

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27th November 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Ian Diggory, Michael Brockway, Ann Atkinson, Andrew Rigg, Steve Rozario and John Dark (for the latter part of the meeting).

No.		Action person
1	Welcome and Apologies: Apologies received from Fran Fuller and Tim O'Brien	
2	Minutes of last meeting: Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	Matters Arising: No matters arising.	
4	Chair's Report: Following the tasting test of mince pies that Barrie had kindly bought to the meeting, a decision was made and it was agreed to purchase 90 mince pies for the December monthly meeting. Barrie informed that the new members meeting was well supported with a lot of discussion.	
5	Business Secretary's Report: Ann suggested that in terms of the membership getting more from the Trust it might be worth considering putting the link in the newsletter to Third Age Matters which was now available online in a reduced format. Also promoting u3a Friends which provided up to date u3a news and discounts on travel, shopping etc. Barrie felt that this should be left for the new Newsletter Editor to consider in March as currently there was plenty of information being provided by groups for the newsletter.	
6	Treasurer's Report: Kate reported that there was £22,000 cash. She had produced a forecast to the end of the year compared with what had been budgeted for. Gift Aid was not included. We were at the right side of the forecast with savings in relation to miscellaneous and equipment costs. There were also saving on talks and the additional talk by the History Group had only required us to subsidise it by £32. Group cash was in a good situation and in January Kate would produce year end accounts and a budget for next year.	KS
7	Events Secretaries Report: Fran informed in her absence that 29 members were attending the Wallington Christmas event. Andrew stated that a relative of the Trevelyan family who was a member of u3a had approached him about providing anecdotes about her time at Wallington to the group at the Christmas event which he considered was a good idea and all agreed. The Durham trip to the Oriental Museum/Botanical Gardens and Organ makers was arranged for 20th February 2026.	
8	Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Steve informed that he had completed contact with about a third of convenors and had identified a few attending groups who were not members and informed that they must become members. He had been in touch with the Mart about the Convenors Lunch, the room was £45+VAT and lunch £25 +VAT for a two course lunch and £15-£20 +VAT for a buffet. A bar will be available and Barrie suggested a glass of wine on entry and that we could provide our own wine. It was agreed that a two course meal rather than a buffet was the preferred option. It was suggested that a member of the Committee should sit at each table and Steve would provide a different topic of	

	relevance to Convenors to discuss on each of the tables. It was reiterated that groups should be encouraged to provide larger group meetings on topics of interest that the wider membership could attend. This would enable those unable to get onto groups that were full to attend these larger group meetings.	SR
9	Newsletter Editor's Report: Tim had sent a report in his absence. He stated that it is heartening to see an increase in the number of groups who submit a script, often with photos, to the newsletter to share with members. In chatting to members at the monthly meeting and at the meetings of groups he attended he was pleased that both the newsletter and the Facebook page receive positive reviews, but less so the website. He suggested formally consulting with Convenors to find out what they want from the website. Barrie informed that he put meetings on Facebook a couple of weeks in advance and then a couple of days before and also encouraged members to submit information for the site. The site was just for u3a members. Barrie had also asked a website expert to give his opinion on the u3a website. His feedback was positive and suggested improving the introductory image and having a moving slide show on the front page like West Midlands u3a. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to ask groups to send photos in to put on the front page of the website and Steve would ask groups for these.	SR
10	Programme Secretary's Report: 76 members attended the November monthly meeting. There were 22 views of the video which was the lowest number to date. Ian Jackson would speak on the 'Links between northern prehistory and rocks' in December. Ian informed that Cathy Bates from Tynedale Hospice at Home had been in touch about leaving leaflets about fundraising and that he had asked her to come along to the monthly meeting on Tuesday to speak for a couple of minutes about it at the beginning of the session. Colin Argent and Ian would be speaking in January on Radio Nostalgia – the Light Programme and Chris Pollock in February. Colin Argent and John Dark would be speaking at the AGM.	
11	Membership Secretary's Report: John informed that renewals had halved every month and now there were 30 members who had not renewed. Three of these are non-email, who have received separate letter reminders and will now be phoned. A further reminder goes out at the beginning of December and from December 31 they are posted as 'lapsed' and stop receiving anything from us. Current membership is 608, of whom 15 are Associate members. Just 17% now take Third Age Matters, a bit of a fall from the usual 20-25% range. A look at resignations indicated that it was not a case of members who had joined recently leaving straight away. Reasons for leaving included too frail, moved away or had too many other things on even though they enjoyed it and two had not felt welcome. Barrie had followed this up. There continues to be a stream of new members – 13 in September, 12 in October and 6 in November. There were 69 new members over the last year who had not attended a coffee morning before and 16 attended the latest coffee morning in November which was well received with a lot of discussion. John suggested another meeting in early February. It was thought that those who felt they were too frail could be encouraged to maintain membership by informing them that the monthly meetings were also available on video and they would also have access to the newsletter. John would add this to his replies to members who had not renewed.	JD
12	Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Michael informed that he had nothing to report and was keeping information on the website up to date.	
13	Regional and Third Age Trust: Nothing to report.	
14	A.O.B: Barrie asked whether we needed a meeting in December. It was agreed that we did not need to meet and would meet again on 22 nd January 2026	
15	Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 2pm	

Meeting ended at 15.05

