

Aughton & Ormskirk University of the Third Age

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 13 January 2009 in HQ at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Ted Morrell

Present: Beth Blamires, David Blanchflower, Stan Bryan, Carole Gray, Ann Haskell, Chris Jones, Chris Procter, Pat McKenzie, Norman Platt, Jeff Roberts, Bob Roscoe, Sue Watkinson, Norman Williamson, Alan Worthington.
Trustees in attendance: Andrew Beeston, Alex McMinn, Peter Sewell and Ray Sim.

Apologies: Beryl Campbell

Welcome – Ted welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ruth Griffiths who may volunteer to take the minutes. (Ruth subsequently decided that she did not wish to take on the role.)

1. Minutes of meeting held 9 December 2008 were approved as a correct record, having noted the absence of Bob Roscoe and amended the note about changes in the Social Committee to read “Chris Procter would remain on the Committee and become its Secretary”.

2. Matters arising –

- a. **Rebuilding Christ Church School** – a start date of Easter is still expected. Scout & Guide HQ will remain open for business: this item must be featured on the front page of the newsletter to reassure members as rumours are now circulating within U3A.
- b. **New Members' Lunch** – the date will be 30 January and at least 78 have already accepted the invitation. Ted requested volunteers to assist and the cost per head for the buffet lunch was discussed.
- c. **Visit of Martin Trengove (West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service)** – Beth offered dates in February or March, it was agreed that either was acceptable. He would need around 20-30 minutes to speak about the Ormskirk Partnership. AGREED that Beth would become the U3A representative on the Ormskirk Partnership when the invitation was issued.
- d. **Christmas Lunch at the Adelphi** – everyone had enjoyed the event, thanks were given to all involved in the organisation, final figures were not yet available. A different venue will be used in 2009.
- e. **Mind Gym** – the team leading this project will meet on Wednesday. Interest in the programme is high, with the PCT anxious to become involved. 83 copies of Mind Fit (the Susan Greenfield mind-exercise programme) and 50 copies of the DVD of the December lecture have been ordered. U3A News will feature a short article and photograph of the lecture and there is interest from other U3As and Universities. Alex mentioned the hearing/sight improvement programmes (Oxford); the introduction of Dementia Clinics across the country and the grant application to LCC Social Services for the tele-care link to the house-bound. It seems likely that these projects will become independent of A&O U3A as they develop. There was a discussion about the Mind Fit programme: Ann Haskell has now completed her tasks and can demonstrate her disc, but at the level she set (Horizons this week). Registration involves giving personal information. Ted believes that this activity is complementary to everything else done by U3A as it covers active retirement for healthy ageing and increases the learning dimension. Andrew Beeston is impressed at the significance of the work and suggested more information for members although Alex is anxious to manage the numbers of members who are interested. The March lecture will be on the related topic of “Memory”, given by our own member and “Mind Gym” leader, Dr Sylvia Dillon.

3. Group Support Committee – the future of the Committee was discussed. Jeff suggested grouping activities into “divisions” with Group members selecting their own division. The DIUS White Paper on Adult Learning is expected soon and will approve the U3A model of learning. Some Group Leaders are moving on (Alan Bonner, Colin Redwood, Audrey Coney) and we must express thanks for their efforts. It was suggested that there was a need for a Groups Support administrative function for the benefit of all Group Leaders, quite separate from learning activities, although functions do coincide. It was acknowledged that Group Leaders have different needs, some needing extra support, others content to work on their own. The history of Group Leaders' meetings was outlined – a means of saying “thank you”; passing of information between Executive and members but sometimes criticised. It was finally AGREED that a meeting would be held as soon as possible between those GSC members willing to continue, Ted, Jeff and Sue.

4. Speaker Meetings – these were now organised until and including May. There was a discussion about the problems the re-building of Christ Church School would make, evening meetings either at Ormskirk School or in Christ Church were suggested. In late July and August the Primary School Car Park would be available.

