

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the
Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday, 21st March 2024**

Steve Sell (SS) Chair	John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator
Stewart Walter (SW2) Vice Chair	Frank Sluter (FS) Group Co-ordinator
Christine Luff (CL) Secretary	Tony Knight (TK) RUG Coordinator
Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer	Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member
Sue Allum (SA) Speaker Secretary	Vanessa Lucas (VL) Committee member
Peter Harris (PH) Website Co-ordinator	Heather Douglas (HD) Committee member
Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst. Program Editor	

1. Apologies: Christine Folland, Andy Smith, Brian Peel

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 15th February 2024 agreed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes, not being discussed later:

Rob to identify and contact members who have already paid £8.50 and ensure they pay the additional £6.50 to meet the current membership fee and to advise them to change the SO date from November to March. – Still pending.

Rob to confirm meeting dates for 2025. Request submitted but still awaiting confirmation from LT.

4. Chair's Report:

Welcome all to our March committee meeting. First, I would like to thank all the committee members that helped at the extra renewal sessions. I am especially grateful to Christine Folland who, together with Christine Luff and Christine Bolton, dealt with the payments and forms on the day.

The February meeting was once again well attended. Our speaker at that meeting, Andy Strange delivered a reasonably interesting talk. However there did seem to be a lot of concern for the contours of various airfields at the beginning which was probably lost on many of our members.

I have recently received notification of the facility subsidy awarded to Cheshunt u3a. Once again I note a reduction in the amount granted. The spreadsheet supplied shows our reward as being £782. This is described as a 10% subsidy, as is the amount awarded to Broxbourne u3a, and yet their subsidy amount is only £277. Once again Lea Valley u3a received a nil subsidy. As a result, I struggle to understand how the whole procedure works. I do find the whole form filling process a

bureaucratic nonsense, particularly when the subsidies granted to each organisation seem to follow a similar pattern every year.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

Having been away for the last month I have nothing to report but would just like to express my thanks to Andy for stepping in to handle the sound system during our last meeting and also to thank everyone who helped with the additional membership sessions, sorry that I was not available.

6. Business Secretary's Report:

u3a mailings and web contacts circulated, including Broxbourne Council advising of D-Day celebrations and a request to knit purple poppies for dogs.

Caroline Baynes of Isabel Hospice cancelled use of community table on the day of our February meeting. Then a day or so later advised that she was leaving her job and would pass on details to her colleagues for future reference.

Following invitation from Broxbourne, does anyone want to attend the Civic Ceremony at St Mary's Church, Churchgate, Cheshunt on Sunday 7th April 2024 at 3pm. (One + guest) as response is required by tomorrow, 22nd March, if not I will send apologies.

Action: Nobody available to attend the Civic Ceremony so Christine will send apologies.

7. Treasurer's report:

Monetary Assets as at 15th March 2024

Main Account	£9,606.34
Groups Account (Restricted)	<u>£18,181.75</u>
	£27,788.09
Cash Floats:-	
Membership Secretary	£50.00
Books	£5.00
Cash in hand held by Groups	<u>£2,520.46</u>
	<u><u>£30,363.55</u></u>

At long last funds have started to flow into the Main Bank a/c coffers: membership fees of £6154.50, book sales of £37.00, puzzle sales of £58.00, raffle £87.30, teas and coffees £89.50 and the return of £79.97 from Sue from the December refreshments allocation (as mentioned last month). Lastly there were two bank errors of £112.00 and £187.50 that were reputed to have been paid into our group account in Chelmsford. Both these amounts bore the "description" of 280714. I subsequently transferred them into the main account.

Payments were: February newsletters and renewal forms £216.00, February speaker £125.00, committee dinner £416.50 and refreshments for the membership renewal afternoons of £8.10.

The Groups have been very active with £15,012.10 paid in and £16,021.90 paid out.

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

Renewals are going well. Over 100 at each session, Wednesday was commented on as a good choice by several members because they can't make Thursdays.

