

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT: Richard Boyles, Jane Slack, Di Tebbutt, Ruth Gunn, Maralyn McLennan, Brenda Boyles, Pat Stokes and Sue Perkins.

APOLOGIES: Chris Gunn, Reg Carvell

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were read, agreed and signed by RB as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: None

EVALUATION OF JANUARY'S MEETING: It was agreed that the meeting went well and the speaker was very interesting and has been booked for next year to talk about Rockingham Castle. DT advised that she had received lots of positive comments. DT advised that there had been 84 attendees and 2 new members. RG had received a phone call from someone asking about a Mahjong group, DT reported that at the moment we do not offer this but could be played at Card Playing group if there was enough interest.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY'S MEETING: RB reported that the Speaker is Bruce Keith talking about Scotland's Bridge building heritage at the cost of £100 and he requires a balance transfer. JS and SP on refreshments, RG, CG and MM on Raffle and Books, DT on new members table, Malcolm, Les and Cyril on AV and PS manning the door. Kathleen Banks is organising Lunch Club at Café Amore in Kettering.

RENEWALS: RB reported that 14 members have not renewed and will take them off the membership list. RG to bring the iZettle to the next meeting and DT to bring new members' cards. RB observed that the numbers have reduced drastically since Covid. Also advised that 134 members active on Mail Chimp.

NEWSLETTERS: Reported that the Newsletters went missing after the December meeting, so has brought forward the issue of the next one to February.

CLOSER CONNECTION WITH ISE: Regarding closer links with Ise u3a discussed at the last meeting, RB reported that he had received an email from Penny Smith saying that after their Committee meeting the decision had been a unanimous refusal to go ahead with the proposal, although as now, members were still at liberty to join each other's groups where vacancies exist.

REPORTS:

CHAIRMAN, PROGRAMME SECRETARY AND IT: RB has been in contact with Rosie Wrighting, Kettering MP and she may visit either a monthly meeting or Strictly Seated in the next couple of months. David Clayton suggested that we send out Newsletters by post to members unable to attend meetings. After discussion it was agreed it would be too costly and difficult to manage and it is available on the website.

David also suggested that we change the date for renewals as less members were coming out in the winter. After a long discussion, highlighting extra financial processing due to Christmas events, it was decided to bring renewals forward to August and for this year only and reduce the membership fee to £15, with a deadline of 1st September, making the new membership renewal on 1st September but the financial year remaining the end of April.

TREASURER: Main a /c. £7835.54; no 2 a/c £429.84. RB asked about a service charge of £8.29 and RG confirmed that this was the cost of paying in cheques and cash.

SECRETARY/GROUPS COORDINATOR: JS advised that she had been in touch with Help the Aged magazine and their advertising prices were as follows: Prime position/Full page: £550; Full page: £475; Half page: £295; Quarter page: £210; Banner: £95. They implied that they would get back to us in respect of running an advertorial promoting Kettering u3a.

VICE CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND IT: DT reported that she would complete the Annual Return to the Charity Commission. (Now completed).

AOB: DT reported that there were spaces at Play Reading and Card Playing groups. New members needed to keep these groups viable. RB advised that RC has suggested a visit to Toletorpe Hall and that he would ask RC to investigate options. Also that he would produce a new publicity poster to be displayed in suitable venues. All future speakers are now listed on the website and are updated as more are booked.

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2026 at Jane's

Meeting closed 11.30

Signed

Date