

Approved as Correct: ..... Date: .....
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**Present:** 65 members. This satisfied the quorum required (40 = 10% of 400 Membership).  
: 1 visitor/new member.

**Apologies:** :Apologies had been received from 12 members:

Jane Carstairs, Val Johns, Patricia Lowe, Susan Powell, Angela Purnell, Mike Purnell, Elizabeth Stoll, Andrew Waters, Gail Waters, Gillian Waugh Pead, Pamela Williams, Pamela Worton.

**1 Welcome**

The Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members; she hoped that everyone had enjoyed browsing the photographs of activities that had taken place in the last year, catching up with friends and enjoying the light refreshments.

Members were advised that the Chair was currently celebrating her 50th Wedding Anniversary on a cruise and had offered her apologies for the meeting. A pre-recorded message from the Chair was played to members.

It was confirmed all papers for the meeting had been circulated and it was anticipated members had taken the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Agenda, Minutes of the last AGM, Chair’s Report and the Summary of Finances.

The Vice Chair asked all serving Trustees to stand and invited members to show their appreciation for their work over the last year.

Three new members standing for election to Committee for the 2026-2027 year, Ellen Schofield, Eimett de Graaff and Alan Greenhalgh were introduced, it was noted that Alan Greenhalgh had worked as a co-optee during the last year and had agreed to stand for election as a full member for 2026-2027. The Vice Chair also welcomed Sandra Morris who had agreed to stand for election as a co-optee for 2026-2027.

The Vice Chair reminded members of the u3a ethos:

Third Age Principle that:  
u3a is open to anyone in their third age; u3a responds and adapts to people in the community.

Self-help Principle  
members form interest groups covering a wide range of topics and activities.

Mutual Aid Principle  
each u3a group is independent from but affiliated to the Third Age Trust (TAT).

**2 Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The Vice Chair asked members to adopt the Minutes of the previous AGM. Member Richard Cookson noted that the Chair’s report referred to the monthly meeting being held on the third Wednesday of each month. This was incorrect and should read fourth Wednesday. It was agreed this would be amended and the Minutes be adopted as a true record and signed off by the Vice Chair.

**Proposer – Cliff Bassett**  
**Secunder – Alan Harvey**

**Agreed by the meeting.**

### **3 Chair's Report 2025-2026**

The Vice Chair noted a written report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and asked the meeting to accept the report.

**Proposer Linda Barton**

**Secunder – Richard Cookson**

**Agreed by the meeting.**

### **4 Membership Report - Janet Hardy**

Janet Hardy opened her report by noting the importance of Learning, Laughing and Living Well in our Third Age and understanding the need to see and talk with each other. She noted u3a here in Bridgnorth did this in multiple ways through Meet and Greet the first Friday of each month in The Crown, the monthly speaker meeting at LTCH on the fourth Wednesday of each month, she noted here that thanks should be extended to Jane Jasper for her work in giving us a wide range of meeting topics, and of course the Newsletter which was full of articles and information together with Social Media. Using a PowerPoint presentation, the Membership Secretary provided an overview of membership growth in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 years which revealed that net growth remained consistent at 6% giving an end of year membership of 391. It was noted that sadly illness, death or relocation had resulted in a loss of 50 members during the year, but 70 new joiners had become members.

The meeting was asked to support this report.

**Proposed – Jane Jasper**

**Seconded – Pamela Oakley**

**Agreed by the meeting.**

### **5 Activities and Interest Groups – Heather Yarwood**

The Activities Co-ordinator Heather Yarwood reported that there were 34 activity/interest groups broken down into interest groups, walking groups, language groups, games groups, plus 2 social groups and 5 outing groups. With the exception of social and outings groups, where costs are variable, costs are kept low/to a minimum. It was noted that group sizes varied from 7 for Calligraphy to 275 for the Out and About group with sizes averaging 20 members. Venues used were spread across both High Town and Low Town and included the LTCH Hall and Meeting Room, Bridgnorth Library, the Fire Station, Giovanni's, Tasley Village Hall, the Garden Bar and in some instances members homes. The Activities Co-ordinator collectively identified the Group Leaders and asked members to express their thanks in the usual way.

**Proposed Sue Hannah**

**Seconded John Beaman**

**Agreed by the meeting.**

### **6 Treasurer's Report – Cliff Bassett and Sue Hannah**

Cliff Bassett advised that he was presenting the report as unfortunately Sue Hannah the Treasurer was unwell due to a recent fall. He noted that as outgoing Treasurer in 2025 part of his role had been to ensure a smooth handover to the new Treasurer. Together they had liaised throughout the year and particularly where there were "once a year" activities to be dealt with.

It was emphasised that Bridgnorth and District u3a was an independent registered charity and was fully detailed on the Charities Commission website. The Committee members are legally Trustees of the Charity with specific responsibilities and obligations at the forefront of which was the financial stability.

