MINUTES of WOOLER U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
held in the Cheviot Centre
10.30am, Wednesday 5th August 2026

1. **Attendance**
   Committee: Michael Allmey, Maggie Harker, Steve Mellor, Andy Middleton, Judith Oughton.
   Non-committee members: Sarah Boden, John Campbell, Susan Coulson, Anna Ormsby, Joan Thomas.
2. **Apologies:** Pat Boyd, Jan Davies, Peter Davies, Joyce Robertson, Sylvia Williams, Colin Watson
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**, held 3rd June 2026
   Maggie proposed acceptance, seconded by Andy, and the Minutes were agreed unanimously.

4. **Matters arising** (if not an agenda item)
   Carpet Bowls: Dick Rutherford remains as named leader, but without an email address advertised. The 'mystery' email address owner remains unknown, so will not be used on our Programme. Barbara Rattcliff has previously said she is happy to deputise for Dick in his absence; and Sarah, present at today's meeting, as a regular attender of that group also offered to deal with the money as necessary. Andy reinforced the need to complete the info on money envelopes.
   The items removed from u3a cupboard: Steve has been storing these, including an old laptop and a functioning projector. He proposes to remove and destroy the laptop's hard drive before taking it to the appropriate bin at Wooler tip; and to offer the projector to a charity shop. All agreed.
   Mo Brown's Funeral: Steve went to this well-attended event; as did most North Northumberland u3a Chairs and many other representatives of the u3a, alongside family and friends.

5. **Finance**
   Treasurer's Report: The bank balance looks healthier than this time last year because of the increased subscription. On the 'financial position' graph the new line shows the level of Reserves. On income, Maggie pointed out a discrepancy for Board Games: GGT have billed for a room, although it has recently been held in the library (Board Games will revert to a hired room in the autumn). ACTION: ANDY will chase this up with GGT.
   Printing costs: Because we have not been invoiced for several months, GGT decided to waive these expenses and start fresh with monthly billing from June (although no bill has yet been received).
   Reserves: As the Charity Commission requires us to have a Reserves Policy, Andy had circulated a draft document to members. No comments arising, the meeting accepted the Policy, with an understanding that it be reviewed annually. ACTION: ANDY will email it to Colin for the website .
   Savings account: To conform to the rule that money has to be immediately available, Andy looked for instant access savings accounts. The only appropriate one gave a return of £15 per year on £3,000. As this is not worth a further administrative burden on the Treasurer, Steve proposed not to open such an account, seconded by Judith and passed unanimously.

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

7. **AGM 14th September**:
   - Judith outlined the process of publicising the AGM to members and inviting nominations for election. Papers will be circulated, as per the Constitution, in the next couple of weeks, and also placed on the noticeboard. Nominations forms were offered to interested members present.
   - On the day, the Speaker will be first, followed by the AGM, as last year. Steve mentioned that the room had not been booked for the July Speaker meeting, perhaps confusion arising from the cancellation of alternate monthly meetings. ACTION: JUDITH will check all room bookings with GGT.

8. **Membership**
 - Currently membership stands at 147.
 - Renewal: Andy and Judith previously renewed memberships during the non-Speaker meeting following the AGM. Non-Speaker meetings being cancelled, they booked Tom Sale from 10.30 – 12 on Friday 16th October for in-person renewal. This will be well-publicised at renewal time.
 - Membership cards: Steve proposed those not collected be kept in the secure u3a cupboard and group leaders be a) given the code to the cupboard and b) asked to assist with distribution to their group members who haven't collected them. All agreed. ACTION: STEVE will advise Group Leaders.
 - Membership Subscription: to remain at £10 for 2026-27.

9. **Correspondence Summary**
National and Regional News: The Northumberland u3a music event last year at Ushaw having been successful, another is being organised for next spring. Judith has placed a poster on the board. Steve had recently attended the North Northumberland Network for Chairs, and advised Committee that National u3a's main activity is the updating of the national website, and they should be aware that there are many changes to policies and information**.**
Other correspondence: Theatre Royal in Newcastle and Cairngorm Travel have both sent publicity. None being appropriate for Wooler u3a, Judith will not circulate these.

10. **Website and Facebook**
Information for the website should still be sent directly to Colin. Steve stated that around 30 new hits were received every fortnight on Fb, and would like to see more info, (eg from Group Leaders), to keep it refreshed, and will raise this topic at a future Committee meeting.

11. **Any Other Business**
Trips: In Joyce Robertson's absence, and at her request, Judith spoke on her behalf. This topic has been much discussed previously without further action, so Joyce decided to start the ball rolling. She and other members are interested in a visit to the Great Scotland Tapestry in Galashiels, and she offered to find out practical details. Rosanna Reed offered to help, and between them they have personally spoken to Glen Valley Tours (GVT) and the office at the Great Tapestry, and had email communication with both. GVT are keen to support Wooler u3a and offer discounted travel, whether on a hired bus or for their organised tours (but 2027 schedule is not finalised). Prices for a trip including admission range from £31 for a 16-seater to £22 for a £36 seater. The Great Tapestry offer 10% discount for parties over 10. Further points to consider: advantages of own booking vs GVT trip; insurance for accompanying non-members.
ACTION: JUDITH send copies to Steve of correspondence from Joyce and Rosanna.
Publicising Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Andy suggested these should go on both website and the notice-board. This was agreed, and as the Minutes are not approved until the following meeting only they, and not the most recent, will be displayed. ACTION: for Secretary and Treasurer.

Date of next meeting: 7th October 2026 *Minuted by Judith*

Attached: Financial report
Circulation: Committee
Members present at today's meeting