

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Michael Brockway, Steve Rosario, Diane Downie, Roger Hancock

No.		Action person
1	Apologies: Apologies received from Andrew Rigg, Kate Stephenson, John Dark, Ian Diggory	
2	Minutes of last meeting: Minutes were accepted as a true record after approving the circulated amendment. Copy to be sent to Website	RH
3	Matters Arising: No matters arising.	
4	Chair's Report: Barrie informed the meeting that in Kate's absence no financial matters could be agreed. The location of the Chair's report in the newsletter was discussed. Di expressed the view that its primary purpose was the provision of information for members and that this should take priority over committee matters. It was agreed that the Chair's report should in future be on the second page as an introduction, followed by members' matters. The obtaining of data about how many members opened the newsletter was discussed, this should be available from the website statistics. Michael to take this up with the website hosts. Barrie reported that as soon as the Newsletter had been released for publication he would release access to the booking engine for the Garden Party. Di to copy Barrie in to the newsletter release to the website.	MB DD
5	Business Secretary's Report: Roger reported two problems of emails bouncing from Beacon. This appeared to be a common Microsoft issue. He had sent the link to the video to the two members affected.	
6	Treasurer's Report: Kate had provided figures but in her absence no action was taken.	
7	Events Secretaries Report: Andrew had sent no report. Michael to ask him to send all updates to him for inclusion on the website.	MB
8	Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Steve reported that 39 people would be attending the Convenors' lunch on 24th April. He had arranged 4 tables by topics which members had expressed an interest in. There would be 2 committee members on each table who were to report back to Steve on the discussions afterwards. Committee to attend at 12.15 before pre lunch drinks. Barrie to make a brief welcome at the commencement of the meal. Steve to report back on the discussions at next meeting. He reported that the invitees also included some conveners who had stood down during the year, to pass on their experience to newer conveners. He also to provide Di with a list of current conveners. He reported that the Geology group had been closed but the Wildlife one was still struggling on. Two new groups were in the course of formation – Writing Together and Industrial Archaeology. A Geoscience group was being considered.	Comm ittee SR SR

9	Newsletter Editor's Report: Di reported that she had received a number of emails thanking her for the last Newsletter and one complaint about a misspelt name. Michael had resolved the technical issue responsible. Content ideas going forward to include the Peer to Peer article and Kate's piece on Gift Aid. This would be referred to in the September edition to coincide with subscription renewals. She wanted to include a seasonal photograph on the front page which she was contemplating asking members to provide, or possibly setting up a competition. Care was needed over photos of people and especially children, and it was felt that photos should be from nature, seasonal and local.	
10	Programme Secretary's Report: Ian reported that there had been 68 members attending the talk by Nick Rossiter on AI. 89 had seen the video. Next meeting would be Barry Mead on "Digging up Northumberland's Past" He had arranged speakers for the rest of the year. Barrie reported he would not be able to attend but had arranged someone to do the video and Ian would chair the meeting.	
11	Membership Secretary's Report: In his absence he reported There continues to be a stream of new members with 9 in March and so far another 5 in April. There have been 97 new members in the past 12 months, of whom only one does not have an email address. The next coffee morning will be on May 13. Invitations have just gone out to 60 people who have joined in the past year and have not been to one of these before. We anticipate about 20-25 people present. If committee members know of people interested in the u3a, the Coffee Morning is a good opportunity to learn about what we are about. Potential members are very welcome. After discussions with Kate, the electronic renewal form has been modified to make an up to date Gift-Aid declaration a mandatory question. Only about 2/3rds of renewing members complete a form, but it takes us further to complying with the gift-aid regulations.	
12	Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Michael reported that up to now he had updated the website with news of new groups when it first appeared in the Newsletter and took it down after a month. Agreed he should continue to do this.	MB
13	Regional and Third Age Trust: Barrie reported that an article from TAT on scam warnings was contained in the next Newsletter. He had tested the 159 number with impressive results. He would continue to deal with any updates from Regional U3a and would bring any relevant issues to the committee.	
14	A.O.B: 1. A report of hearing and communication difficulties had been made by one Group and made a suggestion that a simple portable PA system might help. These could be obtained for modest cost but there were issues over responsibility for looking after it and making it available for all groups. The issue to be considered when Kate was present at next meeting. One suggestion was the creation of a fund whereby groups could apply for a grant for capital equipment with justifications. In the meantime Barrie to test the system the Mart had available. 2. Barrie had reported that he had reviewed and updated all our procedures bar 2 financial ones for Kate to do. The complaints procedure was to be checked by Steve. Subsequently they would be available on the website and the Secretary would have a printed set.	BM KS SR
15	Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 2pm	

Meeting ended at 15.15

Minutes Approved

Dated: