



Present: Barrie Mellars, Michael Brockway, Kate Stephenson, John Dark, Ian Diggory, Roger Hancock

The Minutes of Tynedale u3a monthly committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026

	attending events.	
8	Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Steve had sent a report suggesting that we did not need a grievance procedure which was not appropriate to our organisation. This was agreed. Steve to revise the complaints procedure only and send to Barrie. Once all policies were complete they would be posted on the website and a full set sent to Roger. All felt the Convenors' lunch went very well with plenty of feedback which was still being analysed. One suggestion that found considerable support was the appointment of co-convenors to share the workload and provide for succession.	SR
9	Newsletter Editor's Report: Di had sent a written report appended at the end of these minutes and was finalising the next Newsletter.	
10	Programme Secretary's Report: Ian reported that there had been 85 members attending the talk by Barry Mead on "Digging up Northumberland's Past". 68 had seen the video which Barrie thought was the best quality we had produced after a few tweaks to the system. Barrie reported that John Shackleton had volunteered to act as cameraman at all meetings which he had gratefully accepted. Next meeting would be "Strawberry Fields Forever" and the July one "The Kremlin's Geordie Spy" The BSL group would be making a plea for new members at the June meeting. It was agreed that these presentations should be included in the circulated video (they were recorded anyway) by Barrie to help reach a much wider audience. Ian reported that one speaker did not want her talk to be videoed.	BM
11	Membership Secretary's Report: John reported that there had only been one new member in May, well down on the rest of the year with 101 new members over the past year. The new members' coffee meeting had been a success despite small numbers attending and the frustration of lack of responses to invitations. Those attending clearly had a good time and the venue cost of £60 was reasonable. The next meeting should not be until after the summer. At the coffee meeting there were 3 members of the Matfen & Great Whittington WI enquiring whether they could join en bloc and run their own groups. There were apparently difficulties within WI which was causing disaffection amongst its members. Barrie had explained that u3a did not discriminate in any way and all members were treated equally and that all groups were open to all members. He is to attend one of their meetings to explain that they would be welcomed as ordinary members and that they could set up new groups if they wished as long as they accepted u3a's ethos and then would leave the issue up to them.	
12	Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Michael reported that up to now he had updated the website with news of new groups or those seeking new members and would continue to remove older ones to keep such notifications current. Barrie commended the look of the site.	MB
13	Regional and Third Age Trust: Barrie stated there was little to report of interest to us. He would continue to deal with any updates from Regional U3a and would bring any relevant issues to the committee.	
14	Leicester University Falling Study. Details having been circulated with Di's comments it was agreed that details should be included in the Newsletter, subject to Di checking that the study had actually passed the University ethics committee and that there was no intention of commercial exploitation of the data disclosed.	DD

15	A.O.B: The agenda for next meeting to contain a special item on arrangements and duties for the Summer Party.	RH
16	Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday 14th June 2026 at 2pm	

Meeting ended at 3.15pm **Minutes Approved** **Dated: 16th June 2026**

Newsletter Editor Report May 2026

Apologies for my absence.

June's newsletter is coming together.

I have 2 possible items for external interest -Hermina Ely from Northumberland Digital Inclusion Project was in touch after a chat with Barrie. Hermina would like us to carry information about this project which is about volunteers helping those who are less IT adept by running sessions in Village Halls. She has promised an article which hasn't yet arrived. The other is the Falls research which I could insert instead. The one that doesn't make it this month can go in next month as long as the committee is content with both these items.

Barrie's report refers to the Summer Party and there is also an advert for it.

Steve provided me with a list of recently retired convenors – this has resulted in 2 offerings – one from Susan Turnbull which is really helpful, and another from someone who doesn't want their name to be published, which isn't directly about being a convenor, but is still very useful.

Andrew supplied me with a lovely suitable photo for the front page, but his was the only offering.

I would suggest that we put Kate's article about Gift Aid in July's newsletter so that people will have seen it before renewal time in September- there is no August edition.

Currently there are 2 event/visit reports, and one article on a reformatting group – BSL.

2 days to go to the 19th deadline – I will need to print and post on 22/5 due to grandkid care.

Dixxx