

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday 19 February 2026**

<b>Jo Ware (JW) Vice Chair</b>	<b>John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator</b>
<b>Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer</b>	<b>Heather Douglas (HD) Business Secretary</b>
<b>Frank Sluter (FS) Groups Coordinator</b>	<b>Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member</b>
<b>Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst Prog Editor</b>	<b>Margaret Partridge (MP) Committee member</b>
<b>Andy Smith (AS) Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Vanessa Lucas (VL) WEB Coordinator</b>
<b>Peter Harris (PH) Committee member</b>	<b>Tony Knight (TK) RUG Coordinator</b>
<b>Sue Allam (SA) Speaker Secretary</b>	

- 1. Apologies: Stewart Walter, Brian Peel,**
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 15 January agreed.**
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The dance tickets cost is £40 plus vat.

**4. Chair's Report:**

Apologies for my absence from both the February committee meeting and monthly meeting, life gets in the way.

Our January meeting was very successful with an extremely interesting talk well presented by Paul. Once again there were only a few people who left after the raffle and this is a trend that I would hope to see continue.

Both Jo and I attended the East Herts cluster group meeting in late January. This was attended by Ian Matthews, regional rep, who did a lot of talking but I found very little of specific interest to our u3a. This does remain a potentially good forum for exchange of ideas between our local u3as.

Thanks go to Heather for driving the necessary preparations for our AGM in April. I hope that the logistics with the monthly meeting go smoothly and that the cage can be opened successfully.

I will return from holiday in early March and look forward to working with you all in our busy period with the AGM and annual membership renewals

## 5. Vice Chair's Report:

We have a lot to discuss today in A.O.B. with regards to the AGM, new membership days and shadowing / cover for the different roles so I'll keep this brief.

Great speaker at last month's meeting Sue, Thank you and really good feedback. It was so good to see that there was no mass exodus as soon as the raffle had finished and rather like the Princess Diana, JFK and Elvis incidents, people actually stayed after the talk to discuss where they were and their memories of the Libyan embassy siege. Even Ray Lucas having to be evacuated through the basement of his office building because his office was in the nearby vicinity when he heard the shots fired.

The meeting was much busier than expected especially the new membership tables, but it showed that with the new 3 table layout of; form filling, then payment, then gift aid, it works and that this is a good set up for the upcoming new membership days. With so many unexpected people, not only did we run out of programmes, but also new membership forms. Quick thinking, plan B's and C's being utilised and very British orderly queues, all was well. Once again Jan Speller and Alan Angel did a marvellous job.

## 6. Business Secretary's Report:

This has been a quiet month with not much happening for me to do. Have dealt with any enquiries that have come in. I am sure things will pick up this month with the AGM creeping up. I will discuss this in AOB. I have taken the u3a tablecloth into the dry cleaners.

## 7. Treasurer's report:

### Cheshunt u3a

#### Monetary Values at 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Main Account	£ 4040.66
Groups Account (Restricted)	£13,876.84
	<hr/>
	£17,917.50
Cash Floats:	
Membership Secretary	£ 50.00
Books	£ 5.00

Cash in Hand held by Groups £ 6,301.33

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£24,273.83

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Since the last meeting the Income has been: Membership fees and visitors £286, Books £19, Puzzles £25, Raffle £121.50, and Refreshments £45.40. The Groups income increased by £7261.34.

Expenditure was: Printing and Stationery £660.92, made up from January programme £260 and Andy's expenses for Printer Supplies £400.92. We then had Bank Charges for January £37.77, January Speaker £125, Start-Up fund for the new Line Dancing Group £200. Finally, Group Payments £6353.65.

Christine Folland – our previous Membership Secretary has agreed to be our Independent Examiner and I have arranged to take everything to her next Tuesday.

I started to organise the investment into Saffron Building Society, but after four online attempts that were 'timed out', I resorted to phoning them and they are now sending a paper copy for me to complete.

And now the BAD NEWS:

Lloyds Bank in Hoddesdon will be closing in a little over three months on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, meaning the nearest branch would be either Enfield or Harlow. We can, of course, use the Post Offices, but no longer can we pay in cheques at a Post Office (since January 1st 2026). After speaking with Lloyds, it seems that the way forward is for all the Group Leaders (who currently have a Paying in book), need to download Lloyds Mobile Business banking app, which is supposedly 'A simple, secure and fast way to bank'.

*The closure of Lloyds Bank was discussed and it was agreed for RS to explore the possibility of changing banks to Santander or NatWest who currently still have branches in Hoddesdon. Some members thought the banking app was not practical if have a lot of cheques and would not help with paying in cash. Some groups regularly pay in around £1000 in cash and cheques. Longer term we will have to stop taking cheques but to do this we have to give members notice. It is also an option to provide some group leaders with card readers.*

*£200 for a new Square machine, but at times there are special offers of £100 each.*

**Action:** RS to speak to NatWest and Santander Banks re possibility of transferring the account to them

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

I have now purchased the 1000 blank membership cards and have printed the front of them with the pond picture. Have also got printed 1000 renewal forms and 500 New Membership Forms. Thanks Stewart. The website has also been updated and downloadable forms added. Thanks Vanessa. The website still does not take card payments. We currently have 821 members.

