



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

18th June 2025

From 13.55 to 15.30

Present: - Wendy Date (WD), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Moira Stokoe (MS), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Peter Barnett (PB), Ann Carr (AC), Keith Allison (KA), Ted Watt (TW), Jean Cubbin (JC), Kathy Clegg (KC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Cecilia Coulson

At the beginning of the meeting WD announced that following her one-to-one meetings with members KA has agreed to be Vice Chair.

Minutes: - TM proposed that the minutes of the 16th May 2025 meeting was a true record and AC seconded the motion. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: - Tips for Treasurers which has been distributed to members is not in a suitable format for putting on the website. TM to liaise with Catherine Stevenson who put the article together.

Future of the Northumbria Region. WD said that the committee had no desire to change the name. We are known at National Office as North East Region by default. Any change will be put to the vote at the next AGM.

National has suggested that the three u3as in the south of the region move to Yorkshire. PB and AC suggested that they should be contacted to see if they agree. WD said they would be removed from the website and to write to their Chairs.

Communications.

Messenger – WD pointed out the reluctance of u3as to provide articles for the magazine and asked MEB to comment.

MEB said that originally that two copies of each issue were printed and distributed at the quarterly meetings but during the pandemic the magazine went online only and has remained that way. We have asked for articles online, at quarterly meetings etc., but we only get articles from the usual u3as.

It was after much discussion that we agreed to no longer produce the magazine but articles would still be welcome and would be put on a dedicated page on the regions website. Articles would come to MEB in the usual way and she would format before forwarding them to PB to be on the website. This change will be kept under review. **Post Meeting Note – MEB has emailed the two ladies who proofread the magazine regarding the decision.**

We still have Facebook, Beacon, website and emails as means of communicating with members.

It was noted that when u3as migrated to the new website that some links were lost to the regions website. PB said he would look into those u3as that do not have a link to try to establish one.

Reports

Chair (WD): - The report Observations after Six Weeks to be distributed with these minutes.

There are five members on his committee without a specific role and two members have two roles.

Networks are independent and do not report to this committee.

This committee seems to be self-serving but do we have a role to play?

The region needs to align with National and review our effectiveness.

What would change if we disappeared?

The National Council is still working through their remit.

Newcastle University has contacted the regional u3a regarding a Nutrition and Diet project details will follow as they become available.

Treasurers Report (TM): - Report circulated.

Money for events is continuing to come in.

Music Day – We were informed on the day that we would have to pay for the bar staff. TM gave them her contact details but to date has not heard from them. She will contact Bob Pullen regarding same.

U3a fees to Region – TM noted that this would raise approximately £600 but we have sufficient funds for this current year. MEB pointed out as these fees were for region u3as could not be forced to pay.

It was agreed that we would suspend charging fees for this financial year.

Events. Report circulated.

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens is to be the venue of a one-day event on Tuesday the 12 May. A flyer is going out to u3as to attract members to run workshops or activities.

Music Day – AC said a lot of work has gone into organizing this. It was a nice venue and a very good event.

TM – members had told her a handrail to the stage would have been useful. Their seemed to be quite a bit of time spent on one act leaving the stage and setting things up for the next.

PB – noted that only four members from Wessington turned up which was disappointing as the venue is the one Wessington use for their monthly meeting. It stayed on schedule and Bob Pullen has done a good job.

KC – thought there was a good variety of acts.

WD – had received 2 questions about the location of the October Quiz ,why was it not more centrally located it is not easy to get to on public transport.

Hopetown, Darlington – Only thirteen people turned up. It was suggested that in future we ask for monies for events in advance rather than asking them to pay on the day as this would give them an incentive to come to an event.

Website/Beacon (PB) – Things are running smoothly and nothing to report.

NE Council Representatives (JC & KC) – They have been out and about contacting MPs in the region and introducing the u3a to them. They have been promoting the booklet ‘ Learn to Live’ with the aim of showing we are a positive ageing organisation.

This booklet is also on the region’s website.

MPs are reluctant to speak to people outside their area and JC and KC would welcome members liaising with them to arrange a meeting with their MP and they could accompany them as a friend and promote the u3a. MW volunteered to approach his MP.

It is hoped in due course to contact all councils in the region. KA volunteered to try and approach his council through a friend of his.

National have a survey which PB is sending to all the regions chairs. They will be asked to return it by the end of the month. The committee has asked for feedback.

Regional Quarterly Meetings – The next meeting will probably take place in October when there will be more to report back on.

Any Other Business –

WD cannot do the July meeting and there were 3 options; to miss July, Keith to Chair, or find a new date. As a few people couldn’t make the July date it was decided to have a summer recess. Then it was found that a few people would miss the September meeting. A chart will be circulated to committee members to find out which is the most suitable dates for July/September meeting.

Date of the next meeting to be advised in due course.

Name	Wendy Dale	Position	Chair	Date	5 th September 2025
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Name	Mary Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date	5 th September 2025
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