

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Laura Trott Centre at 1.30pm on
Thursday 17 September 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
Andy Smith (AS) Membership Secretary	Vanessa Lucas (VL) WEB Coordinator
Peter Harris (PA) Committee Member	Margaret Partridge (MP) Committee Member
Rob Scott (RS) Treasurer	Tony Knight (TK) RUGS Coordinator

- 1. Apologies:** Brian Peel, Sue Allum and Stewart Wagstaff.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on August agreed.**
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes - none**
- 4. Chair's Report:**

Our speaker in August, David Hatch, gave a very interesting talk on the history and work of the Mercy Ships, an organisation that not many people were aware of ahead of his presentation. As usual, the meeting was again well attended and seemed to go smoothly. The Christmas meeting will be discussed more fully under AOB, but I can confirm that I have now agreed the revised date of 10th December with LT and booked Tony Tutton with his "Music and Memories" talk.

Much of my time in the last month has been frustratingly spent trying to finalise the new group sharing agreement with other local u3a's. This has been a subject with the East Herts Cluster for 2 years now and after presenting a new agreement at the last meeting in early May there had been no feedback. In an effort to resolve this I asked everyone to make a decision by 7th September. So far only ourselves and Waltham Abbey have agreed, with LV likely to agree following their September committee meeting. The Chair at Ware is unable to make a decision as is the Herford Chair. The Broxbourne Chair is generally obstructive and although flip-flopping several times, currently does not want to join. This leaves us with a decision to make regarding members from Ware, Broxbourne and Hertford and how we can keep currently shared groups viable. This has been added as an AOB item and is probably the most important issue to resolve at this month's meeting.

I am pleased to report that our application for a Charitable Grant from John Lewis has been approved and we should receive £1500 sometime in Q4. I also note that we have received a

sum of £530 from Riviera Travel thanks to Peter Harris and Christine Dawson booking a holiday with them. This is a fantastic sum and a prompt for me to remind the membership to nominate Cheshunt u3a if they book with Riviera.

We will hold our annual group leaders' lunch ahead of next month's committee meeting for which I will be available, but give everyone early notice that I will not be able to attend the October monthly meeting – hopefully we now have enough people able to unlock the sound system cage!.

Action: SW2 to remind members to mention Cheshunt u3a when booking holidays with Riviera Travel.

5. Vice Chair's Report:

As I mentioned at July's meeting, the Live Longer Better event took place at the De Havilland campus at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield. It was very well attended with over 400 55+ attendees and also by many local dignitaries. It was a day aimed at the over 55's to encourage physical exercise and mental agility as opposed to sofa surfing. We did a group warm up to 'Sweet Caroline' and then it was off to our chosen taster sessions to try many different sports, including but not limited to: archery, pickleball, carpet bowls, ballroom dancing, assisted cycling, Nordic walking etc., but as Margaret so rightly pointed out, at u3a we already cater and provide for this ethos so for us it was like preaching to the converted. All attendees seemed to have a good time, including Brian. There were also stalls from Neighbourhood Watch, Herts Help, Herts Walks; all of whom would like to make use of our community table.

I have been working with Cleous café on a number of initiatives. Their hot drink and food discount was initially warmly welcomed by our members, but when some of them realised that it did not cover the time that they attended Laura Trott, there were a number of complaints both to the café staff and to me. Cleous café described it as 'a lot of aggro' which is disappointing because I don't think that Marks and Spencer or say John Lewis customers would 'cause aggro' if there was a time limited offer. John (thankyou) was kind enough to raise the timing issue with me and that is why I sent the Beaconwide message of the discount timing. This caused more moaning, but it is beginning to lessen now. Nevertheless, and undeterred, Cleous' are putting together some Xmas initiatives for our u3a members, with special pricing again. More information on that in AOB.

I attended our local MP's 'meet and greet' drop-in surgery in the café yesterday. It was very well attended, but apart from a very few, many had the same issues; one of which being a banking hub. The application for which has been formally turned down because of the bus routes that Cheshunt has. His P.A. has offered for Lewis Cocking to come and give a talk/hold a surgery at one of our monthly meetings, just like he did at Broxbourne u3a this morning. Thoughts please.

Lewis Cocking attending one of our meetings was discussed with a view to the same format as the Broxbourne meeting with possibly holding his surgery in the bar area. SW2 agreed to write to him regarding a date

Action: SW2 to write to Lewis Cocking.

6. Secretary's Report:

All web enquiries had been responded to. There was a query on whether the Lakeside Development Consultation would clash with the main meeting but on further investigation it was confirmed it would be at 3.30 in the bar area so should not impact the meeting. An enquiry regarding if anyone at the u3a would be interested in being a mentor supporting a young person at Haileybury/Turnford School they are looking for 5 volunteers. SW2 wrote back and suggested using the Community Table and gave them FS details to book if interested.

7. Treasurer's report:

Cheshunt u3a

Monetary Values at 15th September 2026

Main Account	£ 2,705.53
Groups Account (Restricted)	£20,861.43
Saffron BS 1 Year Investment Bond	£ 5,000.00
	£28,566.96
Cash Floats:	
Books	£ 5.00
Cash in Hand held by Groups	£ 6,301.33
	£34,923.29

So, here are two month's-worth of activities in the banks.

