



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

For the 298th Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 20th April 2026 online via Zoom

Present: Howard Mordue (Chairperson), Mark Owen (Vice Chair), Andrew Richardson (Treasurer), Katerina Owen, Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officers), Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary), Ann Elliot (Speaker Secretary), Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor), Steve Meakin (Technical Support), Heather Haydock (Secretary) (10)

Apologies: Dorothy Morgan

- 1. Welcome**
HM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Friday 20th March 2026**
The minutes were approved with a minor change to say that the newsletter was published shortly after the committee meeting, not before.
- 3. Matters arising**
No mobile phone has been purchased for the Outlings group yet.
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
AR was unable to attend the start of the meeting. HM and SW reported that the bank accounts are in order and there are sufficient funds available. AR joined later and noted that he cannot access the Lloyds account until he returns from holiday. He thanked SW for doing the Gift Aid (see below). Some Microsoft software is needed for SW to use on his PC; this was approved unanimously.
- 5. Newsletter Editor's Report**
Sheryl reported that an article for the next newsletter has been received from the Science & Technology group. The deadline for submissions is 5th May.

6. Membership Secretary's report

SW provided a written report. Membership numbers are still growing and there are now 915 members. Some of the new members were prompted by the new Outings group. He has submitted the Gift Aid claim to HMRC. Some members are difficult to contact during the renewal process: those without email addresses, honorary members and people who double-pay by accident and opt for two years' membership. He asked whether it is important that people have membership cards. The consensus was that membership cards are not needed as Group Leaders can access member numbers on Simple.

7. Speaker Secretary's Report

AE joined for the first time as the new Speaker Secretary. She thanked Roland, Katerina and Dorothy for their support in her new role. She hopes to book a speaker for September later this week.

There was a discussion of whether the Open Meeting talks could be streamed or recorded and placed on the website. SM explained that some speakers use copyright material that cannot be placed on the internet; we could ask them. There are U3A online groups that people unable to attend talks could access instead, or they may be able to attend the same talk at another U3A. KO will circulate information about the online content available. HM will find out what the Third Age Trust policy is on this.

The Summer Social on 22nd July does not have music booked yet. AR knows a couple of classical musicians who might be willing and available. There is usually a quiz. The catering group may be able to support on the day.

8. Group Liaison Officers' Report

KO reported that the Outings Group had its first outing to Ely on Thursday 9th April and is planning another outing soon. The crafts group has started. The New Members Coffee Morning in March was well attended.

A prospective new Group Liaison Officer has been identified. HM will mention at the Open meeting that we need a new Secretary and Newsletter Editor in November.

9. Webmaster's Report

DM provided the following written update before the meeting.

'Continued with ongoing maintenance and updates for the website. A member's email address has been compromised, and sent out a number of scam messages. The account owner has been informed, and Group Coordinators have been reminded to treat such messages with caution – they normally follow the same pattern of wording.

Met new Speaker Secretary Ann to familiarise her with our systems, and how to log in for various tasks including sending out bulk email. She has access to the inbox which contains some helpful information to get started, along with some handover notes.'

10. Technical Support

SM will be at the Open Meeting to provide technical support. HM will ask for the doors to be unlocked by 1.30 so SM can set up. Music could be played at the Community Centre from a phone using Bluetooth.

11. Any Other Business

AR asked if emails going to the Treasurer could be changed to say his name rather than the previous Treasurer. This may be a task for DM.

Next Committee Meeting (299th) to be held on Tuesday 26th May at 11.00.

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