

White Cliffs Country u3a

Minutes of the committee meeting on 8 August 2025 10:00am at Golf Road Centre, Deal

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Actions</u>
1. <u>Welcome and apologies</u> Present: Ellie Brooks, Sue Edwards (Chair), Carol Fowler, Heather Jackson, Denise McCoy, John McCoy, Sara Miller, Paulin Meier, Ponda Thomas and Bill Venables. Apologies: Sally Hinds and Mary Venables. Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. <u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> a. The minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3. <u>Matters arising</u> a. To be dealt with during the meeting.	
4. <u>New committee members</u> a. A meeting has been arranged for 11 August at 12:00 at Sue's house to review how all roles and duties of the committee will be covered going forward and to review progress with the nomination process. Carol and Ellie sent apologies. b. Sally Hinds has regretfully stepped down from supporting the committee due to other commitments.	
5. <u>Finance</u> a. A query had been received regarding the allocation of entries to categories in the Statement of Accounts that was circulated for the AGM. It was agreed that the accounts will be re-issued with entries re-allocated to the same categories as those used in 2023/4. An updated Treasurer's Report and covering letter/email will also be issued. b. John had drafted a proposed covering letter/email which was agreed. c. John is meeting with Val later today to finalise the re-allocation of figures, the revised Treasurer's Report and the covering letter/email. He will circulate them to the committee for approval. He will contact Jacqui Dodds, the independent reviewer, to sign off the revised documents before circulation. Denise will circulate them to members as soon as possible after they are approved. d. Jacqui Dodds was thanked for reviewing the accounts and for supporting John. e. It was agreed that Val's access to the bank account will need to cease before the AGM. f. Val and John are completing the accounts for July, and it was agreed they will be counter-signed by the new Chair at the next meeting. <i>Post-meeting note: at the end of July, the current account balance was £500.73 and the reserve account balance was £5,168.50. There are also 2 receipts from Eagle Heights trip: £378.10 entrance fees and £1,140 lunch, paid on debit card.</i> g. A query has been received regarding Gift Aid income not appearing in the 2024/5 accounts. This had been discussed in the March committee meeting, when it was agreed not to claim Gift Aid until the outcome of the challenge by HMRC to u3as (and other charities) has been resolved nationally. An explanation will be provided in the next newsletter in case other members query this.	c. John Denise
6. <u>Membership</u> a. There are currently 404 members, up from 399 last month and up from 382 in September 2024. b. The meeting in Dover on 12 July was attended by 20 members (plus 1 guest): 4 from Dover, 5 from Deal, 1 from Temple Ewell, 1 from Eythorne, 4 from Walmer, 1 from Kingsdown, 2 from Whitfield, 1 from St Margarets and 1 from Sandwich.	

c. The meeting at the Astor on 6 August was attended by 68 members (plus 5 guests): 53 from Deal, 10 from Dover, 2 from Kingsdown, 1 from St Margarets, 1 from Eythorne and 1 from Woodnesborough. d. Four attendees expressed an interest in joining the WCC u3a at the Kent show. Ponda has followed up with them but received no responses to her emails so far. e. Deal Pride was attended by 7 members of WCC u3a and Ponda has posted the pictures on Facebook. She also sent them to the u3a communications team who posted them on national social media platforms: Instagram, X and Facebook. f. Ponda has sent pictures and reports regarding WCC u3a's involvement in Deal Pride to 'u3a Matters' and Community Ad. g. There will be a New Members meeting on Tuesday 12 August from 3-4 pm at Walmer castle. Several committee members and group leaders will be attending. h. It was noted that Digital Kent provides free IT support and could be helpful to members. They have hubs in Sandwich, Dover and Aylesham. Contact details: email: digitalhubs@kent.gov.uk phone: 03000 410 950 and website: https://www.digitalkent.uk/	
7. <u>Talks, coffee mornings and visits</u> a. The next talk in Dover will be by Heather Jackson on the Dungeness Nuclear Facility. It will be on Wednesday 17 September in Dover Town Hall Council Chamber at Maison Dieu House. It was noted that the room needs to be booked 30 minutes before the talk so that people arriving early are allowed access. Sara and Heather are going to visit the venue and will enquire about refreshments. b. Delia Taylor, the social historian who gave the successful illustrated talk about the life of Coco Chanel, would be happy to return to give a talk on another topic. c. The next quiz will be on 25 October at 7pm in Sholden Village Hall. Alternative venues and holding quizzes in the daytime will be considered for the future.	a. Sara & Heather
8. <u>Groups</u> a. The groups went live for members to sign up at 12:00 on Thursday 7 August. Some members had difficulty logging on to the site and Bill emailed guidance to all members in advance. b. Most groups are now full or oversubscribed. Heather is working with the leaders of oversubscribed groups to consider options, such as splitting into two groups. c. There was a discussion about possible causes of some of the difficulties that had been encountered by members during the process, including: a. Providing sufficient notice to allow IT sessions to be set up in advance b. The use of the 'waiting list' function, which means members applying to join a group need to be admitted, regardless of whether the group is full c. Allowing members to 'leave' a group 'without notice'. d. It was agreed to review the process in the Autumn to identify what went well and what could be improved in the future to smooth the process for members. e. A small number of groups will be launched in January, which will allow the trialling of any changes to the process. f. Heather was thanked for all her hard work in setting up the groups. g. Bill and Mary were thanked for all their help and support.	
9. <u>Secretary</u> a. Denise receives monthly TAT updates and will circulate them to the committee.	
10. <u>IT/website</u> a. Bill will look at email providers to find the best solution to setting up generic u3a emails for committee roles/members and report back at the next meeting.	a. Bill Denise
11. <u>Network and TAT updates</u> a. Voting is open for the TAT Vice Chair until 5pm on Thursday 11 September. Denise has circulated links to information about the two candidates to the committee. Gillian Ashford is currently the voting representative for WCC u3a and has emailed the TAT to	

