

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

Stewart Walter (SW2) Chair	John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator
Jo Ware (JW) Vice Chair	Heather Douglas (HD) Business Secretary
Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer	Malcolm Luff (ML) Committee member
Frank Sluter (FS) Groups Coordinator	Margaret Partridge (MP) Committee member
Stewart Wagstaff (SW) Asst Prog Editor	Vanessa Lucas (VL) WEB Coordinator
Andy Smith (AS) Membership Secretary	Tony Knight (TK) RUG Coordinator
Sue Allam (SA) Speaker Secretary	Brian Peel (BP) Committee member

1. Apologies: Peter Harris

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 19 March agreed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Chair's Report:

Having been away in February I understand that the monthly meeting went smoothly so a big thank you to everyone who stepped up to help in my absence. I also believe that although the speaker did not stick to the advertised topic he was still entertaining and well received.

The main item for discussion at our meeting today is next months AGM and my thanks especially to Heather and Rob for undertaking the necessary preliminaries to make sure we are well prepared. I understand that everyone on the committee is prepared to continue so thank you all for your support.

The first membership renewal session went well and although I am writing this ahead of our second session to be held the morning of the committee meeting, I am sure that that will also be a success. Many thanks to Debbie Horwite for taking on responsibility to help Andy with membership renewals.

We have received a facilities grant from Broxbourne council of £1202 which again is logged as 10% (of our usage I assume). Although the same percentage, this is up from the grant of £782 last year, so I assume reflects our greater use of the Laura Trott facilities with additional

bookings for pickleball sessions. I did make a case for an additional lottery cash grant to help fund a loop system but this was unsuccessful. The only organisation to receive funds from both was Hoddesdon Rotary Club. There were large facilities grants to a number of arts organisations and to Hoddesdon Youth FC and I wonder if those making the decisions do actually read the application documents and realise that we provide social interaction, wellbeing and physical activities for more than 800 senior members of the community.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

Hello all, I'm very pleased to hand back the reins to Stewart, welcome back.

Last month's meeting was very well attended with the membership table being very busy with both renewals and new members. It was good to hear that we had some new member sign-ups who had only just recently retired.

We had a quick re-jig of the tables to accommodate the queues and good to see that our job cover roles worked well with Peter on I.T. and sound, Frank stepping up again to help Andy and Vanessa acting as the runner of the gift aid forms. I know busy and a last minute table re-jig to contend with, but going forward it would be really helpful for the gift-aid table to always be placed next to the membership table, not only to save Vanessa's legs, but also to keep on top of those pesky bank charges with residual income. Great for Debbie Horwite to 'volunteer' to help Andy on the membership table going forward, making a helpful and useful addition to the team.

The speaker last month was surprising; a cello playing MBE, awarded for charitable services regarding assistance dogs and he didn't play any music or indeed bring either his cello or an assistance dog. Instead, he was more of a stand-up comedian and well received by those audience members who stayed for the speech and were nearish to the front. Not as many members stayed for the speech as the previous couple of months, which was a shame as they missed a trick; he was funny.

We had enough programmes and the Beacon 'send to all' correction email for an erroneous entry elicited some unusual and indeed 'balsy' requests; including free membership because a spouse had died and requesting that Stewart Wagstaff become their very own personal 'gofer' were some of the interesting requests. Good to see that there less unknown / undeliverable messages than I was expecting.

I've heard good reports about the new groups starting-up. If they continue this way I'll have to re-initiate action stations regarding their risk assessments with of course my able assistant Margaret.

The renewal afternoon was very successful. With the extra help given by Debbie Horwite, Chris Dawson and Christine Folland and the committee members in attendance, thank you, the queues were minimal as the process of form completion, checking and payment flowed really well. The surprise of the afternoon was how many members stayed for a cuppa, a biscuit and a chat after renewing their membership, all successfully catered for by Tony, thank you.

I hear that this morning's renewal event was also successful. Hopefully these extra renewal days will go towards alleviating the pressure of the queues at the monthly meeting.

6. Business Secretary's Report:

All AGM documents for inclusion in the March brochure were sent to Vanessa who forwarded them to Ray.

Copies of **last year's AGM Minutes** need to be copied before the meeting and also the accounts 200 double sided was discussed at the last meeting. I have some committee nomination forms (10) which I will bring to the March meeting. These three documents will then be available for any interested members.

All email and website enquiries have been responded to and circulated where appropriate.

The AGM was discussed. RS Scott has had 250 copies of the accounts printed.

Action: HD to send copy of last year's AGM Minutes to SW to arrange printing of 250 double sided copies as per the accounts already printed and to VL to put on the website

7. Treasurer's report:

Cheshunt u3a

Monetary Values at 17th March 2026

Main Account	£ 2,827.35
Groups Account (Restricted)	£26,897.54
Saffron BS 1 Year Investment Bond	£ 5,000.00

£34,724.89

Cash Floats:

Membership Secretary	£ 50.00
Books	£ 5.00
Cash in Hand held by Groups	£ 6,301.33

£41,081.22

I have now completed and sent off the forms for the Saffron BS 1 year Investment Bond, together with our cheque for £5,000.00. It hasn't yet been cashed and I'm still waiting for the issuing of documents.

