

Minutes of Great Glen, Oadby & Wigston u3a Committee

7th April 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 and Noelene Sapiro.

Apologies were received from Lynda Williams.

1. Peter Williams welcomed the Committee.
2. Minutes of Meeting 3rd March 2026 were approved.

Matters Arising/Action Points

- AP PW to send Copyright Memo document to Group Leaders.
- JF has sent reminders regarding outstanding renewals
- AP JJ to add references in the Newsletter directing members to the u3a website regarding benefits with Riviera Travel and u3a Friends Extra with TrainPal.
- RM suggested a piece of poetry perhaps be judged in memory of Sam Muir when the donation is received.
- PW has uploaded the document onto the website which was updated regarding the Handbook.
- Keys at the Church are now resolved.
- RE has added the balance sheet figures to the Annual Report for the Charity Commission.
- The Annual Report has been amended to include our achievements.
- The tickets for the performance of Baskerville at the Little Theatre is now sold out.
- The Pet Dogs on Walks Policy has been amended and uploaded by RM
- JJ has emailed the Newsletter to the Committee for consideration

3. Governance Matters

- The GGOW u3a AGM will be held on Wednesday 24th June at 1:45pm.
- AP PW to email members regarding considering standing for the Committee
- AP RE to contact the Independent Examiner regarding getting the accounts prepared within the timescale.
- The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the upcoming AGM

4. Membership Matters JF

- Membership = 508 (31.03.26)
- 50 members have resigned – mainly due to health reasons.
- 28 new members since January 2026
 - 8 new members in March 2026
 - 43 associates
 - Currently 354 do not take the u3a magazine
 - JF has contacted members who have not yet renewed by phone call and has left messages for some members..
 - 40 outstanding renewals. Out of the 40, 10 so far intend to renew.
- AP JF to send reminders for those outstanding renewals.

5. Finance Matters RE

- RE has done lots of work on statistics of attendance at groups.
- AP RE to bring findings to next Committee meeting.
- Handbells for example has seen numbers dropping – mainly due to health reasons. 8 is the average attendance for the group. The room rent for this group is £32.
- AP PW to liaise with the Group Leader regarding this

- **AP JJ to Focus On Handbells in the Newsletter.**

5.1 2025/2026 Draft Accounts (Paper C)

- Under expenditure the wording will be amended to Book Printing
- Wording from the Independent Financial Examiner needs rewording but still to be in alignment with the Charity Commission

6. Gift Aid RE

- Gift Aid received will be £700 less than last year.

7. Monthly Speaker Meetings PW

- Speakers are booked through until 2027.

8.1 Group Co-Ordinator's Report EC

- EC has compiled an A4 side of a summary of the Group Leaders Handbook to enable Group Leaders to find relevant information more quickly.
- The summary was approved by the Committee.
- **AP EC to upload the document.**

8.2 Carpet Bowls PW

- The contract has now been signed and includes a £100 deposit paid for any damages.
- From Thursday 7th May Carpet Bowls will relocate to the Bowmen of Glen site.
- **AP PW to do a site visit to check on the updated facilities – including toilets, car parking and kitchen area.**
- A small cabinet will be required on site for storage of the bowls.

8.3 New Activity Groups

- **Singing for Fun (JJ)** was felt to be a truly successful group with something for everyone. Members were in place for the register and refreshments.
- **Debating (JJ)** was a very popular group with a very lively discussion. Members were in place for the register and refreshments.
- **Play Reading (RM)** had an introductory meeting last month with 8 members. It's a viable group however there is the continuing difficulty of accessing some play scripts. There are some resources from the BBC and also Project Gutenberg. RM has emailed members to update them. RM highlighted that there may be issues downloading materials but there are 3 potential plays to begin with. RM feels the group is moving forwards.
- **Walking Further (EC)** have 2 walks initially planned with 2 people leading them with the support of EC. On the 7th May a walk around The Langtons (5/6 miles) with 7 people and on the 5th June a Circular Walk of 6 miles.
- **BSL (PW)**
- It may be that we have to pay for an initial course. However, NS knows someone who has completed a course to Level 2 and that may be a possibility. NS suggested the Royal Voluntary Service as they do a course online which could also be a possible starting point.

8.4 Recovery of Costs for Serendipity NS

- From Wednesday 8th April members will be asked to contribute £1 for resources and consumables (craft activities etc)

9. Business Secretary's Report LW

- **AP PW and RM will liaise with LW to get the Annual Return in to the Third Age Trust and support this task being completed.**

10. Newsletter JJ

- The Garden Visits Group is temporarily closed and there are some suggestions for potential walks on the website.
- From January 2027 the Oadby Botanic Garden will be making a charge for the Garden. Lost of changes there are planned under their new leadership

11. Recognition and Awards Paper R RE

- After discussion it was decided to offer a Life Membership to one member who has completed 15 years of membership and has also been on the Committee.
- A gift award to one member who has completed 15 years of membership of £50 and 5 gift awards of £30 each to the 5 members who have each been a member for 10 years.
- This was agreed by the Committee and awards will be presented at the AGM in June.

12. Publicity Events 2026 PW

- 3 Fridays were suggested - 17th April, 24th April and 8th May. The Committee were asked to check their availability and email PW. It looked like 8th May was more possible.
- **AP PW to liaise with OWBC**
- Sashes and HighVis vests are available.
- Membership forms, Gift Aid forms and group lists will be required.
- **AP JF to upload relevant forms onto Dropbox.**

13. Next Meeting : Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 2:15p.m. Ruth Warner Room

- EC sent her apologies in advance for this Committee Meeting.

14. Any Other Urgent Business

- None.