

**Minutes of the Wirksworth & District u3a AGM**  
**held at The Maltings, Wirksworth, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

Chair Ray Proctor opened the meeting at 11.10 am.

Present: 55 members, the meeting therefore quorate. Committee members present - Ray Proctor, Penny Ackland, Jenny de Ville, Nigel Livesey, Hilary Hebron and Kay Mathur. Committee apologies Jerry Allen and Margaret Keeling. U3a member Cathy Swinbank and Robin Eales also sent apologies.

1. The Minutes of last year's AGM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 were accepted.

2. Chair's Annual Report:

For the Committee it's been a year of transition. Twelve months ago, most of us joined the Committee for the first time or took on a new role on it. During the year we recruited three further members, all new to the Committee. So, over the period we've had to do a fair bit of learning.

In the year, membership continued to rise and we currently have around 200 members.

However, over a year we usually lose, for whatever reason, about 7% of our membership. Which means we have to grow at 7% just to stand still. So, publicity is important. Jerry (Allen) took us successfully on to Facebook and is about to launch a new pamphlet, hopefully being delivered today. Penny (Ackland) continued to edit our online monthly Newsletter and Nigel (Livesey) is updating and improving the website while Margaret (Keeling) fitted seamlessly into the role of Membership Secretary.

Jenny (de Ville) organised a full programme of coffee mornings and has Speakers booked through to Easter. We usually attract an audience of 50+ and have now outgrown the Memorial Hall and Kay (Mathur) has booked this slot at The Maltings through to the end of 2026. Too many highlights to mention but, as usual UkeWirks did us proud and I still treasure the image of Aisha Lowe demonstrating flirting techniques in a 1960s East African village with a water pot balanced on her head.

I've mentioned in the past that it takes around 15 volunteers to set up, run and dismantle a coffee morning from meeting and greeting through to stacking mugs in the dishwasher. And thanks to Geraldine for taking on the refreshments role. And also, to Mike, Marvin and Sheila for our sound and vision and so much else.

A key person in setting up is Richard Matthewman who is not seeking re-election to the committee. On behalf of all members, I'd like to thank Richard for his contribution over the years.

We see the same phenomenon in our Groups...setting up and putting away equipment, providing lifts, planning routes. leading sessions, hosting sessions in our homes etc. It's this that makes the system work. Gardens were visited, plants were sold for charity, the

Performers entertained at the Memory cafe and Southwell Workhouse awaits. And what a pleasure to see the Tapestry in the Church during the Festival. And in terms of making all this work, can I thank Group Coordinators for their vital contribution.

The Committee sees its main role as providing services to the Groups. And we're anxious to strengthen and improve in this role. As Sheila (Harding) said, Group Coordinators will soon be receiving questionnaires which will help us identify areas where we can improve. We will also be seeking to increase the rate at which we generate new groups.

Which brings us back to volunteering. We are a small branch, with 200 members. Our neighbours, Ashbourne, Matlock and Belper have, respectively, 600, 700 and 800 but the same number of Committee jobs to fill as we do with 200. We currently have two vacancies, one of which is central to improving liaison between Groups and the Committee. But more of that in a minute.

Finally, since I came in, I've been surprised at the amount of work required just to keep us compliant with the u3a, the Charity Commissioners and the insurers. This burden usually falls on our Treasurer, Hilary (Hebron), and our Business Secretary, Kay (Mathur). Many thanks to them for shouldering this unpromising burden and much, much else.

Pete Chivers led all the u3a members in thanking Ray for taking on the role of Chair.

### 3. Treasurer's Report/approval of examined accounts for 2024-2025.

Treasurer, Hilary explained that the 2024-2025 accounts displayed at the coffee morning highlight the need for us to be registered with the Charity Commission, as our income is over £15k. Much of this being ringfenced for the hf holiday. Hilary has broken down the miscellaneous amount further into First Aid course etc, following advice from Kate the independent auditor. Hilary appealed for a member to come forward to work with her with a view to taking over her role when she has completed 3 years and that anyone with reasonable numeracy can do this role. We now need simple accounts from all interest groups as we have a float limit per group of £50. Hilary wanted to thank Kate Murray as independent auditor for 2024-2025. The 2024-25 accounts audited by Kate Murray were accepted. Proposed by Brian Hebron, Pete Chivers seconded, all agreed.

4. Kate Murray was accepted as independent Auditor for 2025-26. Proposed by Hilary seconded by Pete Chivers, all agreed.

5. Ray explained no nominations received from members following the Notice of AGM for the Committee roles. Ray appealed for volunteers for the roles of Minutes secretary and Interest Groups Supporter. Approval of duly nominated existing Committee members accepted on bloc. Sheila Harding proposed acceptance of current committee on bloc, Pete Chivers seconded, all agreed.

Hilary temporarily chaired the meeting regarding Ray as Chair, proposed by Graham Sellors, seconded by Pete Chivers, all agreed. Ray returned to chair the meeting.

Ray Proctor as Chair

Penny Ackland - Newsletter

Jerry Allen as Publicity Coordinator

Jenny de Ville as Coffee Morning Speaker Coordinator

Hilary Hebron as Treasurer

Margaret Keeling as Membership Secretary

Nigel Livesey as Webmaster

Kay Mathur as Business Secretary

6. Vacancies remain for Minutes Secretary and Interest Group Supporter. Any member interested in these roles can contact Chair Ray through the website.

7. Motion: Proposed by Hilary 'to change the membership year from April-March to August-July with the current membership year extended to July 2026 with no further charge to members (for the 2025/26 membership year)' REASON; at present the membership year and the financial year coincide with the workload peaking at year end. The change will smooth out this workload. General discussion was had. Hilary proposed, Bridget Edwards seconded, all agreed.

8. AOB Question raised why the new payment year should start at the beginning of August when most people are on holiday? Hilary explained that due to our age (ie not tied to school terms) most of us are not on holiday at that time.

There being no further business the AGM meeting closed at 11.40 am.