see if this can be changed. Denise will set up a WhatsApp poll to see if there is a preferred candidate from the committee. b. Sue, in her role as Chair of the Kent Network, attended the SE Region Council meeting. The role of Sally Ingledew, our new Council member, includes understanding the issues and concerns of u3as and feeding them up to TAT. Given the large number of u3as in the SE, she plans to work with groups of u3as, such as all u3as in Kent, rather than individual ones. There is a meeting of the Kent Network in early September at which this will be discussed, with the possibility of creating a cluster of interest on what to feed back for East Kent.	a. Denise
12. Update from the Trips team a. John and Carol reported that David has regretfully stepped down from the Trips team. The committee would like to thank both David and Amanda for their contribution to the Trips team. b. John and Carol are happy to continue with the Trips team as is for the moment, with a view to approaching individuals who have the necessary skills and experience to join the team in the future.	
13. AGM a. The following arrangements and actions for the AGM were agreed: i. Seating theatre style and committee will sit at 2 long tables at the front ii. Microphone for the committee and a roving microphone if possible iii. The committee will arrive at 1:00pm and the doors open at 1:30pm iv. Refreshments will be provided in the bar area v. The committee will provide biscuits and cakes (including GF options) vi. Denise Smith from Maison Dieu will provide the entertainment, and a donation will be made to Maison Dieu in lieu of a speaker's fee vii. Teas and coffees will be provided by the Astor (Paulin to check cost) viii. We will request that the bar is opened ix. Christine Bell is to be contacted regarding meeting and greeting x. Denise to bring sashes for those meeting and greeting xi. The quilt and frame are in Linda Pearce's home - Paulin will liaise with her xii. The quilt will be placed at the side in the front and not on the stage xiii. Paulin will send out an email a week before the AGM with the details xiv. Floor to be opened for questions, Jacqui happy to field finance questions. b. The 2026 AGM will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2026.	ii. Paulin v. All vii. Paulin viii. Paulin ix. Paulin x. Denise xi. Paulin xiii. Paulin
14. AOB a. Sue will obtain garden centre vouchers for Amanda and David as a thank you for their service on the Trips team. b. An exchange visit has been arranged with Tower Hamlets u3a for Thursday 11 September. The Chair and around 30 members will arrive at Walmer Castle at 11am to spend around 2 hours there. After some discussion, it was proposed that the visitors then make their own arrangements for lunch and meet members from WCC u3a afterwards in the education centre at the castle, followed by afternoon tea in the castle. The visitors would then be free to explore Deal themselves if time allows. Sue will propose this programme to them. c. Carol has contacted Philip Healey regarding a talk on AI. This was welcomed by the committee. Carol will continue to liaise with him and put him in touch with Bill. d. Ellie will contact members from Sandwich who attend talks to see if they are able to provide lifts for a member who is having difficulty getting to them.	a. Sue b. Sue c. Carol d. Ellie
15. Next meeting a. Friday 12 September, 10:00-12:00, at Golf Road Centre, in the Small Hall.	