

**Moseley, Kings Heath and District u3a
Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 14.00
at The Shires Retirement Village, 218 Wake Green Road, Birmingham B13 9PQ**

Committee members present: Carey Baff (chair), Mark Sharp, Sue Charvis, Ray Tier, Janet Burgess, Liz Rasheed, Ros Napier, Jude Kearns, Ken Fisher

The total number of members attending the meeting to vote in person was - 49

The total number of Proxy Votes submitted by members was - 17

- 1. Apologies:** In addition to the 17 members who had submitted proxy votes, 8 other apologies were received, giving a total of 25 apologies.
- 2.** The Constitution requires participation by 10% of the membership (currently 501) to form a quorum. As the total number of members present or voting by proxy was in excess of that 10%, the Chair declared the meeting to be quorate.

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Reports from the Chair and the Treasurer had been circulated with the agenda, together with a list of Resolutions to be voted on.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM on 10 June 2025.

The minutes were unanimously agreed.

4. Chair's Report (see Appendix A) was unanimously accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report (see Appendix B) was unanimously accepted.

The Treasurer noted that our 2025/26 accounts have now been passed by our independent examiner of accounts, for which she was congratulated.

6. Resolutions

Resolution 1 - *The AGM authorises the Executive Committee to appoint an independent examiner of Accounts for the financial year 2026/27.*

All votes were in favour. Resolution 1 was therefore passed

Resolution 2 - *The AGM authorises the Executive Committee to decide an appropriate membership fee for the year 2027/28.*

All votes were in favour. Resolution 2 was therefore passed

A member raised a question about likely future membership subscriptions. The Chair explained that the subscription had been held at £18 this year partly thanks to Gift Aid. It was hoped this might be the case next year but Gift Aid rules were being made more stringent.

Resolution 3 - *The AGM approves the proposed Trustees to serve on the Committee, as follows:*

Officers

<i>Carey Baff</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Mark Sharp</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>
<i>Ray Tier</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Sue Charvis</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>

Non-Officers

<i>Rosalind Napier</i>	<i>Interest Groups Coordinator</i>
<i>Elizabeth Rasheed</i>	<i>Interest Groups Coordinator</i>
<i>Judith Kearns</i>	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
<i>Kenneth Fisher</i>	<i>Communications Secretary</i>

All votes were in favour. Resolution 3 was therefore passed

As Chair, Carey Baff thanked the membership for re-electing herself and the rest of the committee, whom she thanked for their contributions to the successful running of the u3a. Presentations were made to Ken Fisher for serving on the Committee for a record 8 years and to Janet Burgess for stepping in to fill the post of Speaker Secretary for an additional year after Sylvia Butler needed to resign from the role.

The committee currently has no Speaker Secretary and members were encouraged to volunteer to fill this vacancy, either by themselves or as a jobshare with others. Janet said that she had found the job to be very enjoyable and rewarding. In the meantime, the remaining committee members have agreed to share this responsibility between them as an additional task on an interim basis.

Members were also urged to assist with the running of interest groups. The role of group leader is vital to prevent groups folding but the work involved can be much reduced by sharing responsibilities between different members of the group, as already happens in some cases.

7. Any Other Business

No other business was raised and the meeting was formally closed.

Appendix A - Chair's Report from Carey Baff

I am very pleased to say that our u3a is in very healthy shape, at the time of writing we have 500 subscribing members, 64 having joined in the last 12 months. There are 59 interest groups, with membership numbers ranging from 5 to over 70.

I am now completing my second year as Chair of our u3a, a role I have only been able to do with the input of an excellent committee. Ken Fisher, our Communications Secretary who puts together the newsletter has served us for 8 years and Ray Tier has for 5: he is our Business Secretary and Website Administrator. Janet Burgess took on the role of Speaker Secretary 4 years ago: she stepped down last year but when her successor, Sylvia Butler, had to resign Janet took up the reins again. Two years ago we were joined by Mark Sharp as Vice Chair and he has taken responsibility for coordinating our reviews and adoption of policies and procedures, clearly having the excellent eye for detail needed. At the same time Sue Charvis became our Treasurer and has kept our finances in very good shape, while maintaining the subscription at the same level for the fourth year. Liz Rashid and Ros Napier also joined the committee at that time as Interest Group Co-Ordinators giving support and guidance to Interest Group Leaders. Jude Kearns is just completing her first year as Membership Secretary, and has assisted many in their renewals. The committee then is a very good mix of experience and fresh blood which I am honoured to lead.

We were very sorry that Sylvia had to step down as Speaker Secretary, she brought experience and good local knowledge to the table. We were also very grateful that Janet offered to undertake the role again to this AGM. Over almost 4 years she has organised many monthly meetings with a very good mix of informative and entertaining speakers: she will be missed. These will be hard boots to fill, but we know we have a wealth of experience and skills in our u3a and hope someone will pick up the baton of being Speaker Secretary.

I hope all members will join me in giving a very hearty thank you to all on our committee.

I also want to give a big shout out to our Interest Group Leaders who are the true bedrock of our u3a. They bring a range of skills – organising sessions, venues/trips/walking routes, refreshments, administration and, which I think is really important, keeping in touch with members, for some being their primary point of contact.

We have 59 groups, many of which are full but with other members wanting to join, so we really could do with some new groups, and volunteers to lead them. I know it may sound daunting to some, but it doesn't need to be! As IGL for General History I do no more than facilitate the group, we have many very knowledgeable and committed members who lead sessions, so my main job is keeping the diary. I understand that many of you have other commitments, but for others I think all that's needed is confidence in themselves to be an Interest Group Leader. The role can also be shared, as it is in quite a few groups, with one organising the sessions and another keeping Beacon up to date (and that is important).

