

**Aughton & Ormskirk U3A**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held**  
**in Scout & Guide HQ on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Present:** Ted Morrell, Jeff Roberts, Sue Watkinson, Jeff Roberts, Chris Jones, Stan Bryan  
Pat McKenzie, Bernie Handford, Ann Haskell, Norman Williamson, Bill Evans, Edna Lally,  
Dorothy Harrison, Wendy Craddock (Minutes)  
**Trustee:** Peter Sewell, Alex McMinn  
**Apologies:** Andrew Beeston (Trustee) David Blanchflower, Beth Blamires.

- 1) **Minutes** of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010
  - a) The attachments about Vulnerable Adults Policy were withdrawn as being unsuitable for our age group.
  - b) The Christmas meal -confirmed at the Adelphi Liverpool after 16<sup>th</sup> March meeting.
  - c) U3A National Office should be referred to as such not as Head Office (as per minutes)
- 2) **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Christ Church old school – update:** the building work is now back on track with the handover scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010.
  - b) **Archiving materials:** from May 2005 onwards Sue's files are almost complete from May 2005. Ted will look at the earlier days.
  - c) **Speaker Meeting:** Michelle Karmy Trace, Speaker secretary, is making progress but is concerned about the absence of a business budget. A budget of £2K over a 12 month period will be made available.. The proposed list of speakers is Nick Hall for June, Frank Milner for July, Prof. Kirkwood, for August or November. The Speaker Meetings will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday morning of the month.. A DVD copy of the meeting could be made available with a report on the web site. The request for suggestions for speakers/topics has had little response. Christ Church has been booked for these meetings.
- 3) **Special Projects –Alex McMinn-**
  - a) **Brookside Housing Development:** Aughton Street, for extra care residents is behind schedule but should be on stream by September 2011. This is a flagship development by the Government and Department of Health and is an exciting development in which Aughton and Ormskirk U3A will be involved.
  - b) **Connecting with the Housebound:** the technology is still being developed for this project therefore we are not continuing with it at present.
  - c) **Mindgym Project:** Alex McMinn and Dr Sylvia Dillon presented a paper at the National Age Concern Conference which was well received. The Memory Course was run at Myerscough Residential School Spring 2010 to U3A members from a wide area with much acclaim and demand.
  - d) **Friday visit of a Consultant Advisor to the National Health Service:** David Towell visited Aughton and Ormskirk U3A on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 as part of his case study to expand his knowledge of U3A within the community. The leader of the council Ian Grant told him how wonderful U3A was. Dr Simon Andrew also gave U3A glowing reports.
- 4) **Annual General Meeting:**

Three formal retirements:- Ted Morrell, Sue Watkinson and Carole Gray. Sandra Webster was co-opted for one year only and is not seeking election, Norman Williamson offers himself for re-election, Willem Wiechers (co-opted), offers himself for election, New Nominations :-Pauline Jones, Marjorie Sargeant, Ann Snell, Wendy Craddock, Geoff Roberts and Alex McMinn (8).

There are four vacancies on the Executive Committee excluding any co -opted places so an election is required. Alex withdrew his nomination at this point.

On arrival an A4 sheet will be handed to each member with all the names of the nominees plus a short resume (50 words) of what each individual has done for U3A. plus a photograph. Candidates need to be there on the day and wear badges.

Tellers will be appointed.. Peter Sewell (Trustee) expressed concern that members who do not attend will not have a vote. However, the Constitution is clear on this point and proper notice of the AGM was given to all members via the newsletter.
- 5) **Membership Report Pat McKenzie:**

Membership number	2683
Actual number Members	1785
Number paid subs to date	1234
Lapsed member rejoined	1
Deaths	3
Number no longer renewing	16
Members this time last year	1789
Number paid subs this time last year	1190
Approx new member per month	28
- 6) **Treasurers Report - Chris Jones:**

Current Account	£21319
Deposit Account	£15010
Group Account	£ 8445
Bond	£ 5000

The national capitation fee from subscriptions will be £4 ½ K, the newsletter costs are up by £1,100. The nominal rent for the last two years is 10K per year. The groups' bids for funding have been modest and sensible. Decision on a recent grant application has been deferred until 6 May.. The application to WLBC via their "Membership" scheme is lower than last year. Many small grants are available but time to write the bids is not available, perhaps we need to recruit a member to take on this role. Horizons revenue is down by approx £600 The Treasurer reports in full to the Resources Committee about the groups' finances. If the Resources Committee have any concerns about a particular group that is then reported to the Group Support Committee.

