Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Michael Brockway, Ann Atkinson, Tim O'Brien, John Dark, Fran Fuller, Andrew Rigg and Steve Rozario

No.		Action / person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies received from Ian Diggory	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.	
4	**Chair's Report**: Barrie reported on the Third Age Trust (TAT) AGM and informed that he had written a piece for the newsletter with a detailed breakdown of expenditure. Income of TAT was £3.474 million, expenditure £3.402 million and a surplus of £72 thousand. TAT want to increase membership in the coming year. Their advertising campaign is coming to an end which included radio, newspapers and magazines. They plan to continue press coverage and reach new audiences. Budget next year will increase to £3.6 million and expenditure expected to be £3.7 million, the deficit due to advertising. Barrie felt that they had a good sense of what future members would be like e.g. highly computer literate, later and less formal retirement. Their vision is to provide fulfilling later life by uniting the u3a movement. From the discussion afterwards Barrie felt that what TAT was doing at a national level was not particularly relevant to large u3a local groups like ourselves. A report will be provided from TAT in due course.	
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann had forwarded national and regional information and reported that 101 members had registered for Third Age Matters magazine which was less than the 120+ in previous years.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate reported that there was £21,000 in the bank and expects a big surplus at this time of year because of membership. Barrie was satisfied that we were working within our means and no need to increase membership. Ian and Steve are now bank signatories. Kate informed that we are now banking completely online but can put cash into the Post Office. Barrie informed that he would like us to get away from handling cash as far as possible by booking and paying online. However it was recognised that booking online was off putting to some and paying online. For the History Group additional talk the majority booked online which tallied with the numbers attending. To ensure that monetary contributions were not abused in any way Kate and Carole the Convenor counted the money together and Kate gave Carole a petty cash note.	
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Fran informed that there was just the Wallington Christmas Trip outstanding with 18 signed up to attend. The 28th October is the deadline for signing up and payment for this outing. The Ed Gefrin trip was very well received. Andrew informed that the Nissan trip was very good and mind blowing. One car off the production line every 58 seconds and cars assembled in two hours. The trip to the Oriental Museum	

	and the organ manufacturers Harrison and Harrison who maintain cathedral and church organs from around the world is planned for 26th February. Ideas for the spring include a trip to Sellafield and the working of the Swing Bridge. John informed that a trip to the Glasshouse which he had organised in the past was very good and would likely be of interest to members. John to send contact details to Andrew.	JD
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve informed that there are three groups in development. A second German Conversation group at an introductory level. There had been no interest to date in the Healthy Lives video club and information about this possible group would be in the newsletter. The Viva Espagna group is trying to find enough members before it formally becomes a group and there is the Discovery Award Group too. Steve is looking to hold the Convenors Lunch on Wednesday 22nd April. Having a committee member at each of the tables had worked well in terms of discussing issues which could then be fed back to the committee meeting. A drink would be available for convenors and an open bar for subsequent drinks. Steve informed that he would be contacting convenors on a rolling basis, about six a month, to check if all attendees are members and any issues they want to raise.	SR
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** A discussion took place on the issues associated with reducing the costs of producing the newsletter in terms of printing and postage. It was recognised that the organisation of committee members distributing the newsletter would be quite difficult. There are about 25 members receiving a hard copy newsletter which will reduce over time, however a disproportionate amount of money is spent on these few members, about £40 per person a year. It was agreed that charging a fee for the newsletter with a subsidy might be the best way forward and that it would be raised at the AGM. Tim informed that the newsletter was short this month only 7 pages.	BM
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 118 members attended the October monthly meeting. There were 79 views of the video which was very good. Ian sent a report in his absence. The presenter for the September monthly meeting was one of our own members, Bob Pullen, talking about 'Secrets of the Brain'. The meeting was well attended and immediate feedback was very positive. So much so, that Ian has booked Bob for next November to give a talk on 'Sleep and Dreams'. The November meeting will be on the 'Training ship the Wellesley' and on 'Links between northern prehistory and rocks' by Ian Jackson in December. In January Colin Argent would talk about the BBC Light Programme. Ian needs a couple of members to give a brief talk at the AGM in March. He already had one willing member who would talk on VSO in Africa. Ian had updated the protocol for additional talks arranged by groups which was agreed by the committee.	All
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John informed that reminders were going well and to date 58 had not renewed their membership. Another email reminder would go out at the end of November and from January members not renewing would be considered as lapsed. Currently there were 607 members which included the 58 who had not renewed. There were 30 new members in September and 8 in October. Barrie raised a concern about the membership getting too large but it had remained quite steady over the last few years. The next coffee morning for new members will be Wednesday 19th November at 10.30am. If there is a large take up John might ask other committee members to attend as well as himself, Barrie and Steve. John stated that he had been asked by Kate to look at how long members had been in u3a and no longer wanted membership. John will do this and circulate to committee. It was suggested that Steve inform Convenors to steer away from charging their groups the same amounts that are for membership i.e. £14 or £18 as this had occurred in relation to the watercolour group, causing confusion with payments. Steve to raise at the Convenors lunch. Two people had paid twice and rather than pay back their membership would be covered for two years.	JD SR

12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael informed that he had little to report and had added the new groups to the list.	
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie had reported the AGM in his Chair's report. Wendy has been asked to update at the beginning of monthly meeting on regional activities. Barrie had declined us participating in the regional quiz team.	
14	**A.O.B:** It was agreed that we would provide mince pies at the December meeting and at the next committee meeting decide which mince pies passed the taste test! John raised the issue of having monthly meetings at the Abbey again as we had not exceeded the numbers at the Mart that the Abbey could cope with. Barrie informed that the convenience of the Mart for parking was a great bonus as parking in town was getting more difficult and we did hold additional meetings at the Abbey so we should stay at the Mart.	KS/ BM
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 27th November at 2pm**	

Meeting ended at 15.40

Minutes Approved **Dated: 27th November 2025**