

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the  
Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

<b>Steve Sell (SS) Chair</b>	<b>Frank Sluter (FS) Groups Coordinator</b>
<b>Stewart Walter (SW2) Vice Chair</b>	<b>John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator</b>
<b>Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer</b>	<b>Heather Douglas (HD) Committee member</b>
<b>Brian Peel (BP) Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member</b>
<b>Vanessa Lucas (VL) Website Coordinator</b>	<b>Jo Ware (JW) Committee Member</b>
<b>Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst Prog Editor</b>	<b>Margaret Partridge (MP) Committee member</b>
<b>Andy Smith (AS) Committee Member</b>	<b>Christine Luff (CL) Secretary</b>

**1. Apologies:** Tony Knight, Peter Harris, Sue Allum, Christine Folland. Isabel Martin attended as an Observer with view to becoming Minute Taker.

**2. Minutes of the previous Meeting** held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 agreed.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes,**

No matters arising

**4. Chair's Report:**

Welcome all to our April committee meeting.

The March meeting was very well attended. The subject of the talk probably encouraged a lot of members to attend. Steve Dimmer delivered an entertaining and very enlightening presentation on those popular 'Carry On' films that most of us will remember and dare I say enjoyed laughing at over the years.

The Older People's Fair at Halsey Hall seemed a great success. I was there for around 2 hours which seemed to fly by. I chatted with lots of existing members and attendees that seemed interested in joining and wanted to understand what the u3a offers. I also met with a number of our local councillors providing further opportunities to further our profile in the community. Margaret wasted no time liaising with the representatives on the other stands and I understand that she now has a waiting list for the Cheshunt u3a Community table. Thanks to all the other committee members that spent time at the Fair. I hope everyone found it worthwhile.

I have received a formal letter from our MP Lewis Cocking. It thanks us for exhibiting at the Fair and confirms that it was a great success with many positive comments. Lewis confirms that he will

certainly be holding this type of event again. He added a handwritten note that it was good to see us all again!

Finally, as this will be my last Committee meeting can I say how grateful I am for all the support I have received from the committee members during my 3 years as Chair and 3+ years as Vice Chair. I must admit it has been great being a part of such a brilliant organisation and I am a little sad to step away from the committee. However, I do believe I need to come off the committee for now and I am pleased that we have some very capable members ready to fill the vacant posts who will bring new energy and ideas so that Cheshunt u3a continues to develop and thrive. I wish everyone all the best and in particular Stewart as he takes on the role of Chair.

## **5. Vice Chair's Report:**

Another record attendance at our March meeting with in excess of 300 members at the meeting. Our u3a really does seem to be thriving and the pressure on existing groups increases leaving us with the perennial task of finding more members willing to act as group leaders, either for new groups or extra groups in existing interests.

Once again membership renewals were busy with many people prepared to queue rather than taking the option to renew online. Perhaps we should consider another afternoon session to relieve the pressure.

The speaker, Steve Dimmer, gave an entertaining presentation on the history of the Carry on Films which was filled with familiar clips and interesting facts behind the story. We effectively managed his video clips embedded in the presentation, once again demonstrating the strength of our sound system.

The Older Persons Day on 4<sup>th</sup> April organised by our local MP was well attended and so thanks to all of the committee members who helped and especially those who managed the set up and dismantling.

Finally, with our AGM to be held this month I can confirm that I have put my name forward to take over as Chair. However, I am happy to withdraw should there be other nominations.

## **6. Business Secretary's Report:**

Emails and enquiries circulated and responded to as required.

Interest in the Community Table from Megan Youell, Project Officer for Hertfordshire Health Walks and via a member -Health and Independent Living Support group in Cuffley.

### **Details to be forwarded to FS.**

Ensure the date of our Christmas meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, is given at the AGM.

Confirmed in the meeting that RS had paid for renewal of BArts subscription.

No questions or nominations have been received via email for the AGM.

**7. Treasurer's report:****Monetary Assets as at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Main Account	£13,768.61
Groups Account (Restricted)	<u>£21,329.87</u>
	£35,098.48
Cash Floats:-	
Membership Secretary	£50.00
Books	£5.00
Cash in hand held by Groups	<u>£2,520.46</u>
	<u><u>£37,673.94</u></u>

As we would expect between mid-March and mid-April, we have had a terrific amount of Membership Fees paid in - £4931.16 less the Square charges of £53.78. Then the monthly book sales of £19, puzzle sales £25.00, raffle £164.85 and refreshments of £42.35. I still need to pay Tony £20.00 for his expenses over the membership renewal afternoons. There was also a refund from St Pancras Hotel of £600 for the ELG2 cancelled visit. I will be withdrawing this in cash next week to give to Rosemary Trundell to give back to her members.

The groups paid in £7750.00

Outgoings have been quite limited this month with £120.00 for the March speaker, cups etc for the main meetings paid to Christine Folland - £114.24, subscription to Barts local community news group £35.00, a membership fee refund of £15.00, a refund of £948.00 re the forthcoming Llandudno holiday and finally we have paid out £4631.60 for group trips.

I have a standard expenses form which I will pass round to those who may have expenditure at some point. This will provide a proper audit trail instead of till receipts handed to me.

**8. Membership Secretary's Report:**

Renewals are going very well

600 cards printed, cut and laminated this week.

There are 220 renewals outstanding to date

Helpers required to guide members to cards which will be on tables (BP & IM can assist). Ideally 3 tables if available. Because we are short on time, cards will be left out until the end of the meeting to avoid queues and crowding Happy to explain over the mic during the meeting if needed.

