded by selected members of U3A and Bardsey debaters in case of reluctance from floor) then a second show of hands to decide the issue. A radio mike is to be provided for those speaking from the floor.

IW is to check and liaise with The Daytones for the AGM meeting which will be held in the main Hall of the Methodist Church.

MB said that the Methodist Hall will not be available for any OMs on a Thursday and ME agreed to check on alternative premises.

(The Town Hall was thought to be a suitable venue but ME has now checked this and it is not available on Thursdays. ME has therefore booked The Scout Hut for May 26th and Aug 25th).

AP suggested that dates for future OMs should be set out. IW agreed to send details to all committee members.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

ME reported that only 37 tickets had been sold for the dinner (This has now risen to 40).

The golf club was booked for 100 so this is very disappointing. There was some discussion regarding cancelling the whole thing but several committee members were strongly in favour of going ahead. It was agreed that it would still go ahead.

Prop: PE sec: IW

It was agreed that an anniversary lunch would probably be a better idea for future years.

AOB

PE advised that charging guests £2 at the OM should be discouraged as it counts against our being eligible for gift aid. AP suggested that as we are unlikely to qualify for gift aid we are probably better off keeping to present arrangement. PE will email details of gift aid status.

MB said we should find out if any of our members have experience of applying for a lottery grant.
PE will distribute details of trustees' responsibilities.
JG will check with central office re what documents they have sent out as we don't seem to have received all info from them.

Next committee meeting Mon 4th April chez JT. 23 Beeches End, Boston Spa