Membership and visitors were £474, less Square charges of £6.41; the £474 included a refund to a member who made a duplicate payment. Sue paid in £298.20 for the Raffles and I paid in £42 for Books, £30 for Puzzles and £79.81 for Refreshments. Group Receipts were £30,069.20, while there were receipts from the very successful Summer Dance of £990.

In July there was a bit of confusion with money that had been paid into the Lakeside branch of Halifax BS (part of Lloyds) for EL1 and the Theatre group and it took several phone calls and 1 and half months for Lloyds to put it right. They compensated us with £80 for my time spent on the phone calls.

Towards the end of August, I received through the post two 'Authentication' cards from Lloyds for Frank and surprisingly, Barry Wallace. Although they are neither Debit nor Credit

cards, they give the recipient access to the bank statements, by which payments can be made! The complaints manager I spoke with, put the blame on a computer glitch, which is a little worrying when we hear so much about hacking and scams. A week later £150 arrived in our account, together with a letter from the manager.

We have paid out £360 for programme printing, £220 for the speakers, £124.18 for bank charges, £33.78 for cups etc, £54.99 for the Norton anti-virus programme, £178.76 hire of the bar area until November and £796.35 for the hire of the main hall until December. Finally, there have been £23,969.55 paid out for the groups.

*RS had been awarded some compensation money for Lloyds Banking errors and it was unanimously agreed that the second amount of £80 RS should **use** to take Jenny out for a meal in recognition of his time and effort spent in fighting the cause. He had also received a further £150.*

Action: RS to have an evening out on Lloyds.

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

There were 11 new members at the last meeting and 2 more renewals since taking the total number of members to 803.

Christine Luff has now agreed to take the responsibility of the PC used to login at the reception desk including taking care of the PC and transporting to and from the meeting and updating. Can contact AS if a problem.

AS has now documented the membership system including illustrations. Debbie has seen it and has said is very comprehensive and said could follow in AS absence if required.

The storage of the documentation was discussed and it was agreed that AS would send a copy to HD to store on the memory stick with other documents

Action: AS to send copy of the membership system documentation to HD for storage

9. RUG Coordinators Report:

All going well. The usual 3 ladies will be manning the Tea Bar and Barry and Janet the door.

10. Speaker Secretary's Report:

Marion Pettet has confirmed for next week. Is bringing her own laptop (but may need ours). Needs our screen etc. She would like a cheque so SA will email RS the details. She does not require a table.

Last month's speaker has emailed to thank us for being so welcoming and was delighted that they received a donation of £200.

11. Group Coordinator's Report:

All Group Leaders have been informed of the Slide Show if required at the main meeting. Group Leaders were also informed that the December main meeting will be on the 10th December. All Group Leaders were written to as requested for information on other u3a members in Cheshunt groups, and vice versa.

U3A diaries have been purchased and will be distributed to Group Leaders at the October meeting.

Community Table will be used by Cuffley Day Centre at this meeting.

12. Web Coordinator' Report:

No issues with the website.

13. Programme Editors Report:

600 brochures will be required this month.

14. Events Coordinator:

Same layout as last month. BP will need a table for Gift Aid at the meeting

15. AOB:

u3a Day (SW2)

The table will be set up at 9.30 by PH/MP/JW who will also man the table. JD will assist with the set up. The display and notice board used at the Summer Dance will be recycled for the display. HD will come along to help at 11 when PH has to leave.

Group Leaders Lunch (SW2)

The lunch will be held at 12.30 before the October Committee Meeting. Setting up by Committee members will be from 12. The Committee Meeting will start a little later than usual.

Topics to be discussed with be Group Sharing and use of the screen at the meetings for notices.

Food and drink- the Tea Urn will be required and TK to keep back some tea, coffee and sugar after the September meeting for use at the lunch. JW/MP will get a quote from Cleous

Café for the provision of the food including gluten free options ASAP to see if more competitive than Simmons who we have used for the past 2 years.

Group Sharing Status with Other Local U3a's (SW2)

So far only Cheshunt and Waltham Abbey have agreed to take part. It is expected that LV will join after their September committee meeting. Ware has not made a decision yet and Broxbourne has said no.

To ensure continuity of the groups affected which are mainly Short Mat Bowls, Netball and Line Dancing, it is proposed to charge £1 annual associate membership to Cheshunt u3a for other u3a members to share our groups. AS would then include them on Beacon and provide them with a card for an associate member. If they attend our meetings they would need to pay a visitor's fee. Current shared groups would become Cheshunt u3a Groups.

Subsequent to the meeting it was discovered that AS can set up a Group Share membership category in Beacon and this will be used as a designation rather than Associate Membership.

SW2 will contact Head Office re Public Liability Cover.

The Group Share for Broxbourne to be taken off the website by VL

Action: SW2 to contact Head Office regarding Public Liability Insurance and VL to take Group Sharing off the Website

Christmas Meeting (brief update) (SW2)

The date 10 December has been given to and agreed by Tony Tutton who will be providing our Xmas Entertainment at a cost of £155 including travel.

Community Table (JW)

It was agreed to put information regarding the Community Table in the brochure one month in advance. At the moment there is no take up for October and November.

Cleous (JW)

The café is putting on some Xmas Events in December and will be offering members the opportunity to book first.

Tea Dance 3 December 1.30-3.30 at £12.95

Xmas Sandwich 10 December

Xmas Lunch 17 December

Main Monthly Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 24 September 2026

Next Committee Meeting: 1.30 on Thursday 15 October 2026

Meeting finished at 3.30