### **9. RUG Co-ordinator's Report:**

RUGs for the tea bar and meet and greet have been arranged for this month's meeting. Isobel and Christine have the rotas for the next two months from Tony.

### **10. Speaker Secretary's Report:**

The speaker next week is Gaye Illsley. She will be bringing her memory stick to plug into our equipment for PowerPoint presentation. She will also bring leaflets so will need a table.

### **11. Group Co-ordinator's Report:**

All going well except for the Local History Group where the leader is currently not available for personal reasons. Tony Knight stepped in for the last meeting but may not be available for the next one. Understandably, Frank is reluctant to take on any more tasks and take over the group. Another member of the group needs to be found to take temporary charge.

**Action: Frank to try to find a temporary leader.**

As noted last month SW has started an initiative to try to start some new groups. From last month's meeting there were 2 potentials with 4 members signed up: fishing and beginners French. From previous experience SW has decided that a minimum of 5 people are required before a group can be considered feasible. He will send out an email to the membership via Beacon with further group suggestions, and asking for any others, inviting members to sign up. Forms will again be available on the information table at the main meeting. Going forward, for any potential groups SW will arrange a meeting of interested parties to formalise and assign a group leader.

**Action: SW to circulate email.**

There then followed a long discussion over availability of activities for new members.

MP stated that going round the tables with new members the ELG's reaction had been rather negative in simply stating that their groups were full. With the new membership year now starting it was suggested that leaders could perhaps look at their current membership and identify any people who had not attended for a long time and so can be regarded as effectively having left the group. Two group leaders (JD and SS) are on the committee and were party to the discussion. Others need to be approached. ML reminded the meeting that these are groups for which people are expected to have an input and that any new members should attend planning meetings to participate rather than just expect to turn up for trips. This could certainly be an approach by group leaders, rather than turning people away invite them to planning meetings. Efforts to start an ELG6 should continue.

It was also noted that other popular activities: holidays, coach trips, theatre trips need to be booked and often paid for many months in advance so new members cannot expect to take part in such activities immediately. However, cancellations do occur and so a name on a waiting list is worthwhile.

FS asked the question if we are now so big that we should close the membership. Both ML and SW pointed out that Lee Valley had previously done this and it had proved to be a disaster. Membership to be kept open.

MP then suggested that we produce an information sheet with bullet points explaining and introducing the u3a to be given to new members. This was agreed and MP will work on this.

**Action: MP to produce draft of new members information sheet for discussion at future committee meeting.**

At the Older Peoples Fair on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 MP obtained contact details for many of the other community organisations attending who were interested in using the Community Table at our meetings. She will liaise with FS to work out a schedule at future meetings. Subject to availability of tables it was also noted that we could have two community tables at the meetings if there were sufficient demand.

**Action: MP to liaise with FS to schedule future community table use.**

JW suggested that a “welcome email” be sent to new members to introduce the u3a and also to check that their email is correct. Wording to be decided.

## **12. Website co-ordinator’s Report:**

Vanessa reported that the website is running well. March was the month with the highest number of hits since the revamp.

We have had 4,600 visits since the revamp less than 1 year ago. Of these 50% are from Cheshunt area and the remainder mostly from London with a scattering worldwide so it is obviously proving a good source of information for members and prospective members.

Vanessa advised that in accordance with previously published terms, the u3a will start charging for the website in April. No details on how this will be done or the amount.

## **13. Programme Editor’s Report:**

600 copies required this month.

Due to lack of interest over the past 3 months we will no longer hold the new members coffee morning on Mondays after the monthly meeting.

**Action: Ray to remove reference to the Monday new members meeting from the program.**

## **14. Events Co-ordinator’s Report:**

Some reorganisation of the “standard layout” required this month. If possible 3 tables for membership cards (2 as a minimum). Possibly located where the books normally go, with books further back in the hall. TBD on the day.

Table for new members and table for the speaker.

No community table this month.

SW2 reported that Kirsten & Sharon (LT managers) have no problem with us using the entrance at the far end of the corridor if we wish. This would allow people to queue down the corridor rather than filling the LT entrance area and also has the advantage of being close to power points for the registration computers. The problem is that there may be other users needing to move along the corridor.

**Action: JD, ML and other committee members to review during the monthly meeting and report back for discussion at the next committee meeting.**

#### **15. Any Other Business:**

- **AGM.** Meeting will start at 2.15pm. Tables and Tea bar to close at 2pm. Agenda and accounts have already been published. No questions or nominations have been received. Existing committee members to be seated by the stage facing the audience. New committee members will be seated in the front row, ready to take their places and be introduced to the membership.
- **Committee Dinner.** Rob wanted to discuss this item with some reservations about the cost. It was agreed that next year this item would be reviewed.
- **Summary/precis of the Older Peoples Fair and Community Table going forward.** These items covered elsewhere.
- **Past Chairs Badges.** Andy reported on costs which include a £50 setup fee. The minimum number of badges required was 15 and we only have 3 past chairs so it was decided not to pursue these. The discussion then moved to ordering badges which could be sold to the general membership. It was ultimately decided not to pursue this either. The committee thanked Andy for his efforts in following up this item.
- **Carry-over of request from dance instructors.** Further information received with pricing of £5 per person quoted. We would still need to source a venue (at extra cost) and find a group leader. It was agreed that we should ask which other u3a's they have worked with. It was also agreed that we should also consider local options, such as Michele's Dance School and The Valle.

**Action: Brian agreed to ask Michele's Dance school if she could offer any options.**

**The meeting closed with a vote of thanks was recorded for the committee members that are stepping down at the AGM**

**16. Main Monthly Meeting and AGM: 1.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**

**17. Next Committee Meeting: 1.30pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*The meeting closed at 15.35*