## **9. RUG Coordinator's Report:**

Margaret and Barbara will be covering refreshments and possibly Isobel if she is back from holiday. Jan and Barry will be meeting and greeting. Tony may not be at the meeting or possibly late.

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

Malcolm Wills this month's speaker will be bringing a memory stick for his talk 'SO Far SO Good'. He will park at the back door.

*The possibility of having a Police talk on staying safe was discussed and maybe burlesque dancing.*

## **11. Group Coordinator's Report:**

I am announcing that there are now four new groups.

### **LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS**

We have a group leader Jenny McKenzie and a teacher. The group will start on Tuesday 3rd. March and will be weekly on Tuesday's meeting at the SEA CADETS HALL Flamstead End. After five weeks if there are sufficient numbers, we may change the Venue.

### **SHORT WALKS**

Short Walks will begin again led by myself. Meeting on the 4th Friday of the month. First walk will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February from Pinder L.V. car park Windmill Lane.

### **EXPLORING BY COACH**

Group will be led by Steve Sell in addition to his Exploring London Group 4. This will be in collaboration with Heather on alternative month with her coach trips.

### **HARMONICA GROUP**

The Harmonica group is being led by Steve Beach. There are currently 11 members and the tutor is Barry West. The group will meet twice a month at Tesco on Thursdays at 4pm. The first meeting will Thursday 26 February.

Martin Greensmyth is looking into starting an astronomy group.

The Cheshunt Free Church is closing down. Exploring London Groups 2&3 who meet there are moving to St. Clement's Church.

Rosemary Trundell who leads the Exploring London Group 2 has announced that she is retiring later this year.

No community table is required this month.

*Ballroom dancing has changed the day to Tuesdays and the numbers have increased. The Herts Young Mariner's Base are to be invited to use the community table in May or June. MP will ask when she is at the site.*

#### **12. Web Coordinator' Report:**

The revised membership and standing order forms will be available on the website on Monday. Web changes should improve the flow and reduce the pages.

#### **13. Programme Editors Report:**

No issues. 500 programmes are required for the next meeting as we did not have enough at the January meeting.

#### **14. Events Coordinator' Report:**

A new table layout plan has been given to staff. The entry was ok last time and the new table layout worked. The water was not hot last month. We need to check urns are on as soon as we arrive.

**Action:** Check with Laura Trott with regards to parking permits for next month.

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

AGM {HD}

All committee members present agreed to continue for another year.

The March brochure needs to include notice of the AGM, a request for any nomination forms for committee members and any questions to be sent to the Secretary by 9 April which is 2 weeks before the AGM.

The 2026 AGM Agenda, Chairs and the Treasurers Annual Reports need to go in the March Brochure.

Nomination forms for committee (10 copies) will be made available at the March meeting-HD

Copies of the AGM minutes for 2025 to be available at the March meeting together with the Treasurers Annual report. (200 double sided copies of each)

**Action:** HD will coordinate all documents for printing for the March meeting and those to be included in the March brochure

**Action:** VL to check – Date on last year’s AGM minutes

Update Christine’s details to HD

New Membership Days and Accoutrements (JW)

Tuesday 10 March 2.30 – 4.00                      Staffing: Andy, Sue, Rob, Jo, Malcolm and TK

Thursday 19 March 10.00-1.00                      Staffing: Andy, Heather, SW, John, and TK

No cheques will be accepted as payment at the additional renewal days, it is card payment or standing order forms only.

Same table layout as last year. TK to get milk and organise teas and coffees with biscuits

Shadowing (JW)

Frank to help Andy at the next meeting and a request at the next meeting for a volunteer member to be trained to help at meetings when required.

Frank fully conversant with Square card payments but require an extra person to be trained up re: upcoming holiday.

MP to arrange time with SA

Print Review (JW)

*New Membership Flyer and Group Schedule Schematic attached to welcome email, sent to membership numbers 700-719.*

*AS to provide JW with new membership names and numbers to help track and update ongoing welcome emails.*

*Monthly programme in colour: Summer and December, not AGM*

<i>New Membership Form</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Both forms with boxes to complete name &amp; contact details in order to aid legibility.</i>
<i>Renewal Form</i>	<i>1,000</i>	
<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>AS to print without 2025 date</i>
<i>Standing Order Forms</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>AS to print without year date</i>
<i>New Membership Cards</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Ordered Jan 2026. Include QR code for scanning and Membership Number.</i>

Privacy Policy (BP)

In BP absence JW proposed the Privacy Policy be accepted and put on the website and reviewed every 3 years, in line with the risk assessments review.

**Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 26 February 2026**

**Next Committee Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 19 March 2026**

**Meeting finished at 3.15**