

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the
Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday, 16th May 2024**

Steve Sell (SS) Chair	Tony Knight (TK) RUGs Coordinator
Stewart Walter (SW2) Vice Chair	Frank Sluter (FS) Group Co-ordinator
Christine Luff (CL) Secretary	Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member
Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer	Vanessa Lucas (VL) Committee member
Sue Allum (SA) Speaker Secretary	Heather Douglas (HD) Committee member
Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst. Program Editor	Andy Smith (AS) Committee member

1. Apologies: Peter Harris, Christine Folland, John Durrant, Brian Peel.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18th April 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, CF & RS working to resolve.

4. Chair’s Report:

Welcome all to our May committee meeting. In view of the fact that I was away for the April meeting I will leave it to Stewart etc. to report on the AGM and the following meeting. I have heard that Andrew Baker was in full headteacher mode, even though members did enjoy the talk.

I recently received an email from Pauline Pretty announcing that there is a u3a local Network meeting at 2pm on May 21st at the Wodson Charm Bar. This is the first communication I have received since their last meeting. I cannot attend this as in my School Governor capacity I am already helping with a school visit to Stansted Mountfitchet Castle on that day. If any Committee member wishes to attend the Network meeting in my place I will notify Pauline.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

Our April meeting also included the AGM which passed off smoothly. No questions or nominations had been received prior to the meeting and as the AGM progressed this proved to be the case. There were no questions for the Chair or Treasurer’s reports or indeed any items raised under AOB. As is usual, the committee were introduced individually to the membership and the whole committee re-elected unopposed. The AGM closed at 2.30pm and then the meeting continued.

The speaker, Andrew Baker, gave a polished presentation on Nelson Mandela, although this was very much in the form of an academic lecture. He had not met Nelson Mandela or I believe experience of South Africa during that timeframe and although well researched lacked any personal anecdotes. His presentation style was also very much “grammar school headmaster to the 4th form” and he was disappointed that people left before the end (only a few it must be said) and that there were no questions (although some people did come and ask him questions on a 1-to-1 basis, not from the floor). Overall, I believe that our u3a meeting is not the correct forum for him to speak in future.

Christine and Frank dealt with a busy queue for membership renewals before the AGM and Christine opened the membership table at the end of the meeting to deal with a few additional enquiries. Collection of membership cards laid out over three tables also ran smoothly and thanks go to all the helpers in various capacities that helped the meeting run smoothly.

6. Business Secretary’s Report:

u3a mailings and web contacts circulated.

Email received via website from Julia Rizzi on day of our April meeting suggesting that we might include ‘local bereavement support groups in our booklet’. I said we would discuss it at our next committee meeting.

Action: After much discussion it was agreed that this was not appropriate for the monthly program. It was felt that this information was more appropriately available on an individual basis from a number of sources such as undertakers, when a family bereavement occurs.

Annual Return submitted on 22 April 2024. As we had 612 paid-up members on 31 March 2024 – Membership fee due will be £2448.00.

Updates made on the u3a Portal of Christine’s married name to Folland and our membership fee to £15.

Frank checked that Hilary Burling can have the community table at the May meeting, which I said would be ok as not aware of anyone else using it that day.

Request made for number of paid up members at 31 March 2024 for Annual Return which has to be submitted by 30 April 2024. *(Confirmed during the meeting by CF as 612).*

7. Treasurer’s report:

Monetary Assets as at 15th May 2024

Main Account	£8,256.11
Groups Account (Restricted)	<u>£19,224.38</u>
	£27,480.49
Cash Floats:-	

Membership Secretary	£50.00
Books	£5.00
Cash in hand held by Groups	<u>£2,520.46</u>
	<u>£30,055.95</u>

Everything is slowing down monetary wise this month: we've received £756.17 in membership fees - I need to get a breakdown of square charges from Christine. I've paid in £15.60 for Books, £24.50 for Puzzles and £23.95 for Teas and Coffees. Sue paid in £141.10 in respect of the Raffle. The Groups have paid in £6971.26.

We have paid out £34.81 to Christine Folland for Stationery and £168.00 to Broxbourne for the April programme printing. The April speaker was £170.00, Gifts to outgoing committee members was £120.00 and cups and blue roll for the main meetings was £125.94. I've just paid Beacon Fees and Affiliation Fees of £743.00 & £2448.00 respectively to March 2025, together with a £50.00 parking fine to Christine Folland for a ticket at a Membership renewal afternoon. Finally, there has been £4035.68 paid out for the Groups.

After the last meeting, I had Rena King asking for the old float in respect of the Family History Group to be returned to her to treat her members. The amount is £97.00 and was written off 2 years ago.

Action: It was agreed by the committee that the £97 should be returned to the Family History Group. This is to be used in part to fund a visit by the group.

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

A further 145 out of 792 members are still to renew.

Chritine Bolton has confirmed her availability to help Christine F with the membership table this month.

Brian Peel confirmed that he is available to help with the table for collection of new membership cards.

9. RUG Co-ordinator's Report:

2 RUG's are required as M&G for the next meeting. Hilary is in charge of the tea bar. Janet will help Christine L on the registration table

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

An email from last months speaker, Andrew Baker had been received thanking the u3a for assistance and welcome for his talk.

This month's speaker, Chris Foster, "On the beat in Kings Cross", had offered to give his talk for free, but it has been agreed by Sue that he should be paid a nominal fee of £20. Chris has recently led a walk for EG5 and is well recommended.

Hilary Burling will have the community table this month.

11. Group Co-ordinator's Report:

Frank reported that the new groups are generally running well. Bird watching, gardening, local history and backgammon are all active.

Pet lovers has lacked support so far, but as an outdoor activity, possibly due to bad weather. It was noted that the new GL had not submitted any information for inclusion in the monthly program.

12. Website co-ordinator's Report:

The new website is progressing. Vanessa reported that there is a lot to do because she is currently having to load information onto both the old (current) website and the new (not yet live) version.

The large volume of work was acknowledged by the committee and it was agreed that Vanessa should continue to work at her own pace and that no pressure should be put on her to commit to a release date.

13. Programme Editor's Report:

Most copies were taken last month so 600 copies are again required this month.

14. Events Co-ordinator's Report:

John was not available for the committee meeting but it was agreed that it would be the standard arrangements for the May meeting.

15. Any Other Business:

- **Photo Group Project proposed by Brian Peel:**

The Photo Group plans to undertake a project to photograph every active group within Cheshunt U3A, including the committee and main meeting. The aim is to produce a display board to be used at main meetings to show the activities of the U3A.

Within the Photo Group there are members who belong to several of the other groups but there are groups who do not have a photo group member. We have discussed issues which may arise, such as some groups having some resistance to being photographed.

We would welcome any thoughts the committee may have and the support of the Group Liaison Officer in promoting the idea to group leaders.

Action: the committee agreed that this was a good idea and should be supported. If certain members do not want to be photographed then they can decline. Vanessa also noted that such photos could be included in the monthly program and also on the website. It was agreed that Frank should send an email to GL's to ask for their cooperation in those groups that do not have a photo group member.

- **u3a Day**

This is scheduled for the week 21st to 29th September so if we want to have ours on a Wednesday as before it would be 25th September 2024, to run from 9.30 to 15.00.

Action: Sue Allum will contact Lynn at Tesco to check that we can use the space outside Tesco on that day and availability of tables, provision of which has been a critical point in recent years.

16. Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 23rd May 2024

17. Next Committee Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 20th June 2024

The meeting closed at 14.35.