

**EMS VALLEY U3A - COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2026 - MOUNTFORD 3 E.C.C.**

Those present:

Tim Mathews (Chairman), Rod Lipscombe (Vice Chairman), Hilary Street (Treasurer),
Liz Iddon, Andrea Brokenshire, Les Brokenshire (Groups Co-ordinator),
Karen Rodger (Beacon Administrator), Liz Rosoman (Minutes Secretary)

Observing: Steve Joy, Carolyn Joy

1. **Apologies:** Dbee Robinson, Sue Kent
2. **Minutes and Matters arising:** The minutes had been read and were agreed.
3. **Business Secretary's Report:** All in good order. At March meeting prep starts for AGM.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – nothing to report. A query was raised regarding groups finances, Hilary sends reports to group leaders as and when requested by group leaders and to all before the end of the financial year. There was a discussion about groups accounts displayed on Beacon.
5. **Membership Report:** Sue is away. Currently 533 members. Last monthly meeting held via Zoom so no figure recorded.

Coffee morning for new members held on 13th February was a success, 12 new members attended. It was felt the extended time of 2 hours (plus 30 mins each side for set up/clear up) was beneficial for people dropping in. It was suggested that in future invitation could be open to all members.

6. **Groups Report:**

A request from Nigel Miller had been received regarding changing the name of Beginners Bridge as no longer a beginners group. There was a discussion about the status of the various Bridge groups, clarification is needed. **Les to pursue**.

A new group has been proposed 'AI Practicalities' with the aim of demystifying AI (members to bring their own device). Tim has proposed 4th Friday of the month in ECC at 2 pm for 2 hours, looking to start on Friday 24th April. **Tim to send initial email**.

7. **Website:** Liz Iddon and Tim to meet in April.
8. **BEACON:** Further training session has been sent out. Karen has shown Les how she trains group leaders and has gone through how to use Beacon as site admin. Training is ongoing. **Karen to check** Liz Iddon has access and to help with familiarisation.

9. **Monthly Meeting:**

January Meeting – Alan Freeland – AI is here – Prepare Yourself This was successfully presented on Zoom as the usual venue was not available.

Next Meeting: 'Dylan Thomas – It Started With A Kiss' Brian and Jacqueline Sutton.
After Tea – Dwywen Stepien – The Case for Keeping Emsworth Special
Tea prepared by – French Conversation

10. **AOB**

A Sue Long email issue has now been resolved.

B **20th Anniversary Celebration sub committee** – to be a separate agenda item going forward.

Date confirmed Friday 3rd July. The Community Garden has been booked all day.
Event to be called "EmsValley u3a @20". To be a low key, drop in, informal event for members.
Set up in the morning, event in the afternoon 2 – 4.30 pm.
No limit on numbers. Stipulation for using the venue is no loud music and to be left clean and tidy.
There was a discussion regarding making a charge/providing food and drink/hiring marquees in case of inclement weather/having a cake/how to limit non-members.
It was concluded that:
There will be no charge and that the budget limit will be £500 but to be re-discussed if sub committee feel it is not enough.
A welcome drink will be provided and a celebration cake but members will be invited to bring their own picnic and drinks to save on costs/organisation and avoidance of waste.
Gazebos will be borrowed from Hilary, Tim and Karen to save money on hiring or buying.
There will be committee members on the gate with a supply of flyers containing information on joining EmsValley u3a, these can be given to anyone asking what the event is who are not members by way of keeping the event to members only.

Tim will publicise the date in his monthly email.

Les to contact group leaders suggesting the option of presenting a display of their group on the day.

Next sub-committee group meeting Friday 20th February.

C Community Minibus

Les to contact group leaders regarding availability and costs (see Business Sec report in January Minutes)

Tim to be the point of contact for invoicing and booking.

D Encouraging Younger Members – Tim provided list of suggestions curtesy of AI. Les mentioned that one of the new members at the new members coffee morning had suggested sending flyers to the local sailing clubs. He is also happy to come along to a committee meeting when this is being discussed and give advice. This is a work in progress.

E Pitch at Emsworth Show – August Bank Holiday Monday. It was decided to go ahead with this jointly with Emsworth & District u3a. Tim to discuss with Emsworth & District u3a imminently.

F Group Leaders Social was discussed, needs to be in next financial year so will be planned for April or May.

G Steve and Carolyn Joy were invited to join the Committee and they accepted.

H Link still required to be sent to Liz Iddon for food hygiene training – **Tim to chase**.

I Rod advised that Andrea has kindly offered to become Vice Chairman when he moves into the Chairman's role.

J Apologies for March meeting received from Liz Iddon, Steve and Tim.

Meeting closed at 11.17 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th March 2026 (every 3rd Tuesday)