

Woodcraft Folk DFs

Winter Thing 2025

Minutes



29th - 30th November 2025, Online

Present: Aisling, Meli, Lara, Eddie (Chair of General Council), Caitlyn, Caitlin, Angus, Anna, Lizzie, Wilf, Eunice, Eva, Nyx

0 Introductions	0
1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes	1
2 Quarterly Reports	2
2.1 Reports from Committee Members	2
2.2 Reports from Non-Committee Role-Holders	2
3 Financial Report	3
4 Musings	4
4.1 Membership Fees Discussion	4
4.2 Future of DFs Discussion	4
4.3 Sending DFs to Youth Council	4
5 Policy Reviews	5
5.1 Cancellation	5
5.2 First Aid	5
5.3 Food	5
5.4 Consent	5
6 Discussion of Upcoming Events	6
6.1 Winter Wonderland	6
6.2 Spring Thing	6
7 Any Other Business	7
7.1 Co-option	7

0 Introductions

Aisling took the chair and welcomed everyone to Winter Thing. This year Winter Thing was conducted online over a series of two business meetings, and one social meeting.

The meeting began by going around the circle allowing everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone was asked to say their name, pronouns, role on committee and which district they come from or are currently in.

When people have left and rejoined the meeting has not been recorded, or in this case which participants were present in which meeting over the weekend.

1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes

Aisling presented the minutes from the previous Thing. Progress towards goals set at that meeting was noted.

2 Quarterly Reports

Note: In advance of the meeting, anyone holding a Committee or Non-Committee role was contacted and asked to prepare a report which answered 7 questions.

2.1 Reports from Committee Members

2.1.1 Shadow Mest-Up and London Liason (Hazel)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Mostly just tried to keep up with goings on and stay informed, I will be the lead meat up rep at the upcoming autumn nocturne

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- I would like to have been more involved and working with the rest of DFs to make stuff happen but I understand that there were some barriers with that

How are you feeling about the role?

- A little trepidation about AN but overall I'm happy and exited to be the mest up rep
- With London Liaison I'm just wondering if people need anything from me, I'm not sure where I stand

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Try to get more actively involved

Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?

- People in general, I would like to be more in touch with the movement and help out where I can

2.1.2 Treasurer (Alex)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Hopefully caught up on all due expenses, created the budgets for the events of 2025. Created a 25-26 finances folder in the drive, where everything is one place, including payment trackers, expenses trackers, budgets, fairer fare tracker, and an updated naughty list. This should be correctly shared with all members of committee, where everyone can view the info they may need for events, and just to have transparency in the finances.

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- yes yes yes. so firstly my goal was to set every budget for this year alr, which will prolly be done soonishhh. next I still need to consider a way of improving fairer fare, without increasing the amount of data I need from DFs. I also planned to codify all of the financial polices into one document, and potentially create essentially a TLDR of that for DFs, so people can ask me less questions (and to make it easier for the next generation). but in short, I had many many things to do and this got pushed down. also still suppoed to write the rough guide to shifts lol.

How are you feeling about the role?

- pretty easy so far - the day to day stuff is a piece of piss, its the long term stuff that's a bit harder.

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Codify the finances, Complete the years of budgets, begin to get Larry onto the accounts, crunch some numbers on FF, and create a motion around an "activism fund"

Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?

- YES, I need to speak to activism, and fundraising - bc holy smokes that would take some stress out of the budgets

Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?

- well the bank is clunky and bad. Also might speak to previous gens around why there is no DF card so that we can actually just pay for things, which would save loads of time and effort epxensing things. The main things thats been long is people not using the correct refrence format. this wasnt a huge issue before, bc the bank would show me your name, acc number and sort code. Unfortunatly, they have gotten rid of this, and now I can only

see the reference this means, anyone not using yournameAN25 has been hard to track and account for.

Anything else you would like to add?

- my further rambles will be in the financial report!

2.1.3 Communications (Angus)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Successfully kept DF members up to date with event details and opportunities through Instagram posts and the news tab on Spanthat.world. Membership responded well to being given provisional dates for the events, and were understanding that they were not final.
- We have been slowly revamping the website (Caitlin has mostly been on top of this), adding clarity on how to get involved in DFs and trying to connect new/moving DFs to their local groups. Added a Donate button (I suspect hasn't been used yet) and a link to the linktree.
- We've kept on top of emails and Instagram DMs asking us for information and to advertise opportunities to DFs.
- We've expanded our mailing list database through coordination with central, and are hoping to get it up and running soon.
- We have joined the Central Woodcraft Campaigns and Communications Committee, which will allow us to more easily collaborate with the rest of the organisation.

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- We were hoping to put together a video of each committee member introducing themselves, but we haven't got all of the videos yet.
- We haven't been able to remake the DF promo video, but we are collecting clips to put it together.

How are you feeling about the role?

- Very positive, it is a lot of fun, and between me and Caitlin there is not too heavy a workload.

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Keep with the updates to members about events and opportunities, continue making the website simpler to understand and navigate. Hopefully we will also start to do the things previously mentioned that we haven't got to yet.
- We are also looking at a Whatsapp business account, which would allow another form of broadcasting information to members.

