WOOLER U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
held in the Cheviot Centre
10.30am, Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Steve welcomed new potential members to the meeting, and all introduced themselves.

AGENDA

1. **Attendance**
   Committee: Michael Allmey, Pat Boyd, Peter Davies, Maggie Harker, Steve Mellor, Andy Middleton, Judith Oughton, Joyce Robertson, Sylvia Williams, Jan Davies (had to leave early). Non-committee members: Susan Coulson, Anna Ormsby, Peter Tansley, Joyce Watts
2. **Apologies**
   Colin Watson
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**, held 1st April 2026
   Peter proposed acceptance, seconded by Sylvia, and the Minutes were agreed unanimously.

4. **Matters arising** (if not an agenda item)
   Item 10. Art Appreciation: Peter suggests streaming National Gallery YouTube videos, reducing the work load. David will present on alternate months, but AA still needs a new Group Leader.
   Carpet Bowls: A new email Group Leader contact has been provided, but no response from that address means we do not know if it is for Dick Rutherford or someone stepping in for him while ill.
   ACTION: PETER will call in on Carpet Bowls next Tuesday morning and find out what the situation is.
   Group Leader responsibilities include reporting incidents, on a form downloadable from u3a national website. [There's a new article on the website specifically about updated incident forms].
   ACTION: PETER will send all Group Leaders a reminder to use the form*.
   Item 6. The microphone can be used by any Group: it is housed in the cupboard opposite the kitchen. Judith added that GGT was recently told by the WI, who share it, that u3a items are filling their shelves. GGT has taken some items into the office. ACTION: STEVE will collect the items.

5. **Finance**
   Treasurer's Report: Andy drew attention to several points. The bank balance looks healthier than usual because TAT has not requested the annual report so no invoice for subscription has been raised. Judith has emailed them and been given a new link to use. ACTION: JUDITH will submit the annual report for member numbers at March 31st.
   A new Financial Officer, Amanda Nicholl, has taken over at GGT, and accurate photocopying invoices should soon finally be provided.
   The saga of the Bank account has concluded with only a name change to University of the Third Age, Wooler Branch. Application forms have been corrected accordingly.
   On average we break even with income from room hire, with only Art Appreciation and Board Games being in deficit last month. Andy is having trouble reconciling room hire monies from Groups, as envelopes are left with missing or incorrect information. He has printed the info required info onto a supply of envelopes. ACTION: PETER will remind Group Leaders of the need for this info, and to fill in the printed envelopes. *
   Reserves: Andy pointed out that Wooler u3a needs a stated policy about reserves. After discussion, Peter proposed keeping a 6 month reserve, with the situation to be reviewed annually. This was seconded by Maggie and passed unanimously. Andy also mentioned that trustees are permitted to invest monies, and asked if he should put the excess into a savings account. The committee agreed.
   ACTIONS: ANDY will draw up a suitable reserves statement, and investigate savings accounts (e.g. Newcastle Building Society, who have an office in the Cheviot Centre). It was also suggested that we raise the limit for speaker expenses to £50, unanimously agreed.

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6. **Feedback from previous meeting** *(if not an Agenda item) – N/A*

7. **Disaffiliation**: *Feedback from Working Party*
   Steve gave the background to the idea of disaffiliating from the u3a movement. The advantages to the committee are ready-made training courses, legal guidelines, etc; and, to the membership, access to a wide range of events and courses on different topics, plus the u3a Friends newsletter and discount offers. On the other hand are the committee's disaffection with the new governance system; and their perception that Wooler u3a sees little direct return for our subscription. By a majority, (one vote against), the Working Party recommendation is to remain affiliated for now and review the situation next year.

8. Policies and Procedures
   The Committee having had a chance to study these, Steve proposed that the practical way forward would be for a working party to look at the documents in detail and adapt / clarify as necessary. He suggested this should start after the AGM, with the new committee in place. The meeting agreed.

9. **Roles and recruitment**
   Judith outlined the procedure for the benefit of non-members present: nominations need proposer and seconder, followed by election at the AGM in September. New members can be co-opted but there is only one vacancy at present, whereas there will be at least three in September. The current Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer roles will continue in these roles, but the Secretary role needs to be filled. If no committee member were able to take on all tasks included in the current role, there are at least two areas that could be covered by other members. These are the Minuting of meetings (by one person, or on rotation); and production of the bi-monthly Programme.

10. **Membership update**: we now have 143 members, and potentially three more in the pipeline. Wine Appreciation's waiting list of about eight are also potential new members, and it was suggested a second WA group be formed. However, a WA group needs 12-14 regular attendees to cover costs.

11. Correspondence Summary
   National News: The national AGM in October has been noted.
   Regional News: Kathy Clegg (regional Council rep) emailed about a 'networks pilot scheme', as previously circulated to all committee members. It does not significantly affect Wooler u3a, as most of the proposals match what North Northumberland Network does already.
   Glendale Gateway Trust: GGT has had to increase rents again, to £9.50 per hour. If necessary we could absorb this increase from our reserves, without raising group fees. They have also notified us of the new code for the door that is kept locked after hours.
   Wearside motion: Peter outlined the background to a motion proposed by Wearside u3a for the national AGM, that they asked Wooler u3a to second. This was circulated previously. The deadline for submission by Wearside is midday on 5th June. Several versions, by Peter and by Wearside, have also been circulated; though answers to queries have yet to arrive. Committee members agreed it had been done in haste and was not well worded. However, Peter's proposal, that Wooler u3a second the motion, was seconded by Andy, and carried by 6 votes in favour, with 3 abstentions.

12. **Website**
    Colin is not at all well, but wishes to continue to update the website. Andy has noticed that the Bridge page has out of date information, and other Group Leaders should check and advise Colin of required changes. ACTION: PETER will add this to the message he is sending to Group Leaders*.

13. **Any Other Business**
    Speaker meetings: Before she had to leave, Jan gave updates for future Speakers. Bob Pullen will talk in July on *Brain, Pain and Anaesthetics*; and at the September AGM the Speaker will be Paula Constantine from Ad Gefrin Museum. Her talk will be on *The Role of Women in Anglo-Saxon Society*. Judith was recently approached by GGT's Rural Advocate, about a speaker on a new Rotary project, which she passed to Jan. Jan has subsequently been able to book Dr Joy Palmer Cooper for the December Speaker meeting, to talk about the project, called Rotary Rural Connections.
    Non-speaker meetings: Steve announced that the diminishing attendance at the Social Meetings, despite various attempts to make them more appealing, means these meetings are no longer viable. As the Programme and Glendale Live listings for July-August are due to be sent out, after a brief discussion Steve proposed that from now on we hold only occasional non-Speaker meetings, such as Christmas. Pat seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously. The new Programme and Glendale Live information will be amended accordingly. ACTIONS: JUDITH and PETER.
    Programme Info: as Peter will be away for the next Glendale Live /Programme deadline, STEVE will collate the information from Group Leaders.

Date of next meeting: 5th August 2026

Minuted by Judith

Circulation: Committee, and all present at today's meeting, plus Joan Thomas