Ready for a bumper meeting next week!

Please arrange for several (as many as possible) places where car parking permits can be distributed at the next meeting

I will hopefully put permits in all cards that are being posted.

9. RUG Co-ordinator's Report:

Hilary is organising the tea bar for this months meeting.

Christine L will confirm with Barry and Jan that they are available to meet and greet. Tony will arrange an additional 1 or 2 meeters and greeters.

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

Still awaiting confirmation of meeting dates for 2025 (see item 3 above).

Speaker this month is Tim Perkins who is speaking about "Midshires Search and Rescue".

He needs a table and will bring his own equipment but will use ours if that proves easier. Since this organisation is a charity, he will have a collection bucket for voluntary donations from our members.

There is no community table this month.

11. Group Co-ordinator's Report:

Frank reported that new groups for both bird watching and gardening are doing well. The local history group set up by Pat Dixon is very popular and now has 50 members. Pet lovers group is also active.

Trish Johnson has agreed to lead an IT group and will have a table at this month's meeting. This group is more focused on finding IT help than providing IT expertise.

Frank himself will be leading the new back gammon and scrabble group to be held initially at Tesco's community room on Thursday morning, once a month.

Stewart reported on the problems facing the badminton and TT group on Monday evenings. Stewart has been given 2 weeks notice that Goffs Churchgate Academy will be moving the table tennis tables to their gym so will not be available to the u3a group. There is a proposal that the u3a purchase TT tables which the school will store in the hall. Stewart is in discussions with the school regarding a way forward but it should be minuted that our group has played there for 12 years, never missed a payment, and as such feel that they should have been given more notice and had a fuller consultation. Stewart has investigated moving the group to LT but the cost of this option makes it unfeasible.

12. Website co-ordinator's Report:

Peter and Vanessa have continued work on the new website and joined a zoom meeting organised by u3a central office specifically to answer questions posed by new u3a's transitioning their websites. Vanessa considered that she could handle all the issues raised by the questions and so is in a position to start the website migration. It was suggested by the national u3a that groups should engage their committees to ascertain what are their objectives for the website, hence the discussion today.

Committee agreed with Vanessa that the website should provide information to both members and prospective members in an easily accessible manner, whilst maintaining security of contact details for committee members and group leaders, and that she should proceed with the migration.

Vanessa told the meeting that the process would be to migrate information first and then design the website around that information.

Timeframe: Vanessa has a zoom meeting scheduled for next week and at that meeting will ask for a mentor to get things moving forward.

13. Programme Editor's Report:

550 copies required this month.

More copies of the membership renewal form (2 per page) may be required. VL will check with DF to confirm the number.

The program will require additional pages this month because it will include: the treasurers report from Rob, chairs report from Steve, notice of and agenda for the AGM.

Action: Vanessa to confirm AGM agenda with Rob before printing.

Action: The monthly program needs to be changed so that Ray Lucas is acknowledged as producing the program but not listed as a committee member.

Malcolm pointed out that the minutes from the 2023 AGM need to be available on the website for members to read.

Action: Stewart to provide AGM minutes to Peter to upload.

14. Events Co-ordinator's Report:

Parking Permits were requested by John on 8th February and following a reminder earlier this week there has been a flurry of action and they should be delivered in time for next week.

15. Any Other Business:

Rob raised the issue that members of the committee resigning and new members being appointed had not been fully minuted over the past year.

This may have been because some members had indicated that they intended to resign "in the future when a replacement could be found" without necessarily defining a specific date. The transition had then occurred without perhaps being as well minuted as it should have been.

Action: At the AGM there should be formal recognition of those members resigning and those joining the committee and this needs to be fully minuted.

It was agreed that Jacqui and Jean leaving the committee should be presented with bouquets at the AGM in recognition of their work on the committee.

16. Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 28th March 2024

17. Next Committee Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 18th April 2024

The meeting closed at 15.30.