

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on  
Thursday 16 July 2026**

|                                               |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stewart Walter (SW2) Chair</b>             | <b>John Durrant (JD) Events Coordinator</b>    |
| <b>Jo Ware (JW) Vice Chair</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>Sue Allum (SA)</b>                          |
| <b>Andy Smith (AS) Membership Secretary</b>   | <b>Vanessa Lucas (VL) WEB Coordinator</b>      |
| <b>Peter Harris (PA) Committee Member</b>     | <b>Brian Peel (BP) Committee Member</b>        |
| <b>Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer</b>               | <b>Tony Knight (TN) RUGS Coordinator</b>       |

- 1. Apologies: Margaret Partridge**
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 June agreed.**
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**Action outstanding: RS and AS to discuss the Norton Renewal and move it forward.**

**4. Chair's Report:**

I was away for the June meeting but monitored the decision to cancel it because of the hot weather. Although unprecedented, I firmly believe this was the correct decision given the reluctance of the speaker to travel and the advice from Laura Trott management. Well done to everyone for managing the difficult situation extremely well – getting the information out to the membership and managing the stragglers who turned up on the day.

I will update everyone on the summer dance under AOB, but briefly the tickets have now sold out, including a couple of re-sales from people who can no longer attend, and I am anticipating a good evening for all.

I have also successfully registered Cheshunt u3a with Benevity – an organisation which links charities with donation providers. I still to finalise our profile and will then make an application to John Lewis in Welwyn for funds towards a loop system, a process which is managed through Benevity. I will also explore what other organisations we can perhaps approach.

Whilst the weather remains hot, I hope that it will not be extreme and that next week's meeting will pass off without any issues. It is likely to be busy with Paul Lillie being a popular speaker.

I will send out the usual email to the membership reminding people to bring water and keep cool.

I continue to be disappointed with the East Herts cluster group which seems extremely non-proactive. I want to try to determine how many “group share members” we have and from which other u3a’s so that we know which of these we do need an agreement with which is the principle point of the cluster group.

## **5. Vice Chair’s Report:**

Well, I’ve taken a look at the weather forecast for next Thursday and it does look to be on the warm side, but not as warm as last month resulting in the cancellation of the June meeting, I received thanks both from some members, Joanna the Cleous café manager and Sharon, the manager here at Laura Trott. Sharon also came into bowls the following morning to check that we were all ok and hydrated, which was very good of her.

One member objected to the use of email to receive the meeting cancellation advice as she regards emails to be pointless and impersonal. I explained that if I had personally called all 800 members, some members would still be missed and I would still be making calls until after the next July monthly meeting. She agreed that in this scenario, email was the best communication method.

The planned speaker on the day was proactive in his communication; that due to extreme weather train cancellations, he would not be attending the meeting in person but did offer to utilise zoom for his speech. Zoom, of course, is not a tenable medium for our usual 300+ audience and we did not take him up on this offer, but by him proactively withdrawing from the scheduled meeting, we did not have to pay him any compensation for his loss of earnings, instead his speech has been re-scheduled for next March. All of this re-scheduling, ably and efficiently handled by Sue, thank you. Frank was also very helpful with group leader communications, thank you.

We had approximately 10 members who had not received the email advice and still turned up at the cancelled meeting. All those that did turn up; members and committee members alike, were given a free drink by Cleous’ café out of the council extreme weather fund. My thanks once again to the committee members and able assistants who helped on the day to safeguard our fellow members. As always; by the members for the members.

I received a Neighbourhood Watch notification yesterday regarding the Herts Connected Live Longer Better group sponsored by the University of Hertfordshire. They are promoting a day to celebrate ageing, featuring taster activity sessions of walking sports and standing exercises, inspirational talks & valuable information from local organisations to get more people 55+ more active, more often. And the day includes a free lunch and refreshments.

Anyone interested in going along? I’ll forward the email received to you all later.

