Washington Village U3A Committee Scout Hut 10.00am, 21st May 2026

26.64 Welcome
Welcome from the chair to members attending the May meeting.
Attending:John Edwards (Chair), Helen Edwards, Richard Mulvey, Jackie Robinson, Ian McIntosh, Lyn Bossons, William Hird, Crispin Welby, Elvira and David (new members.

26.65 Apologies: Ann Dodds, Tania Le Marinel, Derek Ginsberg.

26.66 Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 19th March 2026
Acceptance of last month's minutes proposed by Lyn and seconded by Richard.

26.67 Matters arising from previous minutes not elsewhere on the agenda
Pauline Palmer and Catherine Hambley have stepped down from the committee after many years of service and farewell gifts were presented to them at the monthly meeting.
Resolved. Lyn arranged farewell presents for Catherine and Pauline.

A number of people still do not bring cups for their tea/coffee at monthly mee tings. A 10p charge from July was approved by committee for a disposable cup with the aim of being environmentally efficient. A sign is to be displayed at the June meeting advising of the change from the July meeting. An honesty tub would be used to collect the 10p donations. New members will have a grace period as they would not be expected to know.
30 disposable cups used at April Meeting. At the AGM, of 99 members 20 used a disposable cup (plus 6 new members and 3 band members)
We will put the policy into action from July but will advertise this by email and with a notice at the bar in June.
Resolved: John to include details of this in email about the June meeting.
Resolved: Bill to create a sign to put by the cups saying "donation 10p"

Environment
No update
Ongoing: Bill to send out U3a Environment Policy to Group Leaders

26.68 AGM
All previous action points have been resolved.

The Chair's report is available as an audio file on the website (on Podbites page).

Officers elected: Chair (John), Vice-Chair (Derek), Business Secretary (Tania), Treasurer (Helen).
Other roles on the committee remain as last year: membership secretary (Richard), Speaker secretary (Jackie), Beacon and Assistant Treasurer (Lyn), Groups Coordinator (Ian), PR (Tania), Minuting secretary and members liaison (Ann). William remains the Environment officer although not on the committee.

We have 9 committee members, we can have up to 12 elected at an AGM, we can co-opt 2. 5 are needed for a meeting to be quorate.

N.B. Lyn will leave the committee at the next AGM. It will be useful to set up shadowing roles especially for Beacon admin and the assistant treasurer role. Richard is interested in the Beacon role, and Bill in the assistant treasurer role.

We should build in succession planning to the committee roles.

Action: John to put review of the constitution onto the agenda for June.

Action: John to see if Maggie Porter is willing to be co-opted (especially to help with events).

26.69 Treasurer Report
Treasurer's monthly report was presented and accepted

26.70 Business Secretary Report.
Nothing to report this month.

26.71 Group Co-ordinator Report
Currently we have 37 groups:
Darts has started: 1st and 3rd Fridays 2-4pm at the Black Bush, buy a drink from the bar. Geoff Craggs initial group leader. He'd like to have a small trophy to present at the end of each year. Asked if that could be bought from general funds (£10-£20) so money doesn't have to be collected from attendees: committee happy with that.

Ann Oswald, Creative Writing GL is unwell and has had to step down as group leader. Cath Mills is stepping in as temporary GL.

New beginners Tai Chi has started (17 members), next intake will be for the Wednesday session in September.

The Harmonica group has dwindling numbers, so to prevent costs rising Ian suggested they continue with in-person meetings once a month supported by WhatsApp tuition between these sessions: this is to be suggested to the group.

The national Beacon team are putting on Beacon training “for the terrified” for GLs: Ian suggests all GLs that can sign up.

More WVu3a GL training needs to be set up to cover the website, Beacon etc.

Action: Ian to email GLs to suggest each group has a deputy/joint GL, and that GLs enroll for the Beacon training.

Action: Helen to set up Darts group on the website.

Action: Lyn to set up Darts group on Beacon.

Action: Tania to investigate buffet options with Sheila's Kitchen, and design tickets.

26.72 Speaker Secretary Report

Positive feedback from members about Kiddar’s Luck at the AGM. Feedback given to previous speaker (author).

Jackie is still looking for a new entertainer for Christmas and has a potential act to contact, if that dosen’t work out she will contact Mea Dean (last year’s entertainer).

John and Derek (via John) highlighted that both Brian Denton and Ged Parker of WVu3a have interesting talks they could give. And, as members of our u3a they could be perhaps be “on standby” to fill in if a speaker drops out at short notice.
Action: Jackie to follow up on Christmas entertainers and contact Brian and Ged to find out their availability at short notice should we need it.

26.73 Members Liaison Report

Get Well Cards have been sent to : Norma Carroll, Joan Molloy, Anne Oates, Fred Addison.

26.74 Membership Secretary's Report
We currently have 321 members, 14 new members since 1st April. The last reminder has been sent out to the 19 who have not as yet renewed. For those without email Richard will get in touch individually with them.

26.75 PR Update
Nothing to report.

26.76 IT/Website Update
Nothing specific to report.

26.77 Social Event in October.
Positive responses from Ukuleles, Jamming, Shanty singers, Bridge group, and Photography plus Janet is going to speak to the Line Dancing group and let John know if they can do a demo, Cath Mills has volunteered to sing a couple of songs. Given the response we will go ahead with the event.

2-5pm (set up from 1pm) at The Stella.

Ian believes there is sufficient PA equipment available for the event (1000W speaker, 4 mikes, plus jamming group have their own equipment).

Action: John to confirm with the Stella.

Action: John, Ian, Tania and Maggie (if she's willing) to liaise over firming up the details.

Action: Tania to investigate buffet options/costs with Sheila's Kitchen, and design tickets.

26.78 Regional and Network Update

N.E. Regional day at Ushaw was enjoyable, there are opportunities for improvement in the future. Feedback has been sent.

Derek attended the Regional AGM.

Action: John to contact network chairs to arrange another meeting.

26.79 AOB

Crispin gave some details of the “Pride in Place” programme where groups in Washington have opportunity to get funding for relevant projects over the next 10 years. The Washington Board Pride in Place Programme Board is having its first meeting for people to attend on 3rd June at Washington Millennium Centre. Crispin is attending this. There is more information on the council website.