

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A
Executive Committee Meeting notes
Tuesday 18 January 2011

Present:- Jeff Roberts Chairman, Wendy Craddock Secretary, Chris Jones Treasurer, Dorothy Harrison - Vice Chairman, Ann Haskell, Beth Blamires, Stan Bryan, Anne Snell, Norman Williamson, Bernie Handford, Pat McKenzie, David Blanchflower, Willem Wiechers, Bill Evans, Pauline Jones

Apologies:- Marjorie Sargent, Edna Lally, Alex McMinn – Trustee,

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that we had received apologies from the above

2. The minutes of the Committee meeting 16th November 2010

Signed as a true record

New Members Afternoon Tea

There have been 89 responses to the 220 invitations sent with 69 accepting. Lilly Bunner and June Pardy have agreed to help with refreshments and were invited to attend to consider the catering arrangements.

3. Matters arising

A letter has not been sent to the Sunday Lunch members as there has been no response from the article in the Newsletter.

Paid Tutors –tutors who refuse to provide proof of self employment status should be asked to sign a disclaimer as the trustees agree that we must be seen to be squeaky clean.(eg I declare that I am responsible for my National Insurance and Tax)

4. Treasurers Report:-

Groups are continuing to prosper.

Newsletter will cost about the same.

Current account looks well but£12,500 has to go out.

£5000 should be taken out of groups but is being left there as reserves.

New rules regarding Gift aid were discussed and the need to sign the forms annually reiterated.

Membership Report

Very professional looking membership cards for next year were circulated and admired.

24 new members have registered since last exec meeting. 2 very late renewals, 4 deaths, 1733 members

The membership fee of £20 to cover next 15 months has been taken up by some whilst others prefer to opt for the £5 for 3 months to try it out.

Committees

Group Support

The programme of short courses 2009/11 was circulated. DB was thanked for his hard work and excellent results.

A survey of groups attended in November revealed 62% of our 1723 members were active.

Publicity

The next news letter will be a week later than planned ie 17th March 2011. The theme will be volunteering. What is needed and what is involved.

Group leaders should be reminded to contact the Webmaster directly with information for the website.

The Ormskirk Advertiser is running a feature on local life and will be interviewing SB as we are a big part of the community.

SB will be standing down as chair of this committee after the AGM

Social Committee

No minutes as no meeting since last exec.

All diaries sold with £20 profit.

220 attended Christmas Lunch at the Adelphi. The final account is not yet available. Thanks were expressed to NW and his committee.

Suggestions were invited for this year's celebration. It was agreed to enquire if the Adelphi was available one week earlier with the same disco ie 16th December 2011

Resources Committee

"An inventory of all U3A equipment is complete" is that what BH said?

BH and BB attended a reception at Preston by LCC for organisations who had received grants. BH had expected to be told grants would be removed but quite the contrary especially with regards to housebound participation and interaction. This was in contrast to the reply from TAT regarding a retrospective grant for promoting the U3A in the area through our shop. BB reminded everyone that local councillors have a budget available to them to promote volunteer groups in the area and could possibly be a source of a small grant should the need arise.

Helping Each Other

The 'Dial-a-Ride' outing organised for 30th December to the Playhouse Theatre to see 'The Wise Men' was cancelled as it was felt inappropriate following the death of one of group. Perhaps this is not the right time of year.

Groups do seem to be supporting each other within their group.

Secretary's Matters

TAT – Royal Institution 29th March?

New information re cheques/ debit cards

North West Region

The Regional Conference planned to take place in Lancaster on Thursday 13th January has been cancelled and will be reorganised.

Was something mentioned about 47 replies to the survey?

Trustee's Report

The meeting took place yesterday Monday 17th January. JHR presented a report from the exec committee and was thanked and congratulated for all the hard work being undertaken.

Shared Learning Project

There was some confusion regarding a meeting scheduled for next Monday 24th January. JHR will contact TM to clarify the situation.

AOB

The complaint received about notices at Horizons being more enthusiastic should be ignored as it is not our remit to encourage attendance as all information is available in the Newsletter.

Request for nominations for 2011/12 exec should be included in the next Newsletter.

DB, BB and CJ are eligible for renewal this year.

Adverts for "That terrible U3A" programme will be £25. Contact BE for details.

NW enquired if we had been approached as an organisation of older persons for our views on whether the Borough Council should offer tokens and senior rail passes now LCC is taking over the NOW card organisation. No enquiry has been received.

The next full executive meeting will be on Tuesday 15th February at 9.30 at S&GHQ.(please give my apologise as I'm not coming back for it)