

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am at Zander House,
Cargenbridge on Friday 17th April 2026**

Present:

Kathleen Simpson – Chair

Pauline Slater - Treasurer

Maggie Holdsworth -Business Secretary

Sue Bedford – Minute secretary

Committee members - Barbara Brown, Douglas Maxwell, Carol Moyes, Roger Hardy, Alistair Brown

Welcome to all and introductions.

2. Apologies Dave Roberts

3. Minutes of meeting 25th February 2026

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Kathleen Simpson and seconded by Douglas Maxwell

4. Matters arising

1. Maggie has spoken to Graham Roberts from Friends of Ewart Archives regarding the possible transfer of u3a Dumfries archives to the Ewart Library.

2. Kathleen's key for the Lochvale House storage is handed on to Dave Roberts so he and Doug can check the contents of the storage facility

5. Correspondence

Kathleen circulated the monthly Committee update for April from Iain Cassidy, CEO of Third Age Trust (TAT)

Teressa Osman advised that her husband has fallen.

6. Chair's Report

1. Kathleen has been arranging with the Bank of Scotland for Pauline to have full access and Sue Price to have view access only to the Bank of Scotland Business Account.

2. The current committee with full Bank access are Kathleen Simpson, Douglas Maxwell and Pauline Salter with Sue Price having view only access. It is felt another signatory should be added so this will be Maggie Holdsworth.
3. Kathleen's address is now the registered address for the Bank of Scotland and OSCR.
4. Kathleen has found it easier to set up a new email address rather than take on the previous Chair's email address. Beacon and the website have been changed to chairdumfriesu3a@gmail.com.
5. Margaret Moffat's laptop has been converted to Chrome Book so Pauline Slater can use this to access the bank account and Beacon.
6. Barbara Brown may have a surplus Chrome Book which might be useful for Maggie Holdsworth.
7. Scottish Air Ambulance are unable to give us a talk in April. Clare Melinsky, artist and illustrator, is stepping in.

The speaker for the May meeting also needs to be changed. Possible alternatives:

- a. Jenny Batchelor from Chapters Bookshop in Thornhill who gives talks on Jane Austen.
- b. Someone from Moffat Mountain Rescue
- c. Beth Maddox has asked if she can talk to members about the charity D&G Befriending Project.

7. Secretary's Report

No report

8. Treasurer's Report

Kathleen advised the committee of the balance in the Current account and the Social Events and Travel account on Pauline's behalf for this month.

Some payments have been made but other invoices held over until Pauline is set up to pay them.

9. Membership report

Number of members 285.

2 new members have joined in the last month and one new member has paid but is still to submit membership form.

10. Groups Report

- a. The Birding Group have filled the minibus for their outing.
- b. Alistair and Roger will be the group coordinators, and they plan a meeting with Kathleen at Alistair's house to learn how to use Beacon.

c. As our September 2026 committee meeting will be on Friday 18th September, when the Group Leaders Information will be finalized, the Leaders' meeting should be on Tuesday 29th September, time to be advised. The handbook should be reduced in line with the TAT template

11. Booking Rooms

The best way to keep our treasurer informed of room bookings is for Leaders to type on "notes" on Beacon the dates and venue booked for meetings. There is also a Calendar under Beacon schedule which can be used.

12. Publicity/Newsletter

The digital u3a Matters magazine is in a reduced format. Carol will ask if more can be in the digital version as the group information is missing.

June Marchbank asked if our newsletter will promote The Art Society Dumfries & Galloway monthly lectures. It has been decided to have a What's On section in the newsletter.

13. Any issues arising from AGM

Accepted 2025 AGM minutes are still to be sent to Maggie for the records.

Draft 2026 AGM minutes will be sent to the committee for checking.

14. Monthly meetings

1. Following the research Kathleen collected at the AGM, the venue and café are as important as the speaker. As the Baptist Church have reduced their room hire rate it is hoped we will hold the monthly meetings there. A room to accommodate 50 is being arranged. A cupboard is available for storage, though the sound system will be stored by Doug or Dave.

2. From September we will go back to the first Thursday of the month as the 4th can be misleading as it is not always the last Thursday.

3. The 4th Thursday in April and May are booked for the NWRC but the 4th Thursday in June will be at the Baptist Church for the quiz and then the Baptist church for Thursday 3rd September onwards.

4. Inviting visitors to the monthly meetings for £5 was discussed. TAT insurance only covers members, but the venue must have public liability insurance

15. Finance Policy document

Douglas is studying the document as further information is required. Do we have a u3a bank mandate policy?

Dumfries u3a constitution is on the website.

Sue Price would like to arrange online registration for membership before the next renewal date.

Kathleen Simpson is currently the only contact with OSCR. Pauline Slater needs to be added.

16. New Application Form from TAT re Gift Aid.

Gift Aid guidance:- Derek Hardwood, TAT Treasurer, was very helpful.

- a. The membership application form needs to tell members how much u3a claim on gift aid, currently £12 of the £40 fee.
- b. A signed declaration form is required from all members claiming gift aid.
- c. Joint membership saved £4 as one magazine was issued to them at the same address. However all requesting the digital version will have their own access in the future.
- d. Joint membership is no longer appropriate as everyone claiming gift aid must sign their own form.

17. AOCB No time for further discussion.

18. Date of next meeting: Friday 15th May 2026 at 10 am

Zander House, Cargenbridge, Dumfries, DG2 8LX

**Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Kathleen Simpson and
Seconded by Carol Moyes on Tuesday 19th May 2026**