1.1.4 Safeguarding (Caitlyn)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Met with previous safeguarding rep for handover. Met with Owen for an initial introduction to wcf safeguarding and the specifics of DF safeguarding.
- Was safeguarding lead on Autumn Nocturne which involved checking memberships and DBS/PVGs with Owen as well as approving the risk assessment. Filled out 2 incident reports during the event and passed them on to Owen and Lauren. Decided with admins some new procedures we will do for future events based on how Autumn Nocturne went.
- Had a safeguarding committee meeting where we discussed Autumn Nocturnes incidents (amongst other things).

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- No.

How are you feeling about the role?

- Good.

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Communicate with Winter Wonderland admins to discuss safeguarding before the event so they can include it more in planning. I will review the on-shift rotas before they are published so I can ensure they are appropriate members to be in a role of responsibility.

Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?

- No.

Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?

- No.

Anything else you would like to add?

- No.

2.1.5 Activism (Sumi)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Published a document with various activism resources on the website.

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- Start correspondence with non-Wcf organisations

How are you feeling about the role?

- ok!

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- reach out to other organisations, hopefully get DFs opportunities to be involved in some events.

2.1.6 Events (Nyx)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Booked the site for autumn nocturne, and helped and supported the coord team. Got together a coord team for ww, and (hopefully by sunday) booked the site for ww

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- Be more organised about booking sites to avoid stress both for myself and other coord team members

How are you feeling about the role?

- Pretty good- js gotta lock in for site bookings tbh

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Amazing spring awakening comeback, and an awesome ww!

2.1.7 Secretary (Lara)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- I've organised the agenda for Winter Thing, send out the quarterly reports and written up the minutes from Old/New.
- I also went through and sorted the Secretary Drive, making sure it was all organised and all the files were in the right places.

How are you feeling about the role?

- Fairly confident

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Familiarise myself more with Overleaf and the Policy programmes because right now I'm still slightly unsure how it all works

2.2 Reports from Non-Committee Members

2.2.1 Zine and 'Manchester Leiasgon' (Eunice)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- sorted the autumn nocturne activism songbook workshop with sumi, which will have some zine involvement to tie the project together at the end. Comms was amazing and helped me get stuff on the website!! I would also like the records to show that I answered an inquiry about DFs from a DF who moved to Manchester

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- Have a meeting with Lida and actually make the summer 25 zine (my bad)

How are you feeling about the role?

- Need to be more on it, but i also had surgery so whatever tbh

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- actually make zines

Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?

- Lida - zine meeting

2.2.2 Venturer Liaison (Suzy)

What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)

- Set up 2025-26 V Committee discord, met online with V Committee, planned next steps for V Committee, helped organise travel for upcoming in-person meeting

Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?

- Would've liked to meet in-person with committee earlier, but are meeting in early December

How are you feeling about the role?

- Good

Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?

- Another in-person meeting is being planned for January - February time, hoping to get committee more involved in V Camp prep and talk to them more about what they'd like from DFs, especially as many are turning 16 this year

3 Financial Report

Note: In the absence of the treasurer, the shadow treasurer delivered a finance report.

Currently 10,350 in the Account.

Still going to get about 500-600 more from Nocturne payments.

Currently sitting comfortably to run more events, however we are only just above our reserves so more funding would be useful.

There is enough money to run Spring Thing expensed as normal.

Winter Wonderland predicted to make a profit and make sure we are more comfortably above our reserves

4 Musings

4.1 Membership Fees Discussion

Chair opened a discussion on a topic brought up in the last General Council Meeting to raise DF membership fees in line with a proposed rise in the unwaged membership fees. Currently, DFs pay £12.50 a year, £1 a month, to be a member. An idea was proposed at this GC meeting to bring back an £100 one off payment, supposedly paid by parents when a DF turns 16 that will give them four years of membership. It was recognised that DFs are no longer as financially independent as they were when DFs were first established.

Currently, what DFs are charged is out of step from what everyone else is charged. This price has stayed the same since 2013.

DF groups don't pay group registration fees. This membership rise was proposed to bring DFs in line with the rest of young people paying membership fees (currently £20 per head not including group fees, compared to £12 with no group fees). The proposal from General Council was to move this price up to £24 per year, or £2 per month.

Membership fees of £1 a month will be moved up to £2 a month. It is not viable to set up a direct debit for a cost of £1, however this would work if this was moved to £2. For student members, paying £2 a month would definitely be more effective and reasonable than asking for £24 flat out every year. It would be necessary to communicate these multiple options clearly so that everyone is aware of their options.

Woodcraft is currently in a difficult financial situation, so this money would help in this case.

However, the idea was suggested that doubling membership fees is slightly ridiculous. With a rise in cost of living, we have had to double the price of DF events already. (Autumn Nocturne cost £35 in 2023, but £60 in 2025). DFs should be open to everyone, and these financial difficulties are making that difficult. We don't want to price people out of the movement, and raising the price might play into the idea that we are just a 'middle class' movement.

Setting up a Direct Debit would also be helpful from a Safeguarding perspective, as it would make it easier to check membership before events.

