

Minutes of Great Glen, Oadby & Wigston u3a Committee

3rd March 2026 in the Ruth Warner Room, Great Glen Methodist Church at 2:15pm

Present : Peter Williams, June Juett, Roger Edwards, Elizabeth Cooke, Janet Fanko, Robert Mansfield, Cherry Thacker, Noelene Sapiro and Lynda Williams.

1. Peter Williams welcomed the Committee.
2. Minutes of Meeting 3rd February 2026 were approved.
3. **Matters Arising/Action Points**
 - RE has updated the Risk Assessment
 - EC gave a 'shout out' at the Monthly Meeting for potential new members of the History, Walking and Book Groups.
 - RM has amended the Copyright document which is ready to send to Group Leaders. (AP Send Copyright memo to Group Leaders.)
 - PW visited the Bowmen of Great Glen pavilion and has liaised regarding the Carpet Bowls group using the new pavilion. This is looking to be the Group's new venue.
 - RE advised the Committee that lettings at the Great Glen Village Hall stops on 30/04/26.
 - Any kit NOT being taken to the pavilion will be stored temporarily (along with other items from the Village Hall). Items no longer required will be disposed of appropriately.
 - CT emailed/phoned 5 potential new Oadby venues. 2 were potential but parking was an issue at both of them,
AP PW will email the Carpet Bowls group with an update.

4. **Membership Matters JF**
 - Membership = 537 as at 31/01/25
 - 14 members have resigned.
 - 6 new members in February 2026
 - 20 new members since 01/01/26
 - 47 associates
 - Currently 369 do not take the u3a magazine
 - Outstanding renewals at 28/02/26 = 294
 - Outstanding renewals at 03/03/26 = 268AP JF to send reminders for those outstanding renewals.

5. Finance Matters RE

Paper F 1. Statistics re Monthly Donations

- Monthly attendance peaks in winter and troughs in summer.
Achieving 500 members was suggested as a reason to have a free month shortly. After discussion it was agreed to make it for later in the year. (Most likely October)

Paper F 3 Possible Income Sources

- 3.1 Riviera Travel is used by some u3a's. The company gives 9% to funds from members making a booking and 1% as an admin fee for TAT
- 3.2 u3a Friends Extra has entered into an arrangement with TrainPal which uses a discount code for cheaper train tickets

AP JJ to add these references in the Newsletter directing members to the u3a website regarding these promotions and add a link.

AP JJ to liaise with Committee members regarding the wording to be included.

Paper F 3.3 Donation in Memory of Sam Muir

- There is the possibility of a donation as a memorial for Sydney (Sam) Muir. It was suggested that the Committee consider what form this memorial may take. The Sam Muir Prize was suggested. **AP Consider award when donation received.**

Paper F 4. Handbook

- Items suggested to add were the location of the remote control for the screen in the schoolroom being stored in the kitchen at the Methodist Church Hall and the location of the key for the small storage cupboard

AP RE to update document and publish

- After further discussion it was decided we support Group Leaders and potential new Group Leaders by mentoring. JJ suggested a “guide on the side” for new Leaders to encourage and support them.

- A hard copy of the Handbook was suggested to be on site along with a quick guide to what's relevant.

AP EC to prepare a summary of what's pertinent for new groups – a step by step guide.

- A 'buddying' system was suggested for the potential new groups currently being formed. JJ offered to support Singing for Fun and RM offered to support the Play Reading Group.

AP JF to prepare a list of potential members for the Play Reading group to pass to the probable Group Leader.

Paper F 5. Key Issue at the Church

- **We can now get further Church keys.**

- The Safeguarding form must be filled in BEFORE keys are handed over.

- A list of key owners from the GGOW u3a and the Church need to match.

- Singing for Fun and Debating Groups will need a key.

AP PW to contact the potential leaders regarding the key process.

RE to source more keys from the cupboard

Paper AR (Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26)

- The Annual Report is sent to the Charity Commission. Our report **was** matched to the Charity Commission format. We need to include our major achievements which could be Growth, Continuing ability to recruit new Trustees and New Groups formed.

AP RM to look at the Annual report and amend and add our achievements to celebrate what we do.

RE to add balance sheet figures

Paper RC GGOW u3a Reimbursement of Consumables

- After discussion, it was decided to continue as we have previously **(ie groups need to self fund consumables.)** with the information in the Group Leaders Handbook.

- Serendipity can create a collection for consumable items at their monthly meetings such as for Crafts/Baking. £1 per member was suggested.

AP RE to liaise with one group and say that we will pay for the printing for their group this year but going forward they will need to ask members for a contribution towards printing.

6. Gift Aid RE

- The amount of Gift Aid received will be lower next year.

