Lostwithiel Area u3a Committee Meeting: Friday 20th February 2026

Present: Annie Singer (chairing meeting), Lalita Madhavani, Steph Thomas, David Platt, Karen Dickin, Zeb Banks, Andrew Currie, Sheila Mackinder, Liz Hemsley, Francoise Currie (guest), Richard Bower (guest).

Apologies: Dave Bridges.

Francoise Currie and Richard were welcomed to the meeting as guests.

Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Minutes of last meeting

- **Constitutional amendments:** Some issues/challenges with uploading our new constitution on the Charity Commission website; David working to resolve and complete action.
- **Breakdown of deposit holding account/reminder of previously agreed increases to contingency and funds set aside for website refresh:** June 2023 - **£2,000 Reserve** on the cash balance held agreed by committee; August 2023 – additional £500 for IT/Website plus £500 annually thereafter agreed by committee; May 2025 (AGM) – an additional £1,000 increase to the Operating Reserve for IT/Website renewal purposes agreed by membership – **Total £2,000 for IT/Website**. As of 19th February our Deposit holding account balance is **£5,046.41**.
- **Members' access to their data via Beacon portal:** Members can now alter their own details, renew membership and access their new membership card via the Beacon portal. Although the proportion of membership now registered on the portal is gradually increasing, we will continue to encourage members to get themselves set up.
- **Help with technology set-up for future Open Meetings:** Request for volunteer(s) to be mentioned at a future Open Meeting.
- **Community slot for future Open Meetings:** Lerryn Area Minibus Association – **Action: Annie to arrange to attend March meeting.**

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Two sets of minutes – 5th December 2025 & 16th January 2026 – were agreed.

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting to be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings.

Most recent Open Meeting attendance figures

5th January meeting cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Officers' updates and questions

Reports/updates issued with agenda and were discussed.

Groups Coordinator, David

CPR/DeFib - 7 Group Leaders attended a training session given by Cornwall Training and Consultancy. Very positive feedback from all participants and a similar session can be arranged if there's sufficient demand – minimum 6 people required. Committee members encouraged to promote this training.

The Story of Emily trip had been very successful/well attended. It was felt that more trips open to all would be a good thing, especially for our members who are not in groups. Bodmin Jail (highly recommended) are offering discounted rates for local group visits; Sue Sargent has followed up on this and will lead and organise a visit. **Action: details to be included in next newsletter (Karen).** (Subsequent to meeting, details of visit included in recent Newsletter Extra).

Annie reported that the two Creative Writing Groups were being subsumed into one, with Ronnie Puttock as Group Leader. The Welcome Pack for new members will need to be amended, and also the Display Board posters will need to reflect this change.

Barbara Milner will be stepping down as co-joint Group Leader of Art Appreciation group; a member of the group (Liz Hemsley) has come forward to join Laone Rescorla as co-lead from July.

Membership Secretary, Steph

Current membership 285; 8 new members since last committee meeting report (25th November 2025), plus 2 new members during the membership renewal period.

Membership statistics are a moveable feast during the renewal period; as of date of meeting (20th February) 76 renewals were outstanding with 10 resignations.

A final reminder will be sent out at the beginning of March, and at the end of March those who have not renewed will be removed as current members on Beacon.

An increasing number of renewals are by the Beacon portal and PayPal; approximately 50/50 BACS and PayPal. 9 payments have been by cheque, 2 of which unfortunately would not scan and required a visit to a Lloyds branch. In the future the new committee may like to consider an alternative to cheques; e.g. a card reader/SumUp?

Steph has met with Francoise, who has agreed to take over the Membership Secretary role; Francoise thanked Steph and confirmed that she has been in touch with Keith Southgate regarding Beacon access.

Publicity Officer, Karen

Regarding communications to membership, Karen welcomed suggestions for any key messages to promote this year. For the Newsletter, she has started to include information from national u3a, with the aim of raising awareness of what is available so people can get more from their u3a membership.

