



Science & Technology Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 11.00 am
at Greenacre, Barnhill Road, Ridge, BH20 5BG

In Attendance:

Nick Burden, John Churchill, Richard Cottrell, John Hale (Chair), Ian Mogford, Chris Morris, Patricia Platt, Nigel Tennant. **Minute secretary:** Janice Hale

1. Welcome to Committee Members

Patricia Platt was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

2. Matter Arising from 2023 Minutes

It was confirmed that a central corridor in the hall was now in place for ease of audience mic access and for emergency safety.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 were agreed.

3. Comments on past year's meetings: Zoom/Hall attendance figures

John H confirmed that Harman's Cross Hall had been booked for 2025 and that the current membership of the S&T group had risen to 148.

Richard stated that attendance figures had been improving, monthly attendance figures supplied were noted [see end page].

It was agreed that the Science and Technology meeting for December continues to be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

John H proposed that, due to Committee members' holiday commitments and lower attendance, no Science and Technology meeting be held in September. Members felt it very much depended on the date of the September meeting.

After discussion, it was agreed that the September 2025 meeting be cancelled and a decision regarding future September meetings be reviewed each year.

Richard raised the question of the scientific / technological content of talks given. The balance between appealing to a wide audience to promote attendance and the more specific S&T requirements of some of the members plus the problem of finding speakers was proving difficult. After discussion it was agreed that the type of talks being given at present were within this remit but that all talks should include some science or technology content.

4. Committee duties

All Committee Members were happy with their duties and agreed that the Duty Sheet was proving essential and should continue.

5. To Assess: Refreshments at start of morning continue to be OK?

All Committee Members agreed to the continuation of having refreshments at the beginning of each meeting.

Richard said many people were leaving during the 'comfort break' between the end of the talk and Questions. John H said he needed a short time after the end of the talk and before Questions for technical reasons. Nigel suggested that speakers could take questions during the talk. Richard C

pointed out not all speakers would agree to this proposal. It was decided to leave Question Time in its present format but with a smaller break to allow John H a little time for the technical procedures but no longer to call it a 'comfort break'.

6. Refreshment duties – by members also?

It was felt that one or two Committee members who were familiar with kitchen duties were sufficient. If on occasions more help was required it was agreed that a trusted member of the audience be selected to help. Ian said [later under under AOB] that he personally didn't mind doing the kitchen work solo (when the preparatory work had already been done).

7. Entrance duties

Two members on the entrance desk was working well. The production of personal labels, then signing in, then taking the money, was proving efficient. Nigel raised the question of the number of labels needed. Nick said he took the names from the list of people who were regular attendees over the last year and compared names with the active list on Beacon. If a person arrived who did not have a label their name would be written out on a list then he would provide a label next time. Nick proposed that he only check for attendance from the past six months. All members agreed.

Ian Mogford arrived at 11:34.

8. Entrance charges

Nigel and Richard raised the question of the entrance fee increase from £1.50 to £2.00. John H said he had received a strong suggestion from the PU3A Treasurer that our entrance fee be brought in line with other PU3A Hall User Groups. After discussion it was felt that the Science and Technology Group, although within the PU3A, should be allowed to set its own entrance charge in line with its financial situation. It was agreed that in future the full Committee would discuss any change in the entrance charge.

9. Live-streaming meetings to continue? Zoom participants To pay?

John H stated that two people who use Zoom regularly have offered a voluntary contribution. It was felt that if a voluntary contribution was offered it should be gratefully accepted but that no money should be asked for as this would set up an undesirable obligation always to provide Zoom services; also a fee would be very difficult to collect. Nick reported that when he attended the October PU3A Group Leaders' Meeting representing our S&T group the fact that we provide Zoom livestream to our members was much appreciated.

10. Committee succession

One of the S&T founder members, John Churchill, stated that after many happy years on the Committee he felt it was time for him to step down. Although he can no longer commit to a permanent position he would be very happy to stand in if help was required. Patricia has been helping him very well on the entrance desk so he felt sure his position would be in capable hands. Nick agreed to stand in for John H if needed with a view to a permanent succession should it be required in the future. All members were encouraged to think about successors. Nigel confirmed that he still intended to move as

soon as events allowed and that he would provide as much notice of him leaving as he could.

11. Procedures to be in place for members' illness during meeting

The PU3A Committee had submitted a First Aid Advice Sheet 2 showing what to do in the event of an accident or a U3A member being taken seriously ill. Nick asked what the present advice was on mouth to mouth resuscitation. Nick offered to go on a First Aid Course if his costs could be covered. Richard said there were many forms of First Aid Course and suggested that a First Responder course would be the most suitable.