7. Theatre Outing PW

- 9/10 tickets for the Little Theatre Outing to see a performance of “Baskerville” have been sold..

8. Paper D Pet Dogs on Walks RM

- After amendments to the Policy and discussion it was decided to accept the Dogs on Walks Policy.

AP RM to amend and upload the Policy.

9. Group Co-Ordinator's Report EC

Paper AP (Assets Policy)

- A list of assets has been laminated and placed in the cupboard. Also a 'borrowing book' for resources borrowed and returned.
- After discussion it was decided to accept the Assets Policy.

10. New Groups PW. EC. RM

Play Reading

- Possible venues are at St Pauls or in the Ruth Warner Room. The probable leader is available on a Friday or a Wednesday morning. The 3rd Friday in the month was suggested – Friday 20th March from 10-12 at the Ruth Warner Room for an initial meeting.

AP RM to contact interested members to let them know.

AP JF to create a register for the group and pass to the Group Leader.

AP RM to liaise with JJ regarding the information going in the Newsletter.

Singing for Fun

- This group is ready to go. First meeting on Monday 23rd March. The piano has been tuned and an identified Leader and Pianist are both ready. A hard copy booklet of the songs has been prepared as has a download.

- There are 3 volunteers to take the register and 3 more for the refreshments.

AP JJ to mentor this group and liaise with the Group Leader.

Debating

- This group has an identified leader and the first meeting will be on Friday 27th March – the 4th Friday in the month - in the Ruth Warner Room.
- There will be 2 sides of an argument presented by 2 members and they'll have 5 minutes to present their side each. There will also be a Chair.
- There will then be a discussion and debate around the topic.
- The first topic is 'The UK is facing a decline and collapse similar to the Roman Empire'.

BSL

- NS has managed to liaise with a contact from GoLearn Leicestershire who will hopefully be in touch with her regarding a possible tutor. AP: NS pass on details found.

Walking Further

- The proposed 'Walking Further' group had 12 people who showed an interest. EC is considering liaising with members and possibly running it along the same lines of Village Strollers - where a member chooses and sets up a walk and chooses a convenient day.

Carpet Bowls

- Are relocating from the 01/05/26 to the Bowmen of Glen facilities- subject to paperwork. An open ended contract will be in place.

11. Business Secretary's Report LW

- The GGOW u3a business cycle has been worked on by LW and RM to make it more accessible.
- After discussion it was decided that each policy would be updated by 2 Committee members over 2026 and brought to Committee when date appropriate to be considered and accepted (subject to any amendments)

POLICY	DATE REQUIRING UPDATING	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Accessibility	January 2027	
Committee Access	March 2026	NS & EC
Complaints Against Members	March 2026	RM & CT
Data	December 2026	JF & NS
Discipline	December 2026	PW & CT
Group Sustainability	September 2026	RM & PW
Health and Safety	September 2027	PW & RM
Member Code	December 2026	JF & NS
Privacy	June 2026	JJ & CT
Safeguarding	June 2026	JJ & CT
Finance	January 2027	RE & EC
EDI	January 2027	

Election of Council Members

- After discussion and having read the statements by the candidates the Committee voted for John Butler and Rosie Allen.

12. Newsletter JJ

- A draft of the next Newsletter has been created.
AP JJ to email it to the Committee for their consideration.

13. Recognition Awards

- Several members names were put forward and suggestions as to how they could be recognised. We currently offer Life Membership and Outstanding Achievement Plaque.
AP RE to email Committee with suggested members.

14. Pop Up Wigston PW

- April was suggested as a potential month to host this event on Bell Street in Wigston. The Community Hub is open on a Friday so it was felt that a Friday morning between 10-1 would work positively.
AP PW to liaise with OWBC

15. Any Other Urgent Business Network Meetings

- RM and PW attended a Network meeting hosted by Syston u3a where 6 u3a's were

represented.

- The Forum (a subset of the Network) has been formed.
- GGOW u3a is to host the next meeting on 23rd June 2026 at the Menphys Hub in South Wigston
- PW and RM are attending a meeting at Braunstone Civic Centre to which all East Midlands u3a's will be invited.
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Uploading February Minutes

- CT asked if another member could upload the February Committee Minutes that were approved to the Website and Dropbox – just for this month due to personal reasons.

Leicester u3a

- Leicester u3a has suggested a possible amalgamation with GGOW u3a.
- PW and RM have suggested a meeting with a representative of Leicester u3a in the first instance.
- A new name change wasn't thought practical at this time.
- Several members of Leicester u3a are Associate Members of GGOW u3a

16. Next Meeting : Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 2:15pm. Ruth Warner Room