

Dukeries u3a Committee Meeting

8th December 2025

Present

Mike Mounsey

James Bartlett

Jane Young

Maria Pitrolino (+Notes)

John Harris

Leslye Henstock

Paul Webb

Apologies

Jamie Baranauskas

Chris Neighbour

Sue Cook

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted. Proposed by John and seconded by Paul.

Chair

It was reported that a lot of items such as bunting has been disposed of because of the ongoing roof leak in the storage area. The Jubilee Hall Secretary had prior to the meeting informed that the issue was soon going to be rectified.

Sharon Jones had accepted Mike's invitation to be co-opted onto the committee. This was good news. Her co-option was unanimously approved. James will write to her to welcome her and invite her to the next Committee meeting. **ACTION**

Another person who had previously served wanted more time to consider joining again, though there were possible difficulties in attending. Mike would contact her again about the possibility of acting in a support role. **ACTION**

Jane reported that the person who Mike and James had requested to consider taking on the Business Secretary position had refused. This leaves the Dukeries in a precarious position and it is essential that a replacement be found for James when he leaves at the end of March.

Trustees outlined their roles. This was a helpful clarification.

It was also highlighted that Sue Cook is working as the refreshments organiser.

Leslye mentioned that she is coming to the end of her service on the Committee and would possibly be leaving before May's AGM. She would not be present at the January or February Committee and Members' meetings. Leslye would remain as leader of the Events team. A discussion ensued about the merits of having an Events team member on the Committee. It was felt this was not necessary but would be useful and ensure that the Committee and events team were on the same path. Leslye would approach the Events team to see if one of its members would join the Committee. **ACTION**

There is still urgent need to recruit new committee members with basic IT skills.

Business secretary

James had distributed papers at the last Member's meeting asking what time and skills could be offered. He would contact those who responded positively to thank them and to ask them to consider participating in support for the committee as well as Members' meetings. **ACTION**

He asked for clarification around responsibility for the notice board at the Members' Meetings. Agreed that Jamie is responsible and that other Trustees would assist lifting and carrying.

James reported that the conference phone was useless and that he had returned it to the sellers. He would pay the refund back into the bank account. **ACTION**

He reminded Trustees that the whole committee contribute to setting up and preparation for Members' meetings and that this starts at 11.45 a.m. Likewise with clearing away afterwards. **ACTION**

James has been looking into lanyards for the Trustees to wear at Members' meetings to make themselves more identifiable and hopefully more accessible. This is a practice used on other u3a's. They are purchasable from the Trust website.

John Williams from the Trust had contacted asking for reps to attend a very useful day/conference relating to member recruitment and retention, to be held in March in Leicester. Mike and Maria would enlist and attend. **ACTION**
James passed on the contact details to them.

He had written to the person who had won the draw for free membership and also written to the unsuccessful bidders showcasing the Dukeries u3a and inviting them to think of becoming members.

Accounts

The Committee approved the accounts presented by the Treasurer. Jane reported that funds are healthy. The National Lottery fund has indicated that there is no further monitoring needed relating to the recent grant. Records have to be kept, however, for 7 years.

Gift Aid was discussed and it was felt that its administration was more trouble than it is worth. There would be very little return from any claim from those who had signed up. The Committee agreed unanimously to abandon it and to revisit it in the future when there is more stability and time. Proposed by James, seconded by Maria.

Membership

As from February 2026, the cost of membership up until the end of March 2027 would be £20.

Groups.

It was agreed that, as from February 2026, we would have a table at each Members' meeting showcasing/highlighting and perhaps presenting in turn one of the Interest Groups. **ACTION**

Paul continues to attend Zoom meetings with other u3a coordinators. They are of great help.

Publicity, Information

The Edwinstowe Fayre presence went well and the new lights worked well too.

Mike continues to write publicity pieces for local publications.

Jamie has done a great job publicising us on the Facebook page and attracted many potential newcomers.

Health and safety.

Nothing to report in Chris's absence.

Newsletter

Nothing to report. John was thanked for his work.

Website and Beacon

The decision on Beacon is again deferred until February. Jane would be approaching the Retford treasurer for their take on its usability. **ACTION**

Events

Leslye confirmed that tickets for the Christmas party were sold out and that all was in place with the caterers and planning. All Trustees attending were asked to help with setting up.

The trip to Wakefield was being well supported.

There will be an Irish themed event 21st March 2026 involving games, snacks and fun.

ACTION summary:

All: participate in preparing for Members' meetings.

Mike: potential committee member, registering for conference

Leslye: to ask for potential events rep

James: contacting willing helpers, refunding returned purchase, writing to Sharon

Maria: registering for conference

Paul: arranging a different group each month to showcase – starting February

Jane: to contact Retford u3a Treasurer

Meeting concluded at 15.00

Next Members' Meeting: Monday 19 January 2026

Next committee Monday 9 February 2026.