12. Presentation of Accounts

Nick presented the accounts which showed a healthy balance. It was suggested that a healthy balance would enable flexibility for the future provision of Speakers' fees if necessary. Richard said that more money did not necessarily equate to more Speakers. It was felt that, whilst keeping a healthy balance for normal use, should the balance of funds exceed expectations this should be monitored and used for the benefit of the group: one suggestion was the subsidising of Field Trips. The accounts were approved and thanks given to the Treasurer for all his work.

13. Committee Availability Sheet – still useful?

It was agreed that the Availability Sheet was very useful and all Committee members agreed to let John H know of their inability to attend meetings as soon as possible in order to assist planning. John H raised the idea of a WhatsApp Committee group. After discussion it was decided against a WhatsApp group for now.

14. The Science & Technology website

The Chairman confirmed that the Website was doing well. The statistics [see end page] were noted.

15. Presentation Bookings for 2025

Richard said that he had bookings until May. He was finding it increasingly difficult to get Speakers and asked if it was possible to allow Speakers to appear via Zoom so that he could widen the area for obtaining Speakers. It was agreed to allow speakers on Zoom to be shown in the Hall providing there was a short technical rehearsal beforehand and Speakers' technical equipment was satisfactory. It was agreed that a fee of up to £100 (including expenses) was acceptable for speakers but that a higher fee should be discussed with both the Treasurer and Group Leader before accepting. Richard received several suggestions of Speakers and topics from the members of the Committee who agreed to send information to his personal email address or via speakers@greenacre.info which email address diverts to him.

16. Field Trips

It was considered that the Field Trips to the RNLI and Corfe Castle Waterworks held in August 2024 were a great success. John H thought that

the work involved in organising two trips was excessive and that we should continue in 2025 with just one Field Trip.

17. Any Other Business

John C asked if copies of slides from meetings were available. John H replied that this was not possible for technical and copyright reasons.

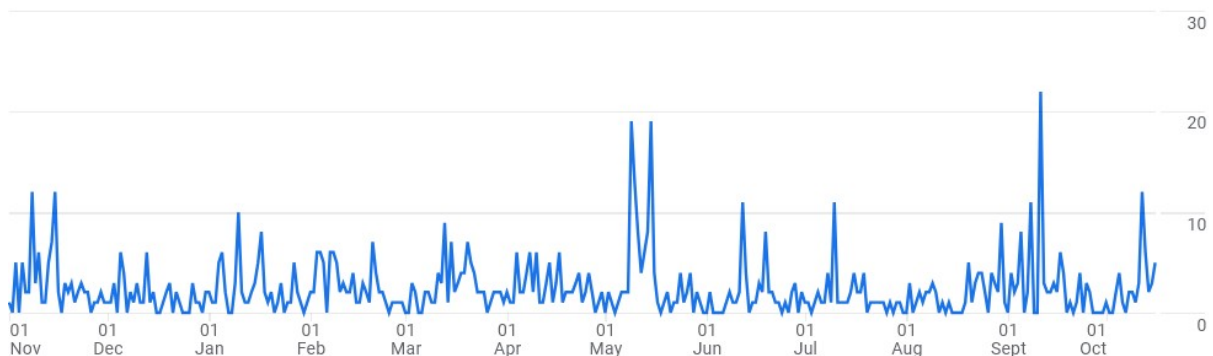
The meeting ended at 13.02pm when the Chairman thanked members for coming and gave a special thanks to Founder Member John Churchill for his many years of valuable work on the S&T Committee.

JH / JH 2024-11-28

S&T Hall and Zoom Attendance 2024				
	Hall	Zoom	Total	Speaker
January	39	13	52	Graham Feest
February	52	13	65	Gez Mellers
March	49	13	62	Harry Bryden
April	51	12	63	Phil Judkins
May	57	16	73	Bob Dukes + JH
June	42	8	50	John Ives
July	40	4	44	Richard Cottrell
August	0	0	40	[Field Trips]
September	30	13	43	James Fradgley
October	39	8	47	Chris Morris
November	57	15	72	Kevin Patience
December			0	David Corben

(December meeting had not yet taken place)

S&T Website Hits: Year from Nov 2023



Acquisition: 57% Desktop; 34% Mobile; 9% Tablet

Page popularity: Home; Next Meetings; Programme; Venue; Committee; Past mtgs

Referrals: Google; PU3A website; 'technology purbeck'; Bing