Christine Folland has now checked through all my Accounts and spreadsheets and signed them off as being correct and I took them to the printers on Tuesday. The figure shown in the Main Account that I've given you, is after the £5000.00 has been deducted.

The Membership fees are now coming through and over the last month we received £4098, which includes several £4 for the Third Age Matters subscriptions although we lost £52.34 where we used the Square devices. Sue paid in £125.51 Raffle money, and I paid in £20 for Books, £30 for Puzzles and £48.67 for Refreshments. There was a further £36,946.50 paid in from the Groups and we finally received £30 from Lloyds for another cashier error and my having to waste time phoning them.

Payments have been – February programme printing £261.60 and Print Cartridges for Brian £18.98, February Speaker - £120.00, Bank Charges - £55.58, a new Catering Teapot - £57.99 and finally we have paid out £23,225.80 for the Groups.

With regards to the ongoing problem of the closure of Lloyds, I've spent a long time chatting to the NatWest manager, but they can't offer us the same paying-in-book facilities that we get with Lloyds. The same is true of Santander; the business manager said that 44 branches would be closing in April and May, although not Hoddesdon, but with them acquiring TSB, they are looking to restructure the company, so anything could happen in the future.

I've been back to Lloyds and had a long chat as to the way forward for us; it seems that we can send cheques via post to:

Freepost LBG

and addressed to:

LBG Processing,
PO Box 13664,
Harlow. CM20 9XF

This is after checking that the cheque is less than six months old.

The amount is written in words and numbers and they match.

The recipient's name is correct.

It's in British pounds and pence.

It's signed.

You write the sort code and account number that the cheque is to be paid into on the reverse.

Although not mentioned, it might be a good idea to enclose the paying slip in the envelope with the cheques.

You can send the envelopes either by regular or tracked post – and claim for the postage on a monthly basis.

Lastly, let Brian and me know via email the amount that you send and when.

Perhaps Andy and any other Committee members can think of an alternative.

RS reported that he had dropped the bank card at the Pond and that the person who found it had contacted HD and later that day kindly returned the card to RS address. A discussion was held regarding the banking of cheques and cash following the closure of Lloyds Bank in Hoddesdon in May.

Renewals next year should be made by BACS or by standing order.

Action: Pre addressed envelopes to be investigated with the printers by SW and a stamp made up with the sort code and account details of our account and stamp pads to be arranged by AS.

The coach trip cheques received at the March meeting will be posted using tracking and any cash paid in at the post office to try out the system HD.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

The two renewal dates had been a success with around 200 renewals. There have been 390 renewals so far mainly BACS.

9. RUG Coordinators Report:

All ok for the meeting. TK reported to have a very reliable team in the group.

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

Speaker Andy Smith is bringing his own equipment. No visual equipment required. Talk is on Wartime Romance. Parking near to the centre is required because of his mobility issues.

Tony Tutton will be the speaker for the April meeting following the AGM

11. Group Coordinator's Report

I am pleased to announce that all the new groups are doing well. Line Dancing had fifteen attendees at the first meeting, but less on the 17th due to several medical appointments. However, it is working well with an excellent teacher and super Group Leader. The Sea Cadets Hall is proving a suitable location.

Harmonica Group had fourteen on the first meeting which was quite amazing with lots of enthusiasm. There is one member who can play well and another who can teach.

Short Walks has a great deal of interest. Fifteen attended my first walk which went very well. Further walks have been designed for the rest of this year.

Outings by coach are I feel rather expensive but I'm sure that Steve Sell will modify this.

The Community table will not be used at the next meeting at the moment.

A discussion was had re Cheshunt Bowls Club approaching Frank re options for making members aware of their organisation as looking for new members despite already advertising in our brochure. It was suggested and agreed that FS would offer them the use of the community table.

Action: FS to offer Cheshunt Bowls Club use of the community table.

12. Web Coordinator' Report:

Visitors/views have plateaued to a nice constant, no peaks and troughs. 53 countries and 900 visitors to the site who viewed 5500 pages.

Young Mariners Archery has been added to the Community news page.

Feedback on the website is that it is easy to manoeuvre but did not realise the button on the program page opens the program.

13. Programme Editors Report:

500 hundred copies required and there will be no community advertising pages this month to accommodate the AGM information.

Action: The community advertising pages have been included without revision for more than 2 years. JD and ML agreed to check the contact details and see that they are still current. In view of the space taken up in the programme (4 pages) we need to review their inclusion in future.

14. Events Coordinator

An extra table for gift aid is required if possible with the layout the same as last month. An additional person with BP on the gift aid table is needed and MP offered to help out doubling up with new members. New membership cards will be available on this table.

15. AOB

Summer Dance SW2

Tickets need to be printed at a cost of £40+vat. Brian offered to design a ticket. The heading will be 15th Anniversary Summer Dance, Saturday 18 July music from 7.30-10. Size 6 tickets on an A4 sheet.

Action: BP to design a ticket

Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 26 March 2026

Next Committee Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 16 April 2026

Meeting finished at 3.30pm