

BRIXWORTH & DISTRICT



MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESENT Joan Edney (Chair) (Membership Secretary), Tim Smith (Treasurer), Sue Dodds-Smith (Secretary), Gwynneth Moore (Webmaster), Margaret Griffiths (Speaker Secretary), Clive Tyrrell (Publicity Secretary) Sue Wintersgill (New Members Secretary) Keith Dobell (Accessibility Secretary) and 80 members were present.

1. APOLOGIES Judy Smith, Juliette Keeping, Chris Rowe, Colin Rowe, Jilly Francis, Ann Plackett, Irene Neal, David and Paula Cochrane, Christine and Stuart Billington, Paula and Barry Norton, Tim and Yvonne Swallow, Maggie Wall and Angela Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Copies of the 2024 Minutes were previously circulated to the membership by email. The motion to agree the Minutes were a true record was proposed by Annie Curtis, seconded by Mary Parker and carried unanimously. They were signed by the chair, placed on file, and will be put on the website.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report received from Chris Rowe.

Thank you all for attending this year's Brixworth u3a AGM. Please accept my apologies for not attending, but Joan our membership secretary has kindly offered to read the Chair and Newsletter Editor report for me.

It's very encouraging that our u3a continues to grow year by year. We must be doing something right! Membership currently stands at 286 and we have 30 Interest Groups – five of which have begun to be so popular we have unfortunately had to temporarily close them to new members. But there is always the chance of starting a second group if there is sufficient interest – so do please let the Group Leaders know if you are interested and we will see what we can do.

During the year we have a new Knit & Natter group and also a Chess group started. A Bridge for Beginners group was very successful but has now closed to new members. The Writing for Fun group produced a book of their short stories which were sold from October 2024 (still a few copies available!) with all profits going back into the U3A funds. We are also very pleased that Brixworth u3a Writing for Fun group will be featured in a new page of the U3A magazine about writing and book groups.

Possible new groups include Flower Arranging which has been mentioned a number of times in the past and Jackie is looking into the possibility of starting one in the new year. We do hope that some of you will step forward to assist with interest groups – we don't have a functioning u3a without help to keep our groups alive and well.

We also have some committee members due for re-election this year. Please consider joining our committee as a co-opted member initially, where you can find out what we do – and maybe in future you could take over one of the roles when the current incumbent retires.

And talking of the committee, may I take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members:

Tim our treasurer who keeps all of our finances in line. Deals with our local fees, payment of fees to the national u3a. Hire payment for the hall meetings and all expenses and payments incurred in running our Brixworth and district U3A.

Sue Dodds -Smith our business Secretary. A fountain of knowledge to all of us on the committee with all other rules and regulations involved in the smooth running of our u3a. Sue also emails to you all the newsletters and any other general communications required. She is kept busy all of the time.

Margaret finds all of the speakers for our monthly meetings. Not an easy task. She meets up with other u3a speaker finders on occasions to get help and discuss the various speakers available.

Jackie is our interest group coordinator who assist group leaders with setting up and running all of the various focus groups.

Gwyneth, our website manager, keeps the website up-to-date with all the information sent to her, with various group meeting dates and times, et cetera. The website also includes newsletters and photographs that the groups have sent in. Again, a lot of hard work

Clive is our publicity officer. He wrote some amazing columns for the Brixworth Bulletin which I'm sure most of you have read and he makes sure that our presence is known to as wider audience as possible.

Sue Wintersgill has meetings for new members to introduce them to the activities we do and for them to get to know each other and possibly have ideas for new focus groups.

Keith is our accessibility officer making sure that we are open as a group to everyone in a safe environment.

As most of you are aware, I am Joan your Membership secretary.

Finally, can we show our appreciation for all the hard workers who look after the catering at our monthly meetings, and Judy our Raffle guru. Not forgetting Annie who "meets and greets" at the door each month and takes new members under her wing, making sure they feel welcome.

A huge thanks to you all for your support and hard work.

Newsletter Editor's report: I continue to receive lots of news and photos from group leaders and their helpers for the newsletter – so a huge thank you to everyone. Keep it all coming! I especially hope you enjoy the Front Page Interviews – I think it's always interesting to read about fellow member's lives and how they come to have joined our u3a! And thanks must go to Jackie for helping with the interviews – we try and write them for alternate issues. If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletters, please do let me know. Can't promise crossword puzzles or jokes pages, but if you enjoyed the "Words of Wisdom" in Issue 102, I can certainly find a few more of those.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Tim Smith presented the audited and final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025 and answered a query on a note the auditor had added to the accounts to say that the financial returns submitted by Group Leaders are unaudited. The Treasurer advised the meeting that there would be no increase in membership fees next year and he proposed that Ian Barrett be appointed Auditor for next year's accounts. Tony Brunton proposed that the motions to accept the accounts, agree the subscription for next year and appoint the Auditor be accepted and Rob Womack seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

The treasurer pointed out that our total net assets are in a very healthy position and if the membership has any thoughts on how some of our funds can be used to benefit our u3a please let the committee know and it can be discussed at a committee meeting.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Having completed and submitted the necessary nominations papers and there being no other nominations Tim Smith was elected as Treasurer and Joan Edney as Membership Secretary.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Having completed and submitted the necessary nominations papers and there being no other nominations Jackie Bird was elected to the committee.

8. ANY MOTIONS PUT FORWARD

No motions were put forward.

9. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None.

1 DATE OF NEXT AGM – 2nd September 2026

B. Rowe