MINUTES OF LOSTWITHIEL U3A COMMITTEE MEETING: 19th August 2026

Present: Andrew Currie (Chair) Michael Hunter; Julie Hunter; Sheila Mackinder; Zeb Banks; David Platt; Karen Dickin; Francoise Currie

1.Apologies for Absence : Duncan Elliott

2.Minutes of last meeting : Minutes for 9 June 2026 meeting accepted **.**

3. Update on matters arising : David still working on uploading revised Constitution to Charity Commission website due to complications concerning outdated previous version.

4. Matters arising from AGM: Julie will be taking on Publicity Officer role wef October and has been speaking to Jane Roper with a view to obtaining some assistance with the role

5. Committee Membership – Noted with regret the **r**esignation of Dave Bridges.

Will need to find a new Speaker Organiser but in interim David has filled the programme for 2027. Will need to find someone to follow up with speakers to check arrangements prior to the meetings.

There is the prospect of a new volunteer for the Committee who can be co-opted at our next Committee meeting.

6.Arrangements for Bank Signatories: In line with good practice, Andrew and Francoise will not countersign the same bank transactions .

7. Gift Aid: The gift aid tool on Beacon is currently being tested. Once this tool has been finalised, the proposal is for Michael, David and Francoise to form a working party to take this forward.

8. Website: Keith Southgate has given access and some instruction to David who is also dealing with Iteracy for help with more technical aspects. There is also a prospect of a member with technical skills who might be able to help in due course.

Karen has also been given admin access and is now able to now update News and Open Meeting pages.

The Committee would like to record its thanks to Keith for all his work on the site over the years.

David reported that obtaining renewed photos from Group Leaders in the right format for the home page is still proving problematic. Francoise offered to follow up when there is a suitable opportunity.

9. Beacon and PayPal: Michael now registered with PayPal. Issues with reconciling the accounts with Theatre Group payments now resolved.

10.Training: Francoise has completed Beacon (for the terrified) and membership secretary sessions. Karen has completed Beacon for Secretaries session.

Duncan has offered to be “training officer” to investigate what training is available for committee members - u3a central are currently revising courses.

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Group Leaders were offered Resuscitation/Defibrillator First Aid Training (early last year??) and there was a proposal that this should be repeated as especially important for groups which are out and about. Also to check that First Aid kits are up to date.

11.Open Meetings: David to check with Richard Bower who was going to arrange for LEAF to talk at September Open Meeting Community slot.

Julie to check whether the "Community Larder" would like to fill a future community slot.

There will be an item on October Committee Agenda to discuss ways to encourage some Groups to use Open Meetings to showcase their activities.

Decision to return to serving refreshments at the end of the meetings. General need for backup for Sheila on refreshments. Francoise kindly offered backup for September meeting.

Karen to include call for more volunteers from membership in next newsletter.

12. Networking: Lostwithiel Charity Day acknowledged as not our demographic but may still be useful in publicising our presence in the town.

It was useful to network with Liskeard at the last Beverage & Banter. We have received an invitation for interested members to attend an Environmental Study Day in Callington on 12 October. Karen to include in next newsletter.

The Tamar Networking Group will be hosted by Liskeard on 10 September. Unfortunately most of our committee unavailable on that date. Discussion on whether Tamar is the best area for liaison or whether we should look more towards St Austell/NewquayWadebridge.

Discussion on whether there is a perception amongst Group Leaders that the movement has become overly "corporate". Decision to carry discussion forward to next agenda.

13. Correspondence: Email to Francoise from Sarah Baker of Art Studio (Cornwall based Art Group). Francoise to see if they would like to take up a community slot at an Open Meeting.

Mountain Warehouse discount offer– Andrew to forward to Walking Group and EBikers

Email to Andrew from Marion Luck, u3a SW Rep to ask whether we would want to be involved in regional peer groups for Chairs, Treasurers and Membership Secretaries. No particular interest at the moment.

14.Potential new groups

1. Julie to explore interest in setting up "Silver Screeners" social film group
2. Idea for new group to prepare food from different countries . David to be initial contact for anyone interested.
   Both proposals to be publicised in next newsletter.

15.Holiday Cover

- Beverage & Banter October – David away so Francoise, Andrew, Julie and Michael offer to help host
- Help with Open Meeting refreshments for 7 Sept - Francoise

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16.AOB : Asset Register out of date and Michael compiling update. Committee resolved in future to write off assets after 3 years. The exception to be items like the laptop and printer etc which should roll over onto the next asset register in 2029 because they are a Committee Asset rather than Group item.

17.Dates of future meetings : Weds 21 Oct at 10.30 – Royal Oak

Weds 9 Dec at 11.00 – Royal Oak

OFFICERS' REPORTS :

Group Coordinator

I'm pleased to say that a new group - *Rummikub Players* - has been successfully launched! Ruth Clench is the group leader & they are meeting on a Monday afternoon fortnightly at the Royal Oak. 6/7 members are signed up with more interest being shown! I'm seeing Ruth on 11th August for webpage/Beacon training.

Committee recruitment update: Jane Roper, one of my committee "prospects" for early next year, has indicated she will join our committee in the autumn following a chat with Julie Hunter at *Beverage 'n Banter*. Jane has also offered to help Julie in her new role as our Publicity Officer!

Charity Fayre: This was considerably busier this year with more Charities represented. I accept that the demographic is not aimed at our likely clientele but several existing members visited our stand & were positive about our involvement - could have been the free "chocolate bars affect" of course! Good conversations with a few "prospects" also held. Being "seen to be there" appears to still be valid?

Whilst this may not be the best forum, I still feel that a PR presence is essential for our u3a in some guise. One thing for certain, if we are to repeat the Charity Fayre we do need more folk to help please (my grateful thanks to Karen!)

New pop-up banners & our trifold leaflets were delivered in good time for this event.

New Group "banner" photos for website: A few groups have responded but, as is often the case, the "photo image requirement" is more demanding than I realised - this coincides with me trying to "dismantle" Keith Southgate's "webmaster" role, so I've started to liaise directly with Kat at Iteracy & it will be a longer-burn because of other priorities.

Treasurer

Current Account £4858.74

Deposit Account £6061.63

PayPal £ 00.00

Petty cash £ 00.00

The petty cash was over£100, which breaks our financial rules, so all was deposited.

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Membership Secretary

Statistics 16 Aug 2026:

Members by status

Current	**269**
Deceased	**6**
Lapsed	**74**
Resigned	**97**
Total	**446**

Current Members by Class

Associate Individual	**13**	**5%**
Associate Joint	**10**	**4%**
Individual	**166**	**62%**
Joint	**80**	**30%**
Total	**269**	
Email	**263**	**98%**

Updates in red

- **Met with Richard Bower last Fri - apparently LEAF are booked for the community slot in November! Julie has subsequently arranged for Rev Sheila Bawden to speak about the Community Larder project at our forthcoming 7th Sept Open meeting**
- **Committee agreed to the use of iteracy as temporary Webmaster to allow Keith Southgate's phased withdraw. Any payment to be restricted to £60 per month without full committee approval. DGP to act as liaison with iteracy.**
- **Sheila Bawden agreed to give Community slot talk about Community Larder. She also has offered to talk about The Social Club, the Community Cafe and even as her role as a Priest**

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