

EMS VALLEY U3A - COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY
20th MAY 2025 - MOUNTFORD 3 E.C.C.

Those present:

Tim Mathews (Chairman), Rod Lipscombe (Vice Chairman), Hilary Street (Treasurer), Sue Kent (Membership Secretary), Dbee Robinson (Business Secretary), Andrea Brokenshire, Les Brokenshire, Karen Rodger (Beacon Administrator), Liz Rosoman (Minutes Secretary)

- 1 Apologies:** Ann Sims
- 2 Minutes and Matters Arising:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read and agreed.
- 3 Business Secretary's Report**
 - 3.1 AGM Preparations**
 - a Confirm 2026 AGM Date is 28 May 2026
 - b Add reminder for change of July date to coming of AGM information Added - Next monthly meeting is a week earlier July 17th
 - 3.2 Risk assessment – Monthly meeting risk assessment updated & sent to committee**
 - 3.3 Kitchen hygiene – poster update**
 - a No nut policy, coats etc added to kitchen tips
 - b Who takes over from Ann (TRUGS?) - Andrea
 - c Hygiene certificate, EBC have offered us 2 free courses. To be decided Suggest TRUGS member and a meet and greeter - **Action Tim**
- 4 Treasurer's Report**
 - 4.1 Draft Budget 2025-2026 attached (below). The finances are looking healthy.**
- 5 Membership Report**
 - 5.1 There are currently 507 members.**
 - 5.2 8 people are yet to pay; membership would lapse on 26/05/25 if payment not received. Sue has sent 4 email reminders and letters.**
 - 5.3 It was suggested that a push for signing up to GoCardless be made in September. The April meeting was attended by 90 members.**
- 6 Groups Report**
 - 6.1 Group Leaders' Social: fewer people signed up than in previous years. Only 30 Group Leaders had accepted the invitation and of these 6 didn't arrive. Lots of food left over – we need to note amounts required for future Socials.**
 - 6.2 We currently have 53 active Groups.**
 - 6.3 The Watercolour Groups have now amalgamated into just one.**
 - 6.4 The Group Leaders of Wine 2 (Susan Resouly and John Jackson) have stepped down and are replaced by Sheila Redman and David Sawyer.**
 - 6.5 One further Group – CAMEO25 - has been proposed by Eileen Snow, who will be the Leader if it proves viable. The invitation/information e-mail has been sent to every member and Eileen has had a few responses.**
- 7 Website – Nothing to report**
- 8 BEACON – Nothing to report**

9 Monthly Meeting

9.1 Last Meeting

- a Martin Lloyd – Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies – this went very well and was very entertaining. Rod will enquire about his other talk subjects with a view to booking him again.
- b Tea – Family History Group – Karen Rodger
- c After tea – Alan Borrow – Cast Yourself Back 150 Years

9.2 Next Meeting

- a AGM
- b Tea – Beginners Bridge
- c After Tea – The Estuary Men

10 Any Other Business (AOB)

- 10.1** 20 years of Ems Valley in 2026. Celebration discussed and agreed to booking of Hospital Garden for either 3rd or 10th July - Action Tim and subcommittee.
- 10.2** Recent problem of members turning up to events when not booked – decided no further action at present.
- 10.3** Update contingency planning – added to June agenda.
- 10.4** Duplicate Emails from Kevin Stock, the network chairman, to vice chair, membership etc. Dbee to continue forwarding duplicate emails however no reply to Dbee required.
- 10.5** Change of July monthly meeting date to be highlighted at AGM.
- 10.6** Group leaders social – subcommittee will be formed for next year. Dbee will update info sheet regarding food/beverage requirements.
- 10.7** Andrea suggestion of brainstorming session to discuss future of Ems Valley u3a – will be discussed at July committee meeting.
- 10.8** Apologies for June committee meeting – Sue Kent.

11 Meeting closed at 11:20 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17th June 2025 (every 3rd Tuesday)

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	Change	Reason for change
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Subscriptions	12,800	13,205	13,000	200	£12,255 to date + cautious estimate of new members reflecting last year
Gift Aid	2,500	2,638	780	-1,720	Based on 25% of the £3,030 collected in 24-25 (on a cash basis)
Interest	100	322	300	200	
Donations		648	0	0	Not possible to forecast this
Total	15,400	16,813	14,080		
Expenses					
Beacon	550	535	520	-30	Current charge from TATTL but provisional
GoCardless fees	0	0	150	150	New overhead
Hall Rents	10,000	10,399	11,900	1,900	4 new groups formed and 3 existing groups moved from Waterside to ECA, significantly increasing costs. Also, charges at ECA and the Methodist church have increased.
Magazine	1,100	1,075	1,050	-50	Current charge from TATTL but provisional
Member Subscription	2,100	2,040	2,140	40	Current charge from TATT, but provisional
Office Expenses	50	20	80	30	Squarespace, Siteworks & stationery
Refreshments	300	107	300	0	Assumes next Group Social not until April 26
Speakers	1,000	894	1,000	0	Assumes £100 per month for 10 months. April was £150, but other months will be below £100.
Sundries	50	66	70	20	CLA licence. Based on 24-25
Total	15,300	15,136	17,210		
Net surplus / -deficit	100	1,677	-3,130		
Current accumulated fund			6,893		
Transfer to Revenue Reserve			-500		Agreed at April 2025 meeting to increase reserve from £7,000 to £7,500
Forecast balance at year end			3,763		This is in addition to the Revenue Reserve of £7,500