



## Buckingham & District U3A Annual General Meeting Minutes 2025

For the Annual General Meeting held at 2:30 pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Community Centre, Buckingham.

- Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He declared the meeting quorate. Attendees were 67 in total, including the Committee members.
- Apologies:** The Chairperson reported that apologies had been received from 63 members.
- Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting, copies of which had been posted on the Society's website, were approved. Approval was given by a show of hands.
- Chairperson's Report**

Howard Mordue reported that we are doing well as a U3A with growing membership and more groups - we have 69 groups and 838 members. There have been some excellent speakers at the well-attended Open Meetings. The U3A show on BBBs radio is also going well and speakers are lined up until February.

Unfortunately, Roland is stepping down as Speaker Secretary. Howard gave thanks to Roland and to Sue, who is standing down as Treasurer and will be replaced by Andrew Richardson. They are looking for a shadow Treasurer to help Andrew. Please get in touch with a Committee member if you are interested in finding out more about the Speaker Secretary or shadow Treasurer roles.

Howard thanked the other committee members for their valuable contributions through the year. He also thanked Judy Simpkins, Judy Austin and their teams for helping with the catering.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Sue Geary reported that the accounts have been audited and made available on the website. Howard added that a significant amount of the money currently in the account is needed to pay Third Age Trust subscriptions later. Lesley Barrett proposed acceptance of the accounts, and this was seconded by Erica Barrett.

## 6. Other Reports

### **Membership Secretary:**

Steve Warnes reported that membership continues to grow year-on-year and we currently have 838 active members as against fewer than 600 five years ago. This includes 116 new members this year. Many of those who have left have done so because they moved out of the area, and they have appreciated their time with this U3A. The renewals process is nearly complete for this year. We now have 27 honorary members, including four new honorary members this year. He thanked Fiona Catlin, who helps with membership administration, and Janti Mistry the previous Membership Secretary. Steve's full report is included as an appendix to these minutes.

### **Speaker Secretary:**

Roland Simpkins reminded us of the different speakers and subjects at the Open Meetings this year. He would welcome suggestions for new topics and speakers for next year, to be sent to Roland initially, and then to the new Speaker Secretary.

### **Group Liaison Officers:**

Mark Owen reported there had been two new members meetings. These showed a growing membership with a younger demographic. There was also a Group Coordinators meeting that was useful but not well attended; it would be good to have more participants next time.

There are plans to initiate monthly excursions from Spring 2026.

Please can group members provide their emergency contacts to their group coordinators.

### **Webmaster's report:**

Dorothy Morgan provided a written report, which included as an appendix to these minutes.

## 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 (Vice Chairman and Group Liaison Officer), Katerina Owen (Group Liaison Officer), Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officer), Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor), Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary) and Heather Haydock (Secretary).

Roland Simpkins plans to step down as Speaker Secretary but will continue to help with the refreshments for Open Meetings.

Andrew Richardson has indicated his willingness to take over as Treasurer and has been working with Sue Geary over reason months.

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

## 8. Election of President (optional appointment)

Lilia Bogle continues as President.

## 9. Any Other Business

No other business.

## **10. Members Forum Q&A**

There were no questions.

## **11. Closing Remarks by Chairman**

Howard thanked everyone for attending.

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

**Charity No. 1177534**

## Appendix 1: Membership Secretary Report

We have had a good year with our numbers growing slowly during the year and with the usual numbers leaving at renewal time, quite a few sending me messages saying how much they had enjoyed their time with us but have now moved away or are no longer able to participate as they have previously. Perhaps this indicates that we need to consider access to our groups for older or less mobile members.

The membership renewal process is mostly completed now. 838 members, old and new, have been processed. 91 memberships were marked as lapsed on November 2 as they had not responded to the renewal messages. Of these approx. 15 have rejoined since. 28 overpayments are being processed.

We have had 116 new members join us since the last AGM in Oct 2024

### Active members compared with previous years

AGM 2021	625
AGM 2022	717
AGM 2023	762
AGM 2024	829
AGM 2025	836

### Membership stats throughout this last year

	July	Sept	Oct	Jan	Feb	Apr	May	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov
Pending	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
Approved	1	3	5	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	1	2
Active	<b>853</b>	63	730	858	879	893	897	904	<b>907</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>836</b>
Renewal warning	0	802	159	0	0	0	0	0	0	632	166	0
Lapsed	335	345	346	413	411	410	409	410	409	408	409	520
Left	44	46	47	49	49	50	50	50	52	52	54	56

Maximum number of members during the last year was 907

Currently most members pay by bank transfer 81% (78%) while 10.8% (12.5%) pay by cheque and 7.6% (7.5%) pay by standing order. Figures in brackets are last year's percentages.

Members personal information is kept on our database under careful GDPR rules and is only seen by those who need to see it. Members can log in to their own account and check and change details. The links are on the website. Alternatively, they can ask the Membership Secretary to make alterations for them. In particular a change in email address can lead to members not getting any communication if they don't alert us to the change.

New honorary members – We now have 27 existing longstanding members of 25 years+ who we class as Honorary and they are not liable for fees. We added 4 this year.

Thank you to Fiona Catlin – I am grateful for her help in checking and activating new members and helping to streamline members data. Thank you also to the previous Membership Secretary Janti Mistry for his guidance in the job.

Steve Warnes

November 22 2025

## **Appendix 2: Webmaster's Report**

Hello all, my apologies for not being able to join you on this occasion, but I have an appointment elsewhere today.

As many of you will be aware, I've had a very difficult 2 years personally due to the loss of my husband, who was Webmaster for Buckingham & District U3a for a number of years.

With the support of family, friends, and colleagues I have been able to continue the tasks involved in the role, and with the consolidation of our two backend systems.

The main website has continued to be updated as required, and I've maintained the links into the Simple system for group listings and membership management.

Most of our GCs are now using the Simple system to access their group details, edit as necessary, and message their members directly, which has enabled a much more up to date group listing to be produced.

I regularly download the group list and circulate to GCs so that any changes can be notified as necessary. For those who are not yet using it, please ask for assistance to get started, it is particularly useful in identifying not only those in your group who may not be signed up members, or who have lapsed their membership, but anyone new asking to join via the website listing. It has the facility to download a register which shows a list of members names along with any emergency contact they have added to their personal profile.

As always, the first point of contact for group Co-ordinators is the Group Liaison officer, and we will all work together to make sure any necessary changes are carried out in a timely manner. This has included helping several new GCs stepping into their role, and it's encouraging to find that they are able to keep the group running smoothly, having received some help on how to access the required areas such as the group listing and the webmail system.

Once again, I would like to thank my colleagues for their unfailing support over the last year, and I look forward to the coming year as being a continuation of the tasks involved in keeping our systems running smoothly, both for you and for our members generally.

Thank you.

DMM