

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am at Zander House,
Cargenbridge on Tuesday 19th May 2026**

Present:

Kathleen Simpson – Chair

Pauline Slater - Treasurer

Maggie Holdsworth -Business Secretary

Sue Bedford – Minute secretary

Committee members - Barbara Brown, Dave Roberts, Carol Moyes, Roger Hardy,
Alistair Brown

Welcome to all.

2. Apologies Douglas Maxwell

3. Minutes of meeting 17th April 2026

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Kathleen Simpson and seconded by Carol Moyes

4. Matters arising

a. Graham Roberts from Friends of Ewart Archives is contacting someone at the Library regarding the possible transfer of u3a Dumfries archives to the Ewart Library and Maggie awaits the response.

b. Pauline and Sue Price are now up and running with the bank account and previous signatories have been removed.

c. Maggie thanked Barbara for the Chrome Book she is now learning to use.

d. The AGM 2026 minutes have been circulated to the committee and are suitable to be sent to the membership before the AGM 2027.

5. Correspondence

There has been little correspondence, perhaps due to the change in email addresses, though they are all being monitored.

Kathleen received information about the u3a in Scotland 2026 AGM at 10.30am on 11th June 2026 on zoom. This is still to be circulated to the membership as there is no link on the email.

Liz Ervine, u3a Scotland, has asked how new members help our u3a. Kathleen replied that we are benefitting from 4 members who offered to join the committee in March.

6. Chair's Report

Kathleen gave Beacon training to Alistair, Barbara, Maggie and Sue at Alistair's house and then helped Sue Price and Pauline with further Beacon training.

As Roger was on holiday he asked about his access to Beacon.

Beacon has an audit log of emails sent, if email delivery is highlighted.

Any group queries can be direct to Kathleen until ironed out at the Group Leaders meeting in September.

If information on the website is inaccurate Stuart King should be notified so he can amend it.

Kathleen has spread the word about u3a to her local Public Health Improvement Practitioner and a member of the Thornhill Health and Social Care Hub and has delivered leaflets to the Health Centre. Someone might give a talk at a monthly meeting.

- a. Jenny Batchelor from Chapters in Thornhill, is speaking about Jane Austen at the monthly meeting on 28th May at NWRC.
- b. The meeting on 25th June is a quiz hosted by Sue & Eric Price at the Baptist Church Centre. There will be a free raffle with members asked at the May meeting to bring a prize in June.
- c. Carolyn Hornblow is talking about Devorgilla, Lady of Galloway at the Baptist Church Centre on Thursday 3rd Sept. Date to be corrected on the website.
- d. The couple running the Cruck Cottage at Torthorwald may speak to the October meeting and owners of Burnfoot Farm, Langholm will be invited to speak in November. It is hoped the Ukulele Group might entertain us at the December meeting.
- e. Wesley Paxton has offered to give a talk on "Ways to reduce CO2, is sustainability a vote loser". The committee decision was to suggest to Wesley that this may be better delivered on an Online basis rather than a Monthly Meeting.

7. Secretary's Report

Maggie has been examining the pros and cons of 4 versions of the Group Leaders' Handbook and the new membership application form and has sent these to the committee for discussion.

She has been in touch with the u3a Scotland reps, Liz Ervine and George Cleland, who are keen to develop communications with groups in the South of Scotland. Thursday June 11th in the evening and Friday 26th June in the morning were chosen as possible dates for a zoom meeting with them from our own homes. Stewartry u3a, via Eileen Johnson, could also be invited.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Financial statement as of 18th May has been circulated to the committee. This can be made available to any member wishing to see it, by request to the treasurer.

Pauline says she has enjoyed learning about Beacon and the bank system and has paid all the outstanding invoices, including the charge of £352.80 for printed copies of the Third Age Matters magazines, the Beacon licence fee of £284 and the annual fee of £1132 for the Membership Subscription to Third Age Trust.

9. Membership report

Number of members 290.

3 new members have joined and 2 renewed their membership since the last report.

10. Groups Report

- a. The sewing Group are going to Carlisle by coach to take part in a workshop at the Superior Sewing Centre on 24th June, with 1 space left for the workshop and 5 spaces left for the coach. Kathleen submitted the appropriate form to Maggie.
- b. Ross and Liz Muir are keen for u3a members to visit their garden, Woodfall Gardens at Glasserton, Whithorn. Kathleen is enquiring about coach availability and price for August.
- c. The Art Group are going to meet through the summer to paint en plein air
- d. There will be an extra craft meeting to make decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival, but it was decided not to hold it at a monthly meeting.

11. Publicity/Newsletter

- a. The digital u3a Matters magazine is in a reduced format. Carol has asked if more can be in the digital version but awaits a reply.
- b. The Arts Society promoted the u3a Art Appreciation Group at their May meeting.
- c. Carol is designing posters featuring a different group each month, to be displayed in supermarkets. Other members have offered to help with printing and distribution.

Newsletter – Pauline will be this month's featured committee member.

Carol suggested an article on taking photos. If they are of a suitable standard they can be submitted to the press, where appropriate.

The subjects discussed at committee meetings could also be mentioned.

12. Financial Policy

To be held over to the next meeting when Doug is present.

13. New membership Application Form

Kathleen prepared a New Application Form using the new TAT template following advice from HMRC on Gift Aid Claims. This was circulated to the committee for comments both before and at the meeting. Some changes were suggested.

- a. £5 joining fee should be scrapped.
- b. Joint membership no longer exists as anyone claiming Gift Aid must sign their own form.
- c. Some of the wording under membership fees could be improved, together with the list of terms and conditions of membership. Roger and Maggie are reviewing these.
- d. Emergency contact details could be included to avoid an extra form if space allows.

0014. Group Leaders Handbook

- a. **The procedure for booking Meeting Rooms, Day Trips and outings** needs to be formalized for insurance purposes. This will be part of the Leaders handbook with the details also going on the website,.
- b. Kathleen and Maggie have been looking at various Group Leaders Handbooks from other u3as.
- c. Leaders should be directed to the website for the information required to start up and run a group, including list of venues.
- d. The role of the group coordinators is still to be discussed and Alistair and Roger are arranging a meeting with Kathleen. They should then introduce themselves to the Group Leaders via Beacon.

15. AOCB The microphone needs to be positioned centrally on the Speaker so that they can be heard at the monthly meeting.

16. Date of next meeting: Friday 12th June 2026 at 10 am

Zander House, Cargenbridge, Dumfries, DG2 8LX

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Maggie Holdsworth and seconded by Roger Hardy on 12th June 2026