

Minutes of Study Group Leaders Meeting –Friday 18th September 2009.

1. **Welcome** from Chairman
2. 35 present. 15 apologies
3. **Minutes** from meeting on 20.3.09 were agreed.
Matters Arising. Point 12. SGLS have mostly ‘got the message’ about not using meeting time for unnecessary notices. Those who do not normally like to speak should be encouraged to do so, the Chairman would not curtail the time for them. Please reassure.
4. **Study Group Fair.** Very positive response. Coffee at the start was thought to be a good idea. Many people stayed to the end, including the Chairman of Watford Council and his colleague. Having chairs out as well as displays was a positive move. Question - how many new members joined SGs as a result? MF will ask in N/L to let her know but those present quoted: Gardening 3; Art App. 5; Sporting Forum 5; Jazz 2; Chess 3; Wit –Knits 2 and Photo Manipulation 2.
5. **New Equipment.** Member with responsibility gave a brief but comprehensive presentation.
-3 laptops (2 for general use) - faster, lighter, larger screens, up-to-date software and able to show Blu-Ray HD movies.
- Digital Projector –smaller, brighter and lighter.
- Internet access –uses mobile ‘phone network.
There is more demand for equipment now. The old equipment is still available and will be used if the new is overbooked: - laptop (6 years old), projector and portable lectern plus lots of leads!!!
Training will be available to all those who would like it- probably at Garston Fire Station. A list will be made available for SGLS. The trainer expects to hold 2-3 sessions with 9 people at each during Oct-Nov.
6. **Finance.** The Treasurer thanked the member who organised the budget and purchased the new equipment. It was well done. The grant from ‘Grassroots’ was extremely helpful and enabled us to buy more than originally planned. The finances are progressing well. The returns should be submitted by 14.10.09 – please inform treasurer if ‘nil.’
7. **Kall –Kwik.** Excellent service for our photocopying. Group numbers must contain ‘WAD’ not just ‘W’ to avoid confusion with Watford Park U3A –please obtain number from the SGCo-ordinator as this will need to be given with the order (**and** individual membership number) to denote who is ordering and for which study group. The member will be asked to sign a docket agreeing the order.
8. **Membership Numbers.** 443 at present. There were 23 not renewed and 32 new members. SGLS should check their members’ cards after renewal. The Chairman will provide statistics for the N/L about membership levels over the past few years.
9. **Study Groups.** None have closed since the last meeting in March. History has ‘reformed’ and there is one new group ‘Toffee’ (tea, coffee and chat). Two more are proposed, a DIY **discussion** group and Table tennis. Any further information will be given in N/L and at monthly meeting. There are two new joint groups being run with Bushey U3A, Painting and Painting for Beginners.
The second London Architecture course is finished, third to start in January 2010 and the second London Underground course has just started. Plans are in hand for a third First Aid course. Computer courses are listed in the N/L –**please read and keep for reference** to avoid unnecessary ‘phone calls. French and Mandarin will be run again at WBGS. The SGCo-ordinator will enquire about possible Italian after a question from the floor.
Outings. The gardening group have asked their members to try **not** to park outside the shops opposite the Essex Arms when going on a coach trip after a request from the local residents. This can cause problems when people are shopping. Other trips out need to be aware and considerate –please inform. The local authority is considering the problem.
10. **SGL packs.** All should have them – they are also on our web-site.
11. **Diary.** If any changes are necessary please use a pen to change as there will **not** be another new one yet, (likely to be a new Synopsis in Feb.2010). Sporting Forum is moving from Yeatman House to Combewood.
12. **Almoners.** Please keep them up-to-date so that cards may be sent.

13. **Newsletter** Please do **not** leave copy to the last minute to send to the Editor as this can cause problems. Inform as early as possible and try to send short, interesting articles from time to time.
14. **AOB - . Photos**-see relevant committee member about getting done
- **Fair Trade**. Please inform Science SGL if your group use two Fair Trade products –list being compiled
 - **Alzheimer’s Society**. Member who has this problem is doing sponsored walk. Please inform if you would like to contribute.
 - **Hollytree House Dishwasher**. Manager would now like users to start the dishwasher if **full or half-full** and to inform the office if used but less than half-full.
 - **Payments**. Various groups/venues have differing methods of paying for use, but all should obtain a receipt for the protection of both parties.
15. **Date of Next Meeting. 19th March 2010 at Hollytree House 2.30pm.**

The meeting ended at 4pm. The Chairman thanked the SGCo-ordinator for arranging it.