If we were to double membership, we would then take a portion of this (suggested at 20%). We would need to make the DF experience better if we are proposing to charge more.

4.2 Future of DFs Discussion

Chair opened the discussion to look at what we want DFs to be in the future, specifically focusing on an increase in Activism

We are currently in a more stable position to explore regional as well as national events. Regional events are very important as national events are very stressful for the co-ord teams. We are hopefully moving towards a time where not everyone needs to go to National Events because of regular Regional Events that are more accessible.

Everyone involved in the meeting heavily disagrees with those on General Council who argued that DF groups are unnecessary.

There is definitely a feeling amongst the current committee that we want DFs to become more proactive in activism. Woodcraft is often concerned about being too political. DFs should start running workshops in subjects such as: How to act at protests, how to be safe at protests, and which protests should you be going to. We should be using the platform we have to make activism more accessible through actions like signposting various protests on instagram.

We should be using the advantage of having a very political general secretary to be more active in politics.

DFs Comms reps relayed the ideas that Lloyd conveyed through the Campaign and Comms meeting - Lloyd happy for DFs to go 'wild'.

"If you're not getting investigated by the police you're doing it wrong"

Proposal of a working weekend at Lockerbrook? Could be used to help combat DF drug culture.

Idea that the Falcon movement is much more self-aware of radicalism and protests outside the movement. DFs should become more politically active, as well as becoming more aware of the socialist education we promote.

Action #1: Set up an Activism working group advertised by Instagram and headed by the Activism rep? This should help groups signpost various protests in nearby cities. Eva to start this process.

We should be taking advantage of the camp programme. Programme co-ordinators should utilise the daytime at DFs events more.

We are a semi-autonomous movement, meaning we can do things that the rest of the movement wouldn't necessarily be able to get away with. We benefit from being able to do things that they wouldn't supposedly endorse.

Eddie conveyed an idea that they want DFs to “get into trouble” e.g. turning up to protests in a folk shirt. It not only draws attention to the folk, but it draws eyes to you from other people in the folk.

Idea to make banners from each region to take to events/protests.

At this point Eddie had to leave due to a fire in their building.

From a safeguarding standpoint, if young people were arrested at an event how liable would woodcraft be>

We should be sensible on what kind of activities we take part in at protests when there are under 18s present.

There would need to be a high level of organisation, and taking a certain amount of responsibility to make sure they make it home safe.

Previously, DFs have been more heavily involved in protests. We need to talk to more people who used to be in Woodcraft and who went to protests.

Even if there was an unofficial plan for DFs or venturers planning transport to an activism event, central Woodcraft would have to be alerted if there's an issue even if it's not organised through Woodcraft.

4.3 Sending DFs to Youth Council

Aisling introduced this musing, then handed over to the Comms reps who introduced the musing proposed by the Campaigns and Comms working group.

Sending DFs to this newly formed council would put Woodcraft out there, and help it become more widely known.

This would be a useful tool to help DFs take a more activism focused turn.

Suggested that the DFs who would want to be involved are the ones who are on or want to be on committee, and who are already stretched. Would we be able to bring this up at Winter Wonderland? It would be helpful to utilise Instagram more, and put this out as a general opportunity.

No-one is against joining - should put out feelers to see if anyone is interested.

This could invite more security to DF events, potentially making it easier for DFs to do stuff that could be scrutinised.

These council members would be representative of DFs and Woodcraft as a whole.

However, there is a lack of tangible change from this council that encourages involvement.

Would be helpful to get young people's voices heard, and to get us recognised politically.

Action #1: Put this out as a post on Instagram to gauge interest.

Will come back to this after the Height Gate Venturer Camp meeting.

5 Policy Reviews

5.1 Cancellation

Link to the updated Cancellation policy can be found here:

[DFs Cancellation Policy](#)

5.2 First Aid

Link to the updated First Aid policy can be found here:

[DFs First Aid Policy](#)

5.3 Food

Link to the updated Food policy can be found here:

[DFs Food Policy](#)

5.4 Consent

Link to the updated Consent policy can be found here:

[DFs Consent Policy](#)

6 Discussion of Upcoming Events

6.1 Winter Wonderland

Dates 27th to 30th December
(provisional):

Aisling opened the discussion, and then handed over to the Events Rep.

Currently struggling to find sites.

Enchanted Forest Theme.

Policy to close bookings 2 weeks prior to the event may need to be extended to fill out places.

Co-ord team organised.

Proposal for a Mest-Up workshop for exam stress? More Mest-Up programme needed as there is no need for more training. Question of whether this would be useful for younger DFs going through mocks.

Caucus - Think Groups e.g. for women or POC. These are informal discussion groups to discuss qualities or opinions. Proposal to bring these back for Winter Wonderland.

6.2 Spring Thing

Dates 20th to 22nd February
(provisional):

Action #1: Aisling and Lara to start looking for sites

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Co-option

It was noted that DFs had failed to co-opt multiple roles during Old/New.

*Action #1: Co-Opt an Accessibility Rep, as well as a Training and First Aid Rep at Winter Wonderland.
Use Instagram to announce this.*