

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on
Thursday 20 August 2026**

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

- 1. Apologies: Rob Scott**
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 16 July agreed.**
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes - none**
- 4. Chair's Report:**

Our July guest speaker Paul Lillie did not disappoint with his multi-talented talk on the Beatles: once again impressing with his knowledge and both musical and artistic talents. There was a lot of positive feedback from the members and once again credit goes out to Sue for her choice of speakers.

The temperature in the hall was bearable and hopefully the last of our heatwaves has now passed and future meetings will be comfortable. The revised entry system is now in its fifth month and does seem to be working well. The real test will come in the autumn when the weather changes and queueing outside becomes an issue, but for now it is a success.

The Christmas meeting will be discussed fully under AOB, but from talking to people the general consensus is that we should look to revise the format that we have used for several years previously.

Our second trip to Newmarket Races was taken up by 38 people and was again a success. Learning from last years' experience most people took a picnic lunch and booking tickets for the Premier Enclosure proved to be a good idea. In the end we made a small profit from the trip, £18.80, into the general coffers.

The application to John Lewis in Welwyn for funds towards a loop system, has been approved and I am confident that we will be awarded some funding in Q4.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

Summer months are customarily quiet, but Cheshunt u3a does not stand still. The Summer Dance was a wholehearted success. The buzz and talk at the monthly meeting was upbeat, with so many members telling me how much they enjoyed the evening. There was no moaning, no complaints, just recounts of stories from the evening and calls for more. Bravo and Encore.

With regards to the £250 Publicity Support Grant from TAT for the Summer Dance, there were a couple of criteria that we had to comply with in order to be awarded the grant. One of them was a written review of the event and another was to market the event at new members. With thanks to the comments from Stewart, Brian and Margaret, I submitted the said review. The response from TAT was as follows:

"We are delighted that your Summer Dance was a success and we have shared your review with our communications team". This will now be considered for inclusion into one of the TAT publications.

With regards to the new members criteria for the grant award, July is a notoriously quiet month but we had an unexpected upsurge in the number of new members at the July monthly meeting: 10 and also a number of extra visitors.

In any relationship, whether it be your family, your partner, your colleagues, your friends or peers, communication is key and therefore I was doubly pleased to receive the notification from Peter/Andy about the data breach on Beacon and that it was not our u3a Beacon database but another software CRM platform with the same Beacon name. Thank you to Peter and Andy for the timely communication update, which quelled all doubts and worries. Good news with regards to volunteers. We had several new volunteers help out at the July monthly meeting; both with Sue on the raffle table and with Margaret on the new members table in the café. Feedback from these volunteers was that they enjoyed it and will definitely help out again on a regular basis. Good news indeed.

The news that the raffle table has been covered by a number of volunteers supporting Sue was discussed. A lady in the queue had also approached Malcolm offering to help and he introduced her to Sue. Asking for help had paid off.

6. Secretary's Report:

There has been an increase in the usual amount of web enquiries mainly from leisure businesses introducing themselves. Have dealt with or passed on any enquiries or information as appropriate.

Barts request to have their flyers on the website was discussed and it was decided not to add these on the website as they would need taking down when out of date. There is already a link to their website on Beacon.

7. Treasurer's report:

Cheshunt u3a

Monetary Values at 19th August 2026

Main Account	£ 3,344.98
Groups Account (Restricted)	£21,458.88
Saffron BS 1 Year Investment Bond	£5,000.00
	£29,803.86
Cash Floats:	
Membership Secretary	£ 50.00
Books	£ 5.00
Cash in Hand held by Groups	£ 6,301.33
	£36,160.19

As I have been on holiday for the last two weeks, there has been a huge amount of catching up to do – the Main account is finished, but the Groups Bank Account has an excessive amount of receipts to be entered into my spread-sheets. A lot more members are now paying for trips directly into the bank (which is good) but it does generate a lot more work for Brian and me.

I'll finish it all, once I return from another week away – starting tomorrow and will give a detailed report at September's committee meeting.

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

There were 10 new members and 5 renewals last month. Total members are now 790. The system has been documented - for emergencies. AS is re writing it using AI to produce an 'idiot guide'. Linda is able to cover if AS is not available and regularly helps on the Membership Table but helps on the Theatre Trips Table if Debbie is helping on memberships. Next time Debbie is helping AS will swap tasks with her so she gets an opportunity to use the system.

9. RUG Coordinators Report:

There are now regular helpers and they cover for one another. The Tea Bar Ladies sort themselves out so I don't really get involved unless asked. Everything is ok for the meeting,

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

This weeks' speaker David Hatch is going to talk about the Mercy Ships. He will be bringing a memory stick and using our equipment. He will be bringing some leaflets but will not need a table. He will also provide his bank details for his payment,

11. Group Coordinator's Report:

Group information on the slide show at the meeting worked well and a reminder will be sent out monthly to send SW2 any information to be included. Several requests for funding for equipment have been received and have been forwarded or sent directly to SW2.

The 2027 diaries are available to order but FS will not be ordering until next month. The table sign stands need replacing with smaller ones.

The Community Table is being used by Age Friendly this month.

The purchasing of new table stands (FS) was discussed and it was agreed to go ahead and source replacements. The poor condition off the notice board was highlighted by (JW) and after discussion and it was agreed JW would get some replacement costs.

Action: FS to purchase table stands and JW to cost replacement notice boards

12. Web Coordinator' Report:

The Norton Utilities downloaded ok and cleared a lot of rubbish from the system. There have been lots of visitors to the site from all over the world but 75% of the visitors were from Cheshunt which shows members are getting more used to using the website. The most looked at page is the brochure.

It was acknowledged that VL is doing a fantastic job of developing the website. JW asked if we could put more information on the events page but as this would need regular updating and would duplicate what was in the brochure so it was decided to leave as present.

13. Programme Editors Report:

550 copies of the brochure are required for this month.

14. Events Coordinator:

The layout worked well last month so will leave the same. A Gift Aid table will be required by BP.

15. AOB:

u3a Day (SW2)

This was discussed and it was decided this year to have a table at Laura Trott prior to the September meeting from eleven to one to provide information to visitors to the centre. The centre has approved this. We will not be using Tesco Brookfield Centre again as it has been problematic the last couple of years. PH and MP volunteered to run the table.

Action: PH to coordinate requirements

Christmas Meeting (SW2)

The date and content of the Christmas Meeting was discussed. It was decided to change the date from 17th December to 10th December which has been agreed with Laura Trott. The group leaders will be informed of the change for programming of trips etc. (FS)

SW2 will ask Tony Tutton (TT) to entertain us, the date has been provisionally booked with him. The cost has to be agreed but unlikely to be more than we have paid for entertainment in previous years.

Refreshments will remain the same as in previous years and Xmas music will be played in the background prior to the entertainment.

There will be the usual free raffle but it will be drawn throughout the entertainment to ensure members stay until the end of the meeting. It was suggested at the start middle and end of the performance.

Action: SW2 to contact TT to agree his fee and confirm booking. FS to notify Group Leaders of date change.

Update on Funding (SW2)

Having received a quote to provide a modern hearing loop system for the hall at Laura Trott, we are continuing to pursue sources of external funding for this installation.

Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 27 August 2026

Next Committee Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 17 September 2026

Meeting finished at 3.30