Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Michael Brockway, Ian Diggory, Tim O'Brien, Steve Rozario, John Dark, Fran Fuller and Ann Atkinson.

No.		Action / person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies received from Kate Stephenson and Andrew Rigg	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising	
4	**Chair's Report**: Garden Party – Barrie informed that the Garden Party was now full and he had started a waiting list. Almost all were U3A members. Andrew is going to the Racecourse next week to check that everything is organised for the event with clear signage from the car park to the venue which will be via Turnstile B to the Queen Camilla Stand. Discussion took place as to whether we should increase the numbers but it was felt that a decision had been made on the numbers based on finances and level of subsidy so it was decided to keep to 100 attendees.	
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann stated that she had asked members if they needed lanyards and only Steve had responded. Barrie informed that Andrew had got lanyards.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate in her absence had sent out the monthly finance reports. There were no issues raised in relation to these. Ian and Steve have agreed to become cheque signatories.	
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Fran informed that Andrew in his absence had sent his event information to everyone. The Nissan visit is sold out and an email will be sent out soon with details. Andrew is still negotiating a date for the Harrison and Harrison / Oriental Museum trip in Jan 2026 and will advise asap. Fran informed that the Corbridge walk this morning had gone very well. She informed that she had received cancellations for the Marchmont visits possibly because it was close to the Garden Party date and the costs involved. The deposit date is 1st July. Based on this, Barrie felt that Fran should go ahead and cancel the trip given the limited numbers as there would be no problem issuing refunds for those that had paid. Fran was disappointed given all the effort that had gone in to organising this. She indicated that Andrew wanted to make the Ad Gefrin a coach trip given that there would be whisky tasting but Barrie felt that as it had been organised as a car share it should stay that way. He would speak to Andrew about it. Fran informed that as a result of health issues she would no longer be able to continue in the role after Christmas and that Andrew would only be taking on the role up to the AGM.	BM
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve informed that the Sign Language group was up and running and that there was still an attempt to get the Modern Greek group off the ground.	

9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim informed that he had received some complimentary responses about the newsletter but otherwise had nothing to report.	
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 85 members attended the June monthly meeting at which Ian gave a presentation as the speaker did not turn up. Barrie informed that 32 people had viewed the video that had been produced using AI which required good notes with each slide. Ian informed that the Convenor of the History Group had been in touch about two planned talks that might be of wider interest to the membership. In the past the group have funded these themselves and have met at the County with about 40 members attending. The speakers are charging £50 and they usually ask for a contribution from members. It was felt that one of the planned presentations on St Cuthbert in the North East would be of interest to the wider membership and that we could offer support for this in relation to the venue. Ian had suggested the Masonic Hall although the size of screen was considered a possible problem. Barrie would check this out in terms of availability and cost. The Great Hall at the Abbey was another option to consider and John would speak to Owen about this next week in terms of cost and availability in October. It was suggested that Trybooking could be used so numbers are not exceeded.	BM JD
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John informed that there had been 6 new members this month. The coffee morning was on Friday at 11am in the Great Hall and 18 people were attending. Another coffee morning will be held in the autumn. John had sent round the template he had produced with the names of committee members to be used with the lanyards. All members were happy with this. Andrew would print and laminate. Barrie informed that it would be useful if these could be available for the Garden Party. Barrie informed about the publicity and logos section of the Third Age Trust and Ann informed that she was registered to access this from the Brand Shop. Barrie informed that he would make improvements to the Facebook page.	JD AR BM
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael informed that he found working with Siteworks difficult. Barrie wondered whether we should pursue having our own website but the general view was that the Third Age Trust supported the website in terms of security, data protection etc. and that the members did find it easy and straightforward to use and access information. It was suggested and agreed that the picture on the front page of the website should be updated monthly to keep it fresh. Tim informed Michael that he would send him a range of photographs that he could use on the site.	TB MB
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie had received from Wendy a list of the regional U3A's their membership numbers and costs. We are the second largest behind Whitley Bay with 700 members. The smallest groups are about 40 members. Membership fees range from £8 - £40 and £49 if you want the TAT magazine too. The average charge is £17 so we charge at the lower end at £14. Whilst this should not influence what we charge, Barrie felt that it was useful to share this information with the Committee. We can only make changes with agreement from members at the AGM so we need to think about this for the AGM in March. It was suggested that we review where we are in terms of our finances in January with a view to putting forward to the membership a suitable amount for our subs from September 2026. We need to be able to justify to the membership if we increase the subs but need to look to the future in terms of demands on our finances. With inflation we could increase to £15 or increase to £20 and fix it but we would need a project to justify this. Any increase would need to be sold to the membership. It was decided that we would review this in January.	
14	**A.O.B:** None	
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 24th July at 2pm**	

Meeting ended at 16:00

Minutes Approved **Dated: 28th August 2025**