*The provision of information to comply with the conditions of the dance grant was discussed. JW and BP have prepared the notice board for the display at the dance. There are old pictures and photos. PH will pick it up to take to the venue for six o'clock. Members with numbers below 250 are likely to be original members.*

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

I have not been at home much this month but have dealt with or forwarded any enquiries. I contacted the Teens Unite Charity and offered for us to put a poster on the information table and use of the Community Table when free as discussed at the next meeting. They thanked me and sent a link to the charity website for more information and I responded again gently reminding them what we could offer in the way of support.

The meeting being cancelled last month caused me a lot of problems for collecting outstanding trip monies and selling my Xmas trip for which I had tight deadlines. I know Jackie Yeardye had similar problems with a theatre trip and I am sure we were not alone.

If the meeting is cancelled next week, I will be really stretched to collect the £3200 I have to collect for my Xmas coach trip by the end of the month as I am on holiday at the end of the month. I would like the option to collect payments in the café if the meeting is cancelled.

*The cancelled meeting was discussed, was obviously the best thing to do given the heat. Will look at providing a means for group leaders to collect outstanding monies or book trips if it happens again.*

## **7. Treasurer's report:**

### Monetary Values at 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Main Account                      | £ 2,335.99 |
| Groups Account (Restricted)       | £14,761.78 |
| Saffron BS 1 Year Investment Bond | £ 5,000.00 |
|                                   | <hr/>      |
|                                   | £22,097.77 |
| Cash Floats:                      |            |
| Membership Secretary              | £ 50.00    |

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Books                       | £ 5.00     |
| Cash in Hand held by Groups | £ 6,301.33 |
|                             | <hr/>      |
|                             | £28,454.10 |
|                             | <hr/>      |

Not nearly as much activity, accounting wise this month, due to the cancellation of last month's meeting.

So, during the month, we have received £60 in membership fees and Group Leaders have paid in £11,068.50.

Stationery payments have been £192 for June's printing, £49.96 for additional rubber stamps and £69.40 for Jo. Bank charges were £106.32, while the Affiliation subscription payment to the Third Age Trust was £3248. I paid £200 to Denis O'Shea for the Astronomy Group start up cost. There have been £17704.45 payments made on behalf of the Groups, together with £387.50 paid out to Halsey Masonic Hall for the hall hire re the Summer Dance. This was paid from the Main a/c, but needs to be transferred over to the Group a/c and perhaps be renamed in Beacon.

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

There are 775 members. Lapsed members will not be able to enter the next meeting. They will be referred to Andy to renew.

**9. RUG Coordinators Report:**

Barry and Janet will do meet and greet. Everything else is covered.

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

Paul Lillie the speaker will be arriving early. No screen is required. He will be bringing his bank details for the payment.

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

Backgammon and Astronomy groups are doing well. This month's Community Table is Power of Attorney.

There were 3 new people from Waltham Abbey u3a who joined the Line Dancing. They got the information from Facebook.

*SW2 said group announcements could be put on the screen at the meeting.*

**Action : FS to send out email notifying Group Leaders of the option to put notices on the screen.**

**12. Web Coordinator' Report:**

Group Share groups have been added to the website. Viewing numbers increased this month probably because the meeting was cancelled.

**13. Programme Editors Report:**

550 copies of the brochure are required for this month.

**14. Events Coordinator:**

The same set up as last month is required. SW2 will need a table for the Newmarket Races and BP for Gift Aid. Membership table needs to be the door. Members will be let in at the usual time.

**15. AOB**

Summer Dance Final Update (SW2)

Total income was £1800 from 120 tickets at £15 each. Total expenditure for the hall hire, band, raffle prizes and table decorations came to £1798 so a £2 profit! (confirmed after the dance)

MP was absent from the meeting but asked JW to suggest we ask original members at the dance to group together at the dance for a photo. Local business has donated raffle prizes. Tesco 2 bottles of wine, Bulls Head a voucher and The Raj a meal for two.

Newmarket Races (SW2)

The coach seats 49. Paid seats are 24 and another 6 reserved but not paid. A minimum of 40 seats need to be sold to break even. The remaining seats will be offered to other u3a's if not sold at the meeting.

**Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 23 July 2026**

**Next Committee Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 20 August 2026**

**Meeting finished at 3.00**