

Minutes of Four Border Abbeys u3a Committee meeting held on 21st November 2025

Present

RA, JS, RS, TB, AG, HH, PD,

In attendance Marilyn Bridger

1. Welcome and Apologies

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from LM and LH.

It was unanimously agreed that Marilyn be co-opted to the committee.

2. Minutes of 17th October

The minutes were approved with the change to Evelyn Grant Plant Exchange instead of Plane Exchange.

3. Matters Arising

Helen Ross has agreed, with a partner (yet to be found) to lead the Travel Group

The Open Meeting had an impressive turnout of 99 members.

4. Chairs Report

a. The Chair had sent a card and congratulations to Eve Armstrong on her recently receiving Legion d'Honneur - France's highest military honour.

b. A representative from Chest Heart and Stroke Unit has contacted the Chair regarding helping their organisation. We have to stay within our remit of Objectives of our Charity.

c. An accident occurred at a recent "Pickle Ball" session. Members must be reminded that all sport is undertaken at their own risk. Clarification of risk should be added to the group on the Website. RA is to contact Third Age Trust asking for a copy of the Insurance Policy. AGENDA next meeting.

d. Any member of the public may attend a meeting as a "one off" but on 2nd visit must join as a member.

5. Treasurers Report

a. The financial position was accepted and approved.

b. It was agreed to allow Practical Gardening Group to have £50 towards speaker fees in February. This is to be taken from 2026 accounts.

c. Pickleball group is to be given £30 towards the trial session held a few weeks ago.

d. Members of the travel group are able to pay money into the 2a/c towards a leaving present for MC. The same amount will be paid out.

e. Membership forms for 2026 – It was agreed that members rejoining in 2026 will no longer be asked to fill in a paper form, as long as there are no changes to details held. Each member will be given their personal information on file to check before rejoining.

- f. Update to financial policy was agreed. RA is to revise the policy and send to all members.

6. **Secretary's Report** – none received

7. **Group Co-Ordinator's Report** – received and agreed.

RS informed everyone that he had been appointed as Third Age Trust's Subject Network Advisor for Science. He was congratulated on his appointment.

8. **Membership Secretary's Report**

We have 434 members and 3 members yet to renew, who are ill at present.
Associate members - AGENDA for next meeting

9. **Abbey Row Update**

Scottish Borders Council has agreed to keep Abbey Row (AR) open until 2029. The terms and conditions for running AR will change from 1st April 2026. 60% of AR income is at present are given to Live Borders, but from April all income will be kept in house, but AR will be responsible for all outgoings. Guidance for price rise will be removed so AR will be able to set its own charges for room hire.

RA is to alert all users that they may be a room hire increase from April 2026.

10. **Succession Planning** – not required at present

11. **Meetings**

4th Dec – Christmas festivity – Jedburgh Town Band is unable to play so U3 playing

8th Jan – Gordon McKay – online safety

5th Feb - RNIB – Neil Atkinson

5th Mar – AGM and GQT

2nd April – Tapestry – Evelyn Grant and plant exchange

7th May – Borders red squirrels

4th June-Summer Social

12. Dates for committee meetings were confirmed.

13. **AOB**

a. Projector – it was agreed to purchase a Toppro A1 costing about £159.99.

b. AG is to contact LH re setup for Christmas Meeting, Christmas Lights are working.

c. Border Wheels – u3a may pay a subscription so that bus can be used. Capacity depends on how the bus is set up. AGENDA next meeting.

d. MB to follow up having a "Quiz night with Chips"

e. JS has been asked about Hearing Aid Loop – RA explained that not all hearing aids can work with a loop. JS to research for next meeting.

f. ICE cards will be available for members to fill in at the next meeting.

g. Kelso Life information needs to be updated with website details.

Meeting closed at 12.10pm

