

Apologies for absence: Christine Bennett, Evelyn Wycherley, Susan Blackburn, Judith Connolly, Polly Gregg, Barbara Laycock, Lynaire Munton, Sarasu & Raja Nair, Fran O'Donnell, Mary & Frank Robertshaw, Ronah Smith.

There were 30 members present.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 5th February 2025 were accepted as a true record (although Alma Hiley's surname was mis-spelled): proposed by Cora, seconded by Susan.

Matters arising none.

Chairman's Address:

David welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

He thanked Mike for his work as Secretary. He drew attention to our website (which Mike managed) and asked if members had looked at it. Several said they had, and said it was good. David said the monthly Newsletter is on there, and there was a link to the national magazine (see <https://keighley.u3asite.uk> and click on "U3A Matters" magazine). If anyone wanted anything on the website, they should contact Mike.

Mike had temporarily held the membership records following the resignation of Alan Pearson. We have a new Membership Secretary; more about that when we elect Officers.

Thanks to Janice for her work as Speaker Finder; not an easy job but Janice is providing us with some interesting speakers.

Thanks to Pam for being our Vice-Chair, and also for providing our refreshments.

Joan has looked after the TAM magazine and reduced the amount spent on it.

The Annual Trip was not well attended, so there will be no trip this year, but Lynn has organised a year's monthly visits to spectacular houses and gardens. The list is on the website (and Lynn had copies to hand out). The trip on 27th June is to RHS Bridgewater using JAK Travel, costing £37.45 (£13 less for RHS members), so anyone wishing to go should book direct with JAK. Later in the year we hope to use the community travel bus for future trips. Lynn had done a marvellous job in getting the group up and running.

David thanked Joan, Lynn and Mike for their work in getting the IT Support Group off the ground. We are trying to become more technically efficient. He recognised that not everyone is interested in computers, but they cannot be ignored.

The Committee had done a great job this year and he thanked them all for their help.

Finally he mentioned Christine Bennett, who was now back at home after suffering a terrible accident, and she is making an outstanding recovery and we wished her well. We also sent our love to Evelyn Wycherley, Frank Robertshaw and Joyce Broadbent, who were not very well.

Treasurer's Report:

David gave his report as Treasurer. He handed out copies of the balance sheet [*which follows these minutes on the website*]. He said that on the **Income** side, the reason for an apparent reduction in membership subscriptions for 2025 - despite an increase in membership - was because many people joined late in the year and were therefore charged a reduced amount; also, in 2024, two items had been put in the wrong column. It was good to see an increase in Meeting Collections. The Interest is from our investment account (COIF no. 4 account). On the **Expenditure** side, capitation and magazines is the amount we pay to U3A Headquarters. There were no postage charges due to the use of email. There was a small amount spent on gifts of flowers. The sundries amount, £26.86, was spent on a CD and Christmas Party prizes. The **Balance Sheet** shows a loss of £268.98 due mainly to subsidising the 2025 annual trip. David thanked Peter Marshall (Director of Marshall Krysko in Silsden) for auditing the accounts. He added that Peter would be glad to help anyone with finance or taxation problems.

There were no questions about the report. David was thanked for doing such a great job. Joan proposed that the balance sheet should be accepted; this was seconded by Pam.

Secretary's report: Mike said he just wanted to talk about one thing: email. He had been surprised to discover that 40% of members do not have an email address. It would be so much easier to communicate with everyone if they had an email address. He received lots of information from our national office in London about online information, talks, courses and groups. There are more than 100 online groups that members could join. We have an IT group who could help with creating an email address, getting online and being able to see all this material. It would enrich members' experience of U3A. He urged people who had an email address, but had not told U3A what it is, to please do so. He would not bombard people with email messages – perhaps only one or two a month. It would also help people in their personal lives if they had an email address.

Cora said she had watched some online talks, which had been very interesting, and she had joined an online Bridge group. Other members agreed.

Election of Membership Secretary: David said that Lynn Parker had volunteered to do the Membership Secretary's job. Joan proposed that we accept her offer, and this was seconded by Ann. Lynn said she was happy to do the job. She had some previous experience and she was "IT literate". She planned to verify the information we have on record, and she would be using a U3A website called Beacon which provided some helpful ways to manage the information.

Group Leaders' reports:

IT Support Group: Joan said she would speak about it but emphasised that the group was also supported by Lynn Parker and Mike Ward, and we had expert help from Bradford Council. The group could offer advice on mobile phones too. The next group meeting would be on Thursday 12th March in the Community Room at Morrisons supermarket.

Exercise Group: Joan said that many group members were present at the meeting. There were currently 22 members. Everyone was welcome to join for some gentle exercise on a Monday morning.

Folk Group/Kelfolk: Cora said the group had had a successful year. There were 9-11 members, although 2 or 3 did not attend every session. Members played a variety of instruments, and the group played traditional folk music from around the world. The group played at Long Lee Village Hall in August as part of Bradford City of Culture 2025. Cora was exploring a possible gig on 29th April. She had also offered for the group to play at the U3A Festival in York but the cost of entry (£18 per person), the logistics and cost of transport proved to be too difficult. The group was fun, played lots of different music, was friendly and joyful. Janice said she had enjoyed listening to the group playing in Keighley Library. Mike asked Cora to let him know when the group was going to perform, to enable him to put details on the website.

Art Appreciation: Sheila said that her group meets on the third Wednesday of the month, so the next meeting would be 18th March 2026. No prior knowledge or expertise was needed to become a member. The group had studied impressionist painters, Dutch painters, Michaelangelo and the painting of the Sistine Chapel. The group not only studied the art but also what was going on in the background, in the social surroundings. The group had 18 members, 12 of whom usually attended meetings.

English literature: Pam said the group usually had 12 participants. They would choose a poem, read it aloud and discuss it, and research the author.

History: Pam said that the group was currently studying the Wars of the Roses. One member has a degree in medieval history, so she has made a helpful contribution to the group.

Quiz group: the group is short of members. Usually only six people attended. The group meets once a month and members take turns at compiling a quiz. It is good fun.

David thanked all group leaders and invited a round of applause.

Election of Officers and committee:

David explained that he was the Chair,

Vice-chair: Pam Pennington

Secretary: Mike Ward

Treasurer: David Boddy

Membership Secretary: Lynn Parker

Joan Coan: Exercise group and IT support group

Janice Pedder: Speaker Finder

Lynaire Munton: Facebook

Christine Bennett: Committee member

and said that all were willing to stand again for the coming year.

Their re-election was proposed by Richard Parker and seconded by Sheila Butler and agreed by the meeting.

Any other business: none.

The meeting closed at 11am.