5. Request for Co-operation in a research project – the Social Science Department of Lancaster University was undertaking research on behalf of Lancashire County Council and Help the Aged into social life and attitudes towards alcohol. U3A had been approached to provide members willing to be interviewed. AGREED that Dr Cheryl Simmill-Binning be invited to attend Horizons. Beth, Alex, Norman P and Sue all volunteered to take part.

6. Request from Lancashire Sinfonietta – for a Christmas Concert in the second week of December in a venue capable of taking 200-300 people. AGREED that we accept the offer and explore using a hall at Edge Hill College or Ormskirk School. Ted and Tony Crimlisk will action.

7. Trustee Report – the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were NOTED.

8. Membership Report – In December there had been 2 new members and 1 renewal but 20 had enrolled in January at half price. There were now 1,704 paid members and the next membership number will be 2,345. Alex asked whether it was yet time to re-consider splitting into two U3A groups but it was noted that total membership numbers had changed little over the past 12 months.

9. Treasurer's Report – Chris gave a summary of the accounts, balances held are:

Current Account -	£10,353.32 (General account)
Deposit Account -	£2,954.89
Bond -	£5,000.00
Groups Accounts	£2,674.91
Lunch Dining	£401.49
Philharmonic	£3,692.75
Theatre	£4,795.39

The rental figures for alternative premises during the building work was as yet unknown but admin costs for the next financial year would be around £24,000 (increase in newsletter and postage costs, increase in subs to Third Age Trust). He suggested that an increase in membership subscriptions to £15 would generate income of £25,000. Accepting that there is still a surplus, he said that cash flow is more important. No Groups are now causing concern. The Finance Committee next week will make a recommendation on increasing either subs or the attendance fee.

A short discussion took place on the suitable, competent person to undertake checks on the accounts; this being a decision for the Trustees. Norman P said that there would be sufficient time for this to be arranged before the AGM.

10. Committee Reports:

a. Finance – No meeting *** the meeting was then adjourned – see separate note regarding “Helping Each Other” ***.

b. Groups Support – See item 3

c. Travel – No meeting but the Holiday Group would meet on Thursday at 1400: the Philharmonic Group have arranged a holiday to New York which clashes with both the Holland holiday and the Walking holiday. Holland has received little support and may be cancelled. New Year in Bruges was excellent and good reports had been received from the Ireland New Year holiday, attended by eight U3A members.

d. Publicity – meeting held on 9 January but minutes not yet available. The budget had been set for 2009-10 with production and postage increases taken into account. The Newsletter will remain within the 100 gms postage rate so any inserts must be funded by the originator. Cost per member of the four editions will be around £5.35. The hand collection in November was the best to date.

e. Social – A Race Night has been organised for 7 March at Aughton Village Hall, price £2.50, bar open. A mid-summer event will be organised and an autumn Quiz Night. Christmas Lunch on 18 December may be held in Southport's new Convention Centre and enquiries are currently being made. Beth said that another Tea Dance would be held perhaps on 5 or 12 March. There was no objection to either date.

11. Special Projects – nothing further was added, see item 2(e)

12. Lancashire Link/NW AREA – Jeff will attend the meeting on 22 January in Preston (subsequent note – Ted will also attend)

13. Local U3As meeting – Sue will organise a meeting with help from David

14. Third Age Trust – Sue reported receipt of the Annual Return Form. The number of members at 31 December was AGREED at 1,683

15. Dates of meetings – The dates of all Executive meetings was AGREED as the first Tuesday of each month, also that there would be no meeting in August. Sue asked whether the Executive should meet in May before or after the AGM. David questioned the need to meet monthly and urged that all Committees should consider their time-tables too. AGREED that this last item would be discussed further after the AGM.

16. Any other business

a. New Constitution – Andrew Beeston asked for news of the amended Third Age Trust model Constitution – Sue will contact the office for information.

b. Events in December 2009 – Norman P suggested there were already several events arranged for December and questioned the booking of the Lancashire Sinfonietta in the light of the other activities.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12 noon.

Chairman

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 February 2009 at 0930 –
in St Michael Church Hall, Church Lane, Aughton**

**The March meeting can be accommodated in the Scout & Guide HQ but on the THIRD Tuesday (17 March) -
thanks to the Oral History Group for agreeing to change dates.**