



Buckingham & District U3A Annual General Meeting Minutes 2024

For the Annual General Meeting held at 2:30 pm Wednesday, 27th November 2024 at the Community Centre, Buckingham.

1. Welcome:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He declared the meeting quorate. Attendees were 65 in total, including the Committee members.

2. Apologies: The Chairperson reported that apologies had been received from 40 members.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting, copies of which had been posted on the Society's website, were approved. Approval was given by a show of hands.

4. Chairperson's Report

Howard Mordue reported that we are doing well as a U3A with growing membership and more groups - we have 68 groups and over 800 members. Tai Chi has grown from one group to three and is now oversubscribed with a waiting list.

We have started a U3A show on 3Bs radio at 12.00 on a Tuesday. It has good speakers and good music from our era.

For the open meetings Roland found excellent speakers who attracted record numbers with over 130 attending.

The new members' coffee mornings have been well attended and give new members a useful introduction to our U3A and its groups.

He thanked the committee for their valuable contributions through the year.

This year the committee is proud to announce five new honorary members, who have been members of the U3A for 25 years. The new honorary members, who are not required to pay membership fees, are Judy Austin, Rosemary Cowdy, Judith Fenables, June Lewis and John Walton.

We do not propose to increase the membership fee next year and continue to look for ways to keep costs down.

5. Treasurer's Report

Sue Geary sent apologies and the Treasurer's report was given by Howard Mordue. The accounts have been audited and have been available on the website since last month. Sheryl Hargreaves proposed acceptance of the accounts and this was seconded by Paddy Collins.

The costs of the Christmas Social have been reduced by reforming the social committee.

6. Other Reports

Membership Secretary:

Steve Warnes reported that we currently have 829 active members as against 762 at the last AGM, with year-by-year growth each year. This was an increase of 9%. The renewals process is nearly complete for this year. There have been some overpayments that required refunds; this may be because two partners both renew for both of them, or there may be a standing order they have forgotten. He asked members to check whether they still have a Standing Order in place. 78% of people pay by bank transfer now. All information provided is kept securely and only seen by those who need to see it. If you need to change personal details such as your email address, please log into the system to make the update or let Steve or the Secretary know. He thanked Fiona Catlin, who helps with membership administration, and Janti Mistry, the previous Membership Secretary.

Group Liaison Officers:

Mark Owen asked people to lodge their emergency contacts with their group coordinator in case something happens during one of the meetings. He also asked Group Leaders to check their emails regularly. There are 15 language groups, 20 physical activity groups, 15 academic groups, 6 music related and 5 art related groups.

New activities this year include astronomy, environmental sustainability, philosophy, politics & economics (PPE), science & technology, Tai Chi and folk dancing. A local history group is relaunching in early 2025 and jazz appreciation and board games are also restarting.

Intermediate Spanish would welcome new members.

Please let the Group Liaison Officers know if you need any help setting up additional or new groups.

Speaker Secretary:

Roland Simpkins reported that over 100 members regularly attend the open meetings. These include external speakers and a new five-minute slot. He thanked Steve Meakin for his technical support to the meetings.

For the Christmas Social, please remove your name if you find you are not able to attend after registering. Howard thanked Roland for stepping in as Vice Chairman last year.

Webmaster's report:

Dorothy Morgan provided a written report that was read by Howard Mordue:

"As many of you will know, I stepped into this role last year, much sooner than anticipated, due to my husband Derek's illness. I had acted as his assistant, in particular with the rollout

of the Simple system, working on various aspects of the user interface and creating accompanying documentation.

Over the last year, I have continued consolidating both systems, finalising the transfer of group listings to the new site, which Derek initiated and was almost able to complete. I have continued to maintain and update the website, carry out all necessary routine tasks, and make sure group and committee email addresses are up to date.

In collaboration with the Group Liaison Officers, GCs have been helped to access their group listings, and update their group details, including the description, time/date, and numbers, and the facility to message their group from there.

It's encouraging to see how many are now gaining confidence in this process, and are able to keep their groups running smoothly as a result. We currently have 68 groups, and quite a number of those access and update their own groups. I would hope this process will continue into next year.

My thanks go to all my colleagues for their unfailing support over the last year, and particularly to Heather, who kindly stepped up to take on some of the Secretary's tasks, at a time when I was very much in need of help. I am very grateful to you all."

There was warm applause for Dorothy's contribution.

7. Election of Trustees

The following committee members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election and would be happy to continue to be trustees: Howard Mordue (Chairperson), Dorothy Morgan (Webmaster), Mark Owen, Katerina Owen, Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officers), Sue Geary (Treasurer), Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor), Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary) and Heather Haydock (Secretary).

Roland Simpkins will continue as Speaker Secretary but will no longer be Vice Chairman. Mark Owen has indicated his willingness to take over as Vice Chairman.

All of the above were elected en-bloc through a show of hands.

8. Election of President (optional appointment)

Howard proposed Lilia as President, and this was approved through a show of hands.

9. Any Other Business

No other business.

10. Members Forum Q&A

There was a query about emails from the web site – it should be possible to email committee members individually rather than everything going to Enquiries. Steve Warnes agreed to look into this.

There was a question about which were the best attended open meetings. The Alan Biggins and Henry VIII talks were particularly well attended.

Sheryl Hargreaves asked if anyone would be interested to shadow as Newsletter Editor.

11. Closing Remarks by Chairman

The Christmas Social is on 12th December.
Howard thanked everyone for attending.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed and refreshments were served to the attendees.

Charity No. 1177534