

MARKET DRAYTON u3a

Minutes of AGM 19th September 2025

Held at 2:30pm at the Festival Drayton Centre.

Committee present:

Judy Cowdale, Phil Glover, Andy Shearer, Kevin Read-Jones, Alan Cartwright, Jacqui Wright, Sue Walker, Jill Glover, Viv McVitte, John McVitte, Peter Ingrham.

Members present: Total 71.

Apologies: A number of apologies were received and noted by the Secretary

Welcome and Introduction.

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

Minutes of AGM 2024.

The Secretary read out the minutes which were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

None

Chair's Report.

Committee

We had changes to Committee members following the 2024 AGM starting with our Treasurer - Andy Shearer - standing down. Andy spent a lot of time and energy ensuring every possible aspect of our finances were kept 'legal' and negotiating possible internet banking with NatWest, regretfully without result through no fault of his own. Our grateful thanks for your hard work Andy.

I'd like to make a special mention to Ann Swales, who so willingly offered her services as Treasurer in October 2024 following our extended search but who has now had to step down for personal reasons. Our very best wishes to Ann and our grateful thanks for the time you were able to be on Committee. Andy Shearer has stepped "into the breach" for the interim but we are, again, searching for a Treasurer!!

We gained a new Programme Secretary - Kevin Read-Jones following Colin Barthorpe standing down and magazine editors - Viv and John McVittie, who took over from Alan Cartwright. Our grateful thanks to Kevin, Viv and John for their efforts and, not least, to Colin who spent a good number of years keeping our monthly meetings filled with varying topics.

Shortly after the AGM, Alan Cartwright, the u3a Chair, made the decision to stand down from that post but remained as a committee member. However, he has now decided to stand down from the Committee completely. We do, wholeheartedly, thank Alan for his commitment to the Committee and indeed to the u3a.

Lastly, I took over the post of Chair (initially co-opted) in November 2024. Its going OK!!

Membership. Membership is about the same year on year. We invariably lose people deciding not to continue with their membership, but at the same time we gain new members throughout the following year. Currently we have 204 members having lost 36 from last year but gained 36 this year. Swings and roundabouts I think.

Remembering. Sadly, there were a number of 'passings' during 2024-2025, not least of whom were Ann Parkinson and Peter Chevin, both inaugural members of the MD u3a. We also remember Sylvia Spain, Michael Issacs and Donald Prior.

Groups. I'm really happy to say that this year we had 5 new groups start up: Spanish, mahjong, the discussion group, breakfast club and drop-in social and the possibility of a new French language group starting in October. We have one group change: Colin Barthorpe is standing down as convenor of the bird watching group with Brian Truslove taking over. Brian's first event is the September visit taking place on 22 September, then 3rd Monday in the month from October. Our grateful thanks go to Colin for his dedication in organising and supporting the bird watching group and all its members during his time as convenor. Overall, our u3a is growing; slowly perhaps, but surely.

Website and Facebook. Jill Glover, our website manager, had a significant task throughout this year following the National u3a's instigation of a whole new website system. Jill had a lot to learn about the new system and what it entailed and her hard work is gratefully recognized especially as she has had to do this while supporting a close family member through severe medical issues.

Thursday Meets. I think we can say we have enjoyed a wide variety of topics. Some interesting, some thought provoking, some feel-good and some not so much but each one having its merits. I know that Kevin has organized some equally varied speakers and topics for the next year beginning with Aged to Perfection: The art and science of Cheese on 15 January where you will have the opportunity to taste some interesting cheeses!

MD u3a Future. I'm happy to say that your u3a is currently in a stable financial position but I'll leave this subject to Andy to give an overview.

Your u3a. We are continuing to encourage new members and groups; participating in local events to advertise the u3a and being part of the overall community. I think, and hope you agree, we as a whole, are "doing ok".

Treasurer's Report.

Market Drayton u3a

Treasurer's statement of accounts

31 August 2024

2022-2023

2023-2024

E Income

2423.00	Membership subscriptions	3252.00
-	TAM subscriptions	32.40
-	Donations	127.50
16.00	Visitor payments	
780.00	25th Anniversary celebration	
-	Refund from TAM from previous year*	378.00
-	Grant from MDTC	500.00
3219.00	Total income	4289.90

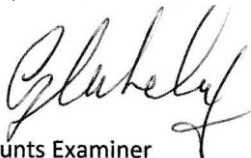
Expenditure

1544.96	Third Age Trust capitation & Magazines	
	Third Age Trust capitation fees	796.00
	Magazine (TAM) subs*	41.80
819.00	Speaker fees and expenses	660.00
789.55	Room hire inc refreshments	953.00
937.13	Stationery, printing and postage	39.19
28.98	Sundries/General	35.00
10.00	u3a Shropshire Network (2022-23 & 2023-24)	25.00
40.00	Gifts	
169.00	Convenors' tea party	
-	Convenors meeting	28.05
873.00	25th Anniversary Celebration	
10.00	Accounts examinations (2021-22 & 2023-24)	10.00
5,221.62	Total expenditure	2588.04

Balance sheet

3395.56	Bank balance brought forward	1392.94
-2002.62	Income over expenditure	1701.86
1392.94	Balance in NatWest Current Account	3094.80

I certify that I have checked the above accounts and to the best of my knowledge they are correct.



Accounts Examiner

Date 11/9/24

*Refund to bank E336.20 (being E378.00 - E41.80)

Election of Committee Members.

Nominations accepted.

Drayton u3a Committee Members 2024-25

Judy Cowdale	Chair & Membership Secretary
Philip Glover	Vice Chair & Secretary.
Andy Shearer	H. Treasurer
Kevin Read-Jones	Programme Secretary
John and Viv McVittie	Magazine Editor
Peter Ingham	Committee Member
Sue Walker	Committee Member
Jacqui Wright	Committee Member
Alan Cartwright	Committee Member
Jill Glover	Website Administrator & Network Liaison.

AOB>

A question was raised about the availability and distribution of the tri-fold information leaflet. – Committee to investigate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:00 hrs. The next meeting will be 17/09/26.

Signed Date