MINUTES OF LOSTWITHIEL U3A COMMITTEE MEETING: 21 OCTOBER 2026

Present: Andrew Currie (Chair); Duncan Elliott; Michael Hunter; Julie Hunter;; Zeb Banks; Karen Dickin; Francoise Currie; Jane Roper (guest)

1.Apologies for Absence : Sheila Mackinder; David Platt	**Action**
2.Minutes of last meeting and matters arising: Minutes for19 August meeting accepted. Agreed to include "correspondence received" as standing agenda item for future meetings. Re PayPal, Francoise mentioned that one new member had recently had difficulty paying by the method. Michael suggested that we advise members with queries to pay by BACs as PayPal incurs a charge for u3a.	**KD**
3. Co-option of new Committee Member: Jane would like to defer decision until next meeting.	
4. Gift Aid – update : Latest claim submitted 24/6/24.Michael will calculate claim for end of this year, however as it can only be submitted as an Excel spreadsheet, which he does not have on his PC, he will need someone else to send to HMRC. Addendum: 26/10/26 **This return cannot be made until a full review & updating of our procedures occurs in line with the u3a recent 8-page guidance. Michael, Lalita & David had an initial meeting back in May 2026 to review what needed to be undertaken, subsequently Francoise, Michael & David agreed to former a working party to progress as if the return is made before the necessary amendments have been carried out that we will fall foul of HMRC as it is essential that we are fully compliant.**	**MH to arrange**
5. Open Meetings: Francoise to ask Michael Furminger if he would like to speak about museum at Nov Community Slot. Duncan kindly offered to purchase a flipchart for the meeting which he will donate to u3a. November Speaker does not require any technical equipment. However Zeb raised the issue that more volunteers will be needed to set up equipment next year. **Discussion on venue for future meetings**: initial enquiries with Community Centre look promising re facilities, space and cost. Francoise has ascertained that it costs £18 per hour and they provide tables, chairs and a projector screen. They have a projector too if necessary and WiFi. It can take up to 500 people. Regarding refreshments, they can provide a tea urn for £5 , or we could get stuff from the café there, which is open from 10 to 3.30 pm. There's parking there as well. Francoise to check whether dates available for our 2027 calendar. Julie also approached Fowey Valley Hotel both in person and by email but received no response to costs etc. Also on looking at the actual venue and facilities didn't feel it would be suitable for our requirements for Open Meetings. Discussion on term "Open Meeting" which might not convey the purpose of having an entertaining speaker and social opportunity. Decision to rebrand as "OPEN HOUSE"	**FC** **DE** **FC**

Discussion on opportunities for Group Leaders to showcase their activities. Agreed to moot idea with GLs at December lunch. Also to consider idea for a repeat of the general open day put on a few years ago for groups to set out stalls and talk about their activities to members and public. Item for Feb agenda.	
6. Group Leaders lunch Dec 9th. : venue booked. David to send out invitations. May need some help with co-ordination.	**DP**
7. Re-finding the fun factor: various ideas for social events. Needs engagement and volunteers to organise from amongst membership. Francoise, Julie and Jane to liaise on email to ask membership on ideas and volunteers to help with organisation.	**FC, JH. JR**
8. Website: Need resolution of Webmaster role. Bring ideas and progress with discussions forward to Feb Meeting. Michael noted 7 policies and procedures which need re-dating. He will edit as required and send to Karen to upload.	**MH, KD**
9. Speaker Organiser for 2027: Noted that there are currently no volunteers for Speaker Organiser role. Agreed to ask GLs at Dec lunch for ideas. Also noted that we need volunteers to take on Webmaster role and help with social events. Francoise offered to ask Chair of Liskeard for any ideas as to what may have worked elsewhere. Noted that this type of engagement needs careful messaging to hit the right tone. Francoise offered to ask her son, who works in marketing, for guidance	**FC**
10. Group Leader for Beverage and Banter: Discussion on whether, as this is a social event, it needs to be run as a co-ordinated group or whether it might become an informal coffee event open to all members on the alternate months when we don't have an open meeting. Suggestion to transfer to Royal Oak for people to just meet to buy a coffee and have a chat as this would need less organisation, especially re arranging furniture and collecting subs etc. With a less time consuming format, Julie would be happy to take on ensuring that the venue is available and to advertise the event to members. Andrew to discuss with David re possible format for the future.	**AC**
11. Committee Training Needs: Committee members unsure of own training needs. Possibly more on IT depending on how the website is administered in future. First Aid training for Group Leaders may need to be offered every 3 years.	
12. Lerryn Open Day: David and Duncan will be there wearing both LAMBDA and u3a hats. Andrew and Francoise offered to also attend.	
13. Flip Chart: Duncan to provide (see item 5)	
14. Holiday Cover for Committee members: Agreed to communicate with each other when they feel cover is needed.	
15: Officers reports: As below	
16. AOB: Advance notice by Zeb that he will be stepping down after the next AGM. Michael has offered to start new group "Sunday Social" at the Globe. Reminder that Robin Dyer is hosting a review of the US Primary results at the	

Globe at 7pm on 4th November. Clarification needed on who will take future responsibility for creation and lamination of posters in the future.	
17. Dates for future meetings. Weds 9 December at 10.30 followed by Group Leaders Lunch at the Royal Oak Weds 3 Feb 2027 at 10.30 at the Royal Oak	

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OFFICERS' REPORTS

GROUP COORDINATOR/SUNDRY ROLES

- Rummikub; a promising group, now seeking more members. New groups: *Silver Screeners*; very successful 1st outing on 1st October - 10 attendees. *Eating around the World* (may be renamed?)- excellent group leader Nicky Pickles organising initial meeting on Monday 23rd November to agree format of group. 9 members currently signed up.

- **Group Photos** update in abeyance & regret updating Constitution on Charity website still o/s in view of other more urgent responsibilities/priorities

- **Beacon training** & website guidance given to new GL (excluding Nicky Pickles until group of the ground)

- **Webmaster liaison role** - new webpage created for *Silver Screeners &* many amendments/updates following AGM - Iteracy have very kindly not charged for any of this but likely to do so in future

  Speaker finder - Original planned talk for November - after several attempts to contact - just appeared to be provisional. New speaker therefore arranged - our u3a member Lt Cmdr Bernard Bonsey Royal Navy to talk on Battle of Trafalgar (anniversary of Battle in Nov). *Flip chart/stand/Black marker pen required*.

  I remain very grateful to Mark Hemsley who continues to support us with his excellent poster designs"

- **Beacon admin** - all amendments made & up to date - new site admin prospect still being pursued to relieve Keith Southgate - hopefully in place by year end

- **Genera**l - 15th Sep met with former Chair Looe u3a - introduced her to Caroline Tapsell, Chair, Liskeard. Both confirm by email very happy to be involved in *local network* sharing ideas, Speakers etc. Also possible peer group liaison to be formed e.g Chair to Chair; Secretary to Secretary etc?

- Suggested ***fun*** activities to be promoted to GL's - Quiz evening (Zeb's the expert!); evening with Johnny Cowling, Ceilidh, Fowey Valley Cider tour (& tasting), Evening of short silent films accompanied by Wurlitzer band.

MEMBERSHIP STATS

Membership Statistics 18th October 2026

Members by status

Current	271
Deceased	7
Lapsed	75
Resigned	97
Total	**450**

Current members by class

Associate Individual	13	5%
Associate Joint	10	4%
Individual	170	63%
Joint	78	29%
Total	**271**	