

ANDOVER U3A (CHARITY NUMBER: 1072274) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - V2

Monday 12th January 2026 at 1000 hours.

Held at: 10, Queen's Close, Ludgershall, SP11 9SN.

Dated: 15th January 2026.

1. **Present:** David Gollings, Richard Gigg, Melenie Mackay, Chris Ward, David James, Ruth Gollings and Richard Selley.

2. **Apologies:** Paul Hardy and John Pickford

3. **Chair's Opening Remarks.**

a. **Christmas Meeting.** The Christmas meeting had been a great success. The guest speaker was well received. In addition, the draw had made a useful profit of over £200.00, a useful addition to our funds.

b. **Weyhill Fair Car Park.** The Weyhill carpark is full of potholes, which fill with water. This had been reported numerous times. The Weyhill Fair was seeking funding from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC). Unless funding was secured from TVBC, it is unlikely that the car park would be improved in the near future.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th October 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair. These minutes will be published on the website.

Action: Webmaster

5. **Matter arising:**

a. **Future Membership Fees.** It is probable now that our claim for Gift Aid had been agreed by HMRC. The 2024 Gift Aid request amounted to £528.00, and the 2025 claim was yet to be submitted. This being the case, there was no plan to ask for an increase in fees at the AGM in May 2026. (Our financial situation, with particular regard to the level of our reserve funds, was kept under constant review, in line with our policy of maintaining a minimum level of 75% of our annual expenditure).

b. **Questers 1.** The Questers 1 Group had now been placed in suspension until June 2026. This was in the hope that some individual(s) would volunteer to run the group in the future. If this did not happen, the Questers 1 Group would be disbanded.

c. **30th Anniversary of Andover U3A.** This year's AGM marked our 30th Anniversary. It was agreed that this milestone would be celebrated with a cake. It was also agreed that the cake would be cut by an original founder member of our U3A. David agreed to source a suitable cake and approach an appropriate person(s) to cut it at the AGM.

Action: Chair

Secretary's Afternote: It has been confirmed that suitable cake has been ordered. "It will be a 10" x 15" rectangular cake, that will provide 75 party-sized portions. It will be a vanilla sponge, filled with vanilla buttercream and seedless strawberry jam. It will be covered with high-quality white sugar-paste with the text: 'Andover U3A - 30 Years' in the U3A blue/yellow colour scheme. The cake board will also be iced and trimmed with coordinating ribbon. The price agreed was £139.00". It was also confirmed that appropriate individuals had kindly agreed to cut the cake at the AGM in May 2026.

a. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer was away on holiday until 21st March 2026. He had written to Group Leaders to inform them of this. No detailed financial information was available at the meeting.

b. **Status of Accounts.** Our 3 Business accounts were now Charity Accounts. We would be charged for our day-to-day banking on a per use basis. Fortunately, we don't carry out enough BACS transfers each month (first 100 are free) to incur charges, but a reminder that we will be charged £0.50 for each cheque we pay into an account. Cash would incur a cost of 70p per £100.00. Every effort must be made to use BACS and discourage the use of cheques. (Note: From 01 Jan 2027, cheques will no longer be accepted as means of payment).

Action: All

c. **Membership Secretary - Access to Accounts.** It was confirmed that David now had access to the Lloyds accounts.

d. **Fairground Hall Invoice and Billing.** The Treasurer had received an Invoice from Richard Waterman for Fairground Hall fees from April to September 2025 (inclusive). The Treasurer would continue to keep a watching brief on this and hopefully we would receive future bills on schedule.

Action: Treasurer

7. **Secretary's Report.** The Secretary had nothing to report.

8. **Membership Secretary Report.** The Membership Secretary reported the following.

a. **Membership.** Total membership stood at 423 including our first new member of 2026. Our membership numbers were fairly constant over time.

b. **Bank Account Access.** Lloyds Bank had finally set up access to the accounts for the Membership Secretary on 28th October 2025.

c. **Membership Cards for 2026/27.** A quotation has been received from Bulpitt printers for 450 cards, at a cost of £157.00 plus VAT. The 2026/27 programme needed to be put into the correct format for the new card.

Action: Membership Secretary

d. **Application Forms.** The Membership Secretary stated that the application forms needed to be redesigned to reflect the new payment arrangements. It was agreed that the Membership Secretary would do this without any need to seek further approval from the committee.

Action: Membership Secretary

9. **Newsletter Editor's Report.** Chris reported that the next edition of the Newsletter would be Spring 2026. He would be requesting input at the appropriate time. Chris was congratulated for the monthly e-mails that he sent out prior to the monthly meetings. This was an excellent mechanism for passing timely information to the entire membership.

10. **Webmaster Report:** There were no specific issues reported. The website was working well.

a. **BEACON 2.** The U3A BEACON 2 system was discussed. There had been some issues with BEACON in the past, but these may have been resolved. It was suggested that the Webmaster could revisit BEACON and determine if there would be any advantages to us joining; the cost of £1.00 per member per year would need to be considered carefully. Perhaps other U3As could be asked about their experience of using BEACON?

Action: Webmaster

11. **Groups Coordinator's Report.** The Groups Coordinator gave an update.

a. **Active Groups.** There were currently 31 active groups. (32 as at the last Committee Meeting in October 2025).

b. **Inactive Groups.** As stated, Questers 1 had been suspended until June 2026. If there were no volunteers to lead the group by this date, it would be deemed inactive.

c. **Group Leader Changes.** Strollers 1 - Vanessa Knott has stepped down as the group leader. Kath Catchpole and Dorothy Connor had taken over as the new joint coordinators.

d. **Group Leader 5 Minute Presentations.** These talks had been a great success and were well received. Following the GL talks in August and September last year, talks have also been given in October by John Howard (Strollers 2) and Trevor McCullough (Art). In November Barry Bond gave a talk on Jazz+ and Photography. It was planned that Vicki Evans (Craft Group) would give a talk at the January 2026 meeting. After this no further talks were currently planned.

e. **Photography Group - Project Update.** The final two Committee portrait photos (Vice Chair and Treasurer) have been added to the Committee notice board.

f. **Updated Interest Groups' List.** (An updated Interest Groups List dated 9th January 2026 had been sent to all committee members. This superseded the previous list dated 14th October 2025).

12. **Any Other Business.**

a. **Chair's Forum.** David reported that he had attended (by Zoom) the U3A Chair's and Executive Forum Meeting. He would report back if there was anything relevant to Andover U3A.

Action: Chair

13. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be held on **Monday 30th March 2026** at **1000 hours** at: **10, Queen's Close, Ludgershall, SP11 9SN.**

Signed

Dated

The Andover U3A is a Registered Charity, No. 1072274.