So, if you think you could give being an IGL a go, either building on an existing group, or on a seed of interest you have, we'd be very pleased to hear from you. Initially you should contact Liz Rashid or Ros Napier, our Interest Group Coordinators, who will offer excellent guidance and support to you along the way.

Also if you are a member of a group now please consider whether your Interest Group Leader would like support in their role and if you can assist them. If you are an IGL and struggle with any of the tasks please do ask for help from members of your group, supporting each other is key to our success.

Finally on the matter of interest groups I'd also ask all members of groups to let your IGL know if you can't come to a meeting or, crucially, if you need to leave the group: for many this would free up a space which someone else would like to take up.

Beyond our own u3a we continue to be members of the South Birmingham Network, with Kings Norton (KN) and Harborne & Edgbaston (H&E) branches. Through this members of either of those u3as can join groups in ours – and vice versa (though when a vacancy arises priority is given the members of the host u3a). To support this we have introduced Network Membership under which subscribing members of either KN or H&E u3as who attend a group in ours must become a Network Member of MKHDu3a and are added to Beacon to help maintain accurate records. There is no charge and it requires only the completion of a one page form. The exact same arrangement applies to KN and H&E u3as.

And finally, we are a member of a national organisation of over 1000 u3as. Our umbrella organisation is the Third Age Trust, which gives advice and guidance on running our u3a and, crucially, insurance for any members attending a u3a activity. Also all can access nationwide resources through u3a Friends -check it out here [u3a - u3a Friends](#). There's only online access to this but anyone who supports the principle of u3a can join, so friends or relatives can join and keep you in touch if don't use IT. Signing up for the monthly newsletter is free and you can also access online learning with [u3a - Interest Groups Online](#). There is an additional membership fee of £12.00 a year for this but there are currently over 150 online this, of which over 80 have vacancies – so lots more opportunities to share knowledge and get to know people (even if only virtually).

Thank you for electing me last year, I hope to continue serving you, it has been my pleasure.

Appendix B - Treasurer's Report from Sue Charvis

The year referred to is the financial year 1st April to 31st March. Our accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026 were finalised for the committee meeting in April and have been sent for audit. I am hoping to be able to report on this at the AGM. I would like to thank Helena Mandleberg once again for giving her time to do this for us. The table below details our income and expenditure for 2025- 2026.

SUMMARY

Income		Expenditure		Balance income/spend
Subscriptions	9,786	Monthly meetings, venue, speakers, refreshments	1,849	
GMC's	7,027	Interest group venue hire	7,447	
		Interest Group Expenses		
		National u3a dues	4,771	
Gift Aid	1,817	Printing, postage, stationary	489	
Miscellaneous	62	Bank charges	236	
		Committee expenses	376	
		Miscellaneous - Ability Net IT training	315	
Total	18,692		15,483	+ 3,209

INCOME

Our income is mainly from member subscriptions and Gift Aid. We are pleased that we can keep our subscription the same once again, membership numbers seem to have been consistent over recent years.

Gift Aid added an additional £1,817 this year, a positive addition to the budget and our reserves over recent years and if existing members were to sign up for the first time, we would be able to claim back four years for them.

Group Meeting Costs (GMC's) which members of interest groups pay towards venue costs, also count as income. These are dealt with separately below.

SPEND

Our highest costs are payments to National u3a, covering insurance, website licences, support, training, advice and guidance, and the Third Age Trust magazine and this year accounted for 49% of our subscription income rising from 43% last year.

Just over 26% of our subscription income funded direct member activities in our u3a, monthly meetings, supporting room hire costs for groups which meet in paid for venues and

printing and postage (mainly newsletters).

Other expenses are room hire for committee meetings, a gift for our auditor and cards sent to members which amounted to just over £376 (£482 the previous year). Bank and PayPal charges were £236, a reduction from last year's £266 as HSBC stopped bank charges.

VENUE COSTS

These are room hire charges for groups which need to meet in paid for venues. HMRC would not allow a Gift Aid claim if more than 25% of subscription income is used for venue costs for Interest Groups. However, limiting our spend on this area not only enabled us to claim but also recognised that fewer than 40% of our members benefit from these subsidies. I am pleased to say that we were well within this requirement.

HMRC have changed the Gift Aid rules from the 2026-27 financial year and the committee will share what this means for us in the revised Finance and Venue Policies from September.

Costs for room hire at Kings Heath and Cotteridge Friends Meeting Houses have risen but only by a small affordable amount. The Shires, after a very generous introductory reduction in room hire, have now added VAT to the invoices, they still offer a very competitive rate. Refreshment costs for the monthly meetings have risen slightly.

WHERE WE ARE NOW AND GOING FORWARD

Overall last year, our income exceeded expenditure by £3,209, of which £1,817 was from Gift Aid. Our income will always primarily be from subscriptions.

HSBC offered the u3a a Savings Account and in January 2026 the committee approved the transfer of £8,000 into this account for a 6 month period.

When we set our budget each year in January, we cannot be sure what our subscription income will be. Our commitments however, National u3a dues, monthly meetings, support for Interest Groups and printing, photocopying and postage, remain each year. Our reserves serve to sustain our u3a and national u3a advice is that we should have at least half our annual costs in reserve. I have calculated that we would need up to £12,000.