

u3a

North East Region

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

19th June 2026

From 14.00 to 15.15

Present: - Arthur Coulson (AC), Jane Mathieson (JM), Moira Stokoe (MS), Kathy Clegg (KC), Cecilia Coulson (CC), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Keith Allison (KA), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM),

Welcome – AC Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Death of Mo Brown – Everyone was saddened by the sudden and unexpected news and expressed their condolences. CC to send a card to the family from the committee. CC to ask Kelvin Rushworth with regard to writing a suitable obituary which can be used on our website and nationally.

Minutes - PB proposed that the minutes of the 15th May 2026 meeting was a true record and MW seconded the motion. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters Arising – PB asked for clarification of a point in the minutes regarding communication. This was confirmed as keeping the list of Chairs etc., updated.

MW asked MS regarding report on the Ushaw Day what was it that people were unhappy with. MS replied that not everyone got their first choice of workshops and had wandered into other workshops taking places that were already booked. Also, there was a problem with the sound system. PB thanked MS for the report and was pleasantly surprised at the number of responses she had received to the questionnaire.

Reports

Chair (KA) – Report circulated.

Business Secretary (MEB) – No report.

Treasurer (TM) – Report circulated.

Events (CC) – Report circulated.

Golf Day – This may be cancelled due to lack of interest from our members although people may still apply as the closing date is 24th June 2026.

Durham Botanic Gardens – 25 people have paid to attend.

Communications (PB) – PB is busy giving passwords etc., to AC as backup for the various systems. PB would like a third person to assist and will put a notice on the next newsletter.

Facebook – The committee agreed that this should be a public and not private as at present and the content is out of date. PB will also ask for someone to help with Facebook.

Messenger (MEB) – We no longer publish a quarterly magazine and any articles received are put on the Messenger page on the website. MS has suggested that we rename the page to reflect the difference between News and Messenger where events that have already taken place. Ideas are requested for the next meeting.

Regional Representatives (KC & JM)

All aspects of marketing have been one of the themes discussed including the use of Facebook and Instagram.

It is suggested that items on Facebook should be short and snappy. We need someone who will be prepared to update the page weekly. Sheila Crawley would be happy to assist anyone setting up a page and managing same. Sheila has previously given a presentation to the region which is on our website under News entitled Strategic Use of Social Media to Grow Awareness.

Workshop – JM said they had been given £1,500.00 for a workshop which is being held on 2nd November 2026 at the Station Hotel, Newcastle. National will provide the trainers. It is proposed to run from 10.00 for 10.30 until 15.30. The first session will be on Contingency and Succession Planning and after lunch there will be time for discussion and a question and answer session. They expect to ask two members from each u3a. It will be free to members.

Networks – KC noted that Yorkshire and Humberside have started some Networks which are running successfully, to find out what the u3as in their area need. It was noted that problems could arise where treasurers only wish to discuss finance at meetings and other members only wish to discuss speakers list etc for example in a combined meeting it would be difficult for a treasurer who is having difficulties with his/her Chair to raise the issue.

Regional Subscriptions – This rests with our treasurer who will be sending out emails to u3a treasurers in our region.

September Regional Meeting – This will take place on 23rd September 2026 at Whickham Golf Club. Menu B was decided on. Old English (2 gentlemen) have been booked as the entertainment. CC to give PB something to put on the website. The programme for the day as previously outlined was agreed. TM to prepare the usual Google form. Prices will be discussed at the July meeting.

Any Other Business

List of attendees to events – CC is preparing a spreadsheet of names, email addresses and the name of their u3a, which she has collected over the months when organising Regional Events. Once this is prepared, we need to ask their permission to use their details.

The next meeting will be held on 17th July 2026.

Name K Allison	Position Chair	Date 17 th July 2026
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Name M E Barlow	Position Secretary	Date 17 th July 2026
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