

AGM OF DURHAM AND DISTRICT u3a

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Durham and District u3a held at 14h00 on Thursday 30th April 2026 in the Bowburn Community Centre, Durham.

Committee Members Present: David Willock (Chair), Theresa Mulkerrin (Treasurer), Tina Naples (Membership Secretary), Laura Woods (Publicity and Newsletter Editor), Noreen Freeman (Beacon Co-ordinator), Paul Newby (Groups Co-ordinator), Steve Beckett (Secretary) Lesley Thomas (Assistant Secretary), Lynn Brooks (Events and Speaker Co-ordinator)

The total membership is 335 of which a total of 62 were present, meaning that the AGM was quorate.

1. Welcome and Apologies – David Willock

Apologies received: Malcom Dawson, Jim Crinson (committee members). Margaret Wilson, Elizabeth and Henry Morgan, Ann Watkins, Margaret Underwood, John Redman, Craig Hudson, Christopher, McLoughlin, Richard Wood (members).

David declared the meeting open and went through the fire drill.

2. Chair's Address:

David then addressed the meeting, with the key points as follows. We have had a successful year with 335 members and 38 Groups. The Christmas meal was a success and an outing is planned for later this summer. There is support available for Group Leaders and members, including a Group Leader meeting held in March, which will be repeated in due course. We have had some interesting speakers over the course of the year. However, the success was mainly down to the volunteers who were prepared to give their time and expertise. After his address David invited the committee members present to stand up.

3. Matter Arising From the 2025 minutes.

There were no queries about these minutes and they were accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Presentation of the Accounts

Theresa presented the signed-off accounts. As we were holding more than the 6 months of reserves recommended by the Charity Commission, this year we have reduced the annual subscription, made the Monthly meetings free of charge and subsidised the Christmas meal. Our biggest expenditure is actually the fees we have to pay to the National u3a and for use of the Beacon system. She hopes to be able to continue the £5 subscription for 2027/8, but expects it will have to start rising again in 2028/9. To help with keeping subscriptions down, she asked anyone who was eligible to sign a gift aid declaration. Financial help can be given if necessary to Groups on request, as it was when purchasing a new laptop for the History at Meadowfield Group.

There were 2 questions from the floor, concerning payment for speakers and whether we had more than one bank account. Theresa replied that we have an annual budget of £700 for speakers and that we have only one bank account for the u3a.

The accounts were accepted as a true record by a unanimous show of hands from the floor.

5. Vote on constitution change

The constitution changes which were sent out with the AGM Notification were accepted unanimously

6. Election of committee members

No candidates were nominated and all current committee members are willing to continue, therefore the existing committee was ratified by a unanimous show of hands. David then asked if anyone would be interested in being either Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Group Co-ordinator, in order to provide backup to the current office holders. These would not need to be committee roles.

7. AOB

- i) Tina Naples informed the meeting that long standing member Julia Herbert had died.
- ii) No-one knew if there was a hearing aid loop for the sound system in the room. This will be investigated. However, there were comments that the system was better than it used to be.
- iii) There was also feedback that it was easier to hear a speaker if they stood still, as lip reading can be an important factor for those with hearing difficulties
- iv) Lynn Brooks made an appeal for members to consider volunteering for tea and coffee duties at the monthly meetings. There is guidance available as to what is required.
- v) **Next AGM will be 29th April 2027 (provisional date)**

The AGM closed at 14.45 and the raffle was held.