## 7) Secretary's Matters - Sue Watkinson

- a) **Third Age Trust items:** Insurance - Ted took this information away but it must be passed on to Group Leaders and Trustees.. Information on various other items will be passed to the Group Leaders involved. U3A Nationally would like events to celebrate the Olympics 2012 suggesting that something is done in exploring the local waterways. We could lead a shared project using local networks. (Sue to explore and report back)
- b) **U3A events and activities:**  
2011 Diaries the order will remain the same as last year at 200  
The BBQ has a change of date.
- c) **Music Fees:** European Law have removed copyright exemptions for charities - this is a complex subject and no action need yet be taken but all buildings using recorded music will need to be registered at £81 per annum, per building. It may also be necessary for individual groups to register, but the process is still uncertain.. A letter will be sent to Lin Jonas asking for clarification on the U3A position.
- d) **Lancashire Magazine:** A photographer was around about 2 weeks ago U3A will feature in the June Edition in a general article about Ormskirk.
- e) **Sponsored Bike Ride:-** Alan Bonner is undertaking a sponsored cycle ride to raise Funds in memory of Bob Roscoe to present to Queens Court Hospice. The Committee was very supportive of Alan's efforts but felt it inappropriate to highlight this action both in the Newsletter and at Horizons. This decision was taken bearing in mind the number of other 'Charitable' requests from members, which had been turned down. The Committee had no objections to Fliers and Sponsor Forms being left on Tables at Horizons for the membership to view. It was reaffirmed that notices given out at Horizons should be for the direct benefit of U3A members and only relate to U3A activities. Members individually indicated their willingness to sponsor Alan. On a show of hands a decision was taken not to make an exception in this case.

## 8) Committee Reports:-

**Group Support and Learning:-** Minutes were circulated at the meeting. Aerobics Lite needs a professional for Indemnity Cover. Short courses - the concerns about the costs when unpaid members lead the sessions are being addressed. The Round Robin (see minutes) will now be sent in June.

**Publicity:-** May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline will be observed due to holiday commitments but space will be left for articles. Colin Gray has declined the role of Joint Editor. Sue's role will be broken into smaller segments to achieve a continuous flow of information. Kay Nixon has agreed to be a typist for hand-written material and Bill Watkinson will no longer be the photographer and we are looking to Digital Photography group for a volunteer.

**Welfare:-** A suitable block with headings for relevant telephone numbers will be printed in the Newsletter.

**Social:-** The BBQ date has changed to 12<sup>th</sup> June and the Christmas meal is on 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The Autumn event is still under discussion.

**Resources:-** (In the absence of Beth) there have been four requests for finance from individual groups, Mahjong, Keyboards, Handbells –(music stands), Stamps have requested a watermark reader.

## 9) Trustees Report. – no meeting

**10) North West Region.** The AGM and Lecture is on the 25<sup>th</sup> May in Manchester and two committee members are invited to attend.

Sue Watkinson was nominated and agreed to be our nominee for the North West Regional committee. All travelling expenses are paid for by the Third Age Trust.

The A&O Memory Course at Myerscough was highly praised, expert attitude and presentation. Other courses had mixed reviews.

**11) South West Lancs.** This group is struggling Ted and David will continue to be involved but Jeff will step down. A discussion about the various U3A's took place and also the government looking at towns like Skelmersdale with a new initiative (U3A seen to be very middle class). The U3A National Office will be having a general drive for membership.

## 12) Any Other Business:-

U3A has been mentioned on the "Archers" re-invent your retirement. We need to attract men/younger men who are traditionally bad joiners.

Our Trustee Peter Sewell congratulated the Executive on their running of the organisation.

**The meeting closed at 12.10**