Treasurer, Lalita

As of 19th February we currently hold a balance of £5,277.39 in current account, and £5,046.41 in deposit holding account. Plus £306.44 in Interest Group cash account, £1,868.36 in PayPal account and £131.07 Petty Cash. **Total: £12,629.67.**

Lalita reported that the current balance had been reconciled for January; there had been a slight discrepancy for December which she needs to look into. (Subsequent to meeting, December account checked and confirmed as correct by Lalita).

Speaker Secretary, Dave

Subsequent to meeting, schedule of Speakers: for remainder of year
- 11th May – Mark Hemsley – "A Brief History of TV News"
- 6th July – Kevin Sinfield and Craig Lang – Crime Prevention, Devon & Cornwall Police
- 7th September – Robin Dyer – The US Mid Term Elections
- 2nd November – Fred Finn – "The World's Most Travelled Man"

Alternative signatories for Bank Account

Current signatories - Lalita, David P, Steph, and Judy Dixon. In view of Lalita and Steph standing down from the committee at the AGM, it was agreed that Andrew and Francoise would be added to the list of signatories without authorisation to co-sign payments. **Action: David and Lalita to action.**

Recruitment to committee roles

Progress in identifying possible new committee members to replace current members standing down at the AGM (Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Groups Coordinator) discussed. Beverage n' Banter continues to be the most effective way to recruit potential committee members. We now have a designate Chair and Membership Secretary. Of the remaining vacancies, identifying a new Treasurer is key. u3a advice has been sought and we understand that it is possible to run for up to 12 months without a Treasurer; further clarification about how this could work in practice will be investigated. Any communication to membership should reinforce that the Treasurer does not need to be an accountant.

AGM/timetable for sending out calling papers

Given that a number of current committee members are unable to attend the scheduled Open Meeting and AGM in May, it was proposed to postpone the AGM until the 6th July Open Meeting. Following a vote the committee agreed to postpone the AGM until July; posters and publicity will need to be updated to reflect this change. (Subsequent to meeting, posters for remainder of 2026 have now been designed by Mark Hemsley, including the change of date for the AGM).

Timetable for sending out letter to membership requesting nominations to form the next committee, ensuring the minimum notice period of 28 days and a two-week closing date:

- Issue calling papers w/b **Monday 25th May**
- Closing date for committee nominations – **Sunday 21st June**

Action: Liz

Format for future Open Meetings/arrangements for next meeting

Monday 2nd March – agreed to continue with "cabaret" style seating for this meeting, with beverages served on arrival. Committee members to help with set up at 1.00 p.m.

Zeb flagged that Health & Safety notices should be issued at beginning of meetings. (Subsequent to meeting, Zeb provided H & S briefing for 2nd March Open Meeting).

Ways to spend funds to benefit all our Groups/Members

Carry forward to next meeting.

Website – refresh of rotating images displayed on the front page of the website

Keith Southgate has advised on the process to make changes to the selection of photos displayed on our website front page. We agreed that we would ask all Group Leaders to submit a photo for their group and would then need to commission Iteracy to make the changes to refresh our website.

Lostwithiel Charity Fete

Sunday 26th July.

Committee Member volunteers to host/front future Open Meetings

11th May – Francoise; 6th July (AGM) – tbc.

Dates/venues of future Committee meetings and volunteers to "chair"

Wednesday 29th April at 10.30 a.m. at Lanhydrock Hotel/Golf Course – Andrew to chair

AOB

- Beverage n' Banter hosts for Monday 13th April – Karen and Lalita
- Venues for future Committee Meetings. Suggested options: Community Centre, Fowey Valley Hotel, Royal Oak, Lanhydrock Hotel/Golf Course. (Subsequent to meeting – booking made by Lalita for Lanhydrock Hotel, followed by light lunch. Room booking offered free of charge on the understanding that lunches are purchased).

Co-option of new Committee Members

Francoise Currie and Richard Bower were attending the meeting as guests with a view to being co-opted as new committee members. At the end of the meeting both confirmed that they would like to join the committee and with unanimous agreement of those present were duly appointed. Trustee Induction meetings will be arranged by David. **Action: David.**