Although totally independent Bridgnorth and District u3a is part of larger organisation called Third Age Trust (TAT). We pay subscriptions and in return TAT provides services, firstly, expert advice and guidance; we are also able to ally ourselves to insurances services; secondly management software (Beacon) and thirdly access to the Third Age Matters magazine produced five times a year. Last year annual

subscriptions stood at £5,000 of which £3,000 went to TAT for support services and the remaining £2,000 was spent on overheads e.g. committee expenses, room hire, licences etc. These costs have to be covered ahead of any spend on activities.

A copy of the accounts had been circulated to members ahead of the AGM. Unfortunately, due to illness the accounts had not yet been independently examined and had been agreed by the Committee subject to review.

It was noted that our finances operate largely in in 2 spheres, firstly Activities bank account which totalled income of £25,000 last year of which almost £25,000 was paid out to coach companies for example, providing a small surplus of £154.00 for the year. Secondly the cost of core functions, paid from subscriptions, the Current Account reached £8,500 and paid out £8,200 giving a small surplus of £236.00. Accordingly, the overall turnover reached £34,000 with £33,000 being paid out and giving a small surplus of £390. As a not-for-profit organisation this was quite an achievement, reached largely through the effort of Trustees and Group Leaders. Any profit was fed back to members by for example providing 'free' weeks.

At this point, Cliff Bassett asked the meeting to look at the Balance Sheet He noted the figures similar to last year with £15,000 of cash in hand. Although no questions were raised at the last AGM, Cliff Bassett advised he had been asked afterwards why we held this sum. At this point he sought to reassure members that £1,000 was held for use by Group Leaders for example to place deposits before receiving monies from members for planned activities. Some activities used only cash e.g. Wine Appreciation. Cash was retained by Group Leaders but held on a ledger which was audited. Currently the sum of £546.00 was being held by Group Leaders. The Reserve Account, this was the only account to pay interest, currently stood at £7,000 and was divided into two areas, a £5,000 Domesday fund - as a charity Bridgnorth and District is obliged to ensure we have ring fenced reserve to pay debts and protect the Charity and Trustees in the event of closure. A further £2,000 remained as a remnant of a windfall following closure of the Bathing Project some 3 years previously and was used at the discretion of the Trustees for one off expenditures. £1,000 had already been spent on a publicity campaign to drive up membership, on a SMART TV for the Meeting Room at LTCH (which was used by u3a and other community groups in Bridgnorth) and on a new PA sound system. £2,000 of this sum remained unused.

It was reported that the Current account, as at the end of March stood at £6,000. It was noted that our Financial Year ran April to March and the Membership year January to December. This meant that at the end of Financial Year the Current Account was at its maximum level but almost immediately we received invoices from TAT totalling £4,000. The remaining £2,000 was retained throughout the summer and was somewhat higher than the minimum figure of £1,000 that we aim to maintain in the Current Account at all times. Having said this, the 2026-2027 Budget currently projects a £600 deficit which will eat into this £1,000 surplus. In summary this breakdown reinforced that Bridgnorth and District u3a was not cash rich.

A question from the floor queried if the Domesday fund at £5,000 was sufficient. Cliff Bassett responded that this amount was reviewed regularly in line with inflation.

There being no further questions. This closed the Financial Report.

The VC thanked Cliff Bassett for his presentation and asked the meeting to agree the financial report.

**Proposed – Alan Harvey**

**Seconded – Tony Trathen**

**Agreed by meeting**

## **7 Election of Trustees 2026-2027**

The Vice Chair reminded members that Trustees are elected annually for a maximum of 3 years before taking a break or adopting a different role. She noted that co-optees were required for reasons of succession and asked members to consider volunteering. This was particularly important for the 2027 AGM as a number of key role holders: Treasurer, Secretary, Activities Co-ordinator, and Speaker Meeting

Secretary, would be standing down having completed their term.

The Trustee standing down this year was Jean Swift who has led the Cinema Goers groups and organised the Host Rota. Unfortunately, Jean was not at the meeting but in line with the usual custom, a thank you card and voucher would be given to her as a token of thanks for her work.

The Vice Chair advised that due to there being no contention the Trustees had been proposed and this seconded by Trustees at the April Committee meeting.

**Officers:**

Chair	-	Elaine de Graaff
Vice-Chair	-	Linda Ruston
Secretary	-	Linda Barton
Treasurer	-	Sue Hannah

**Committee members:**

Activities Co-ordinator	-	Heather Yarwood
Membership Secretary	-	Janet Hardy – stepping down April 2027
Assistant Membership Secretary	-	Alan Greenhalgh
Speaker Secretary	-	Jane Jasper
IT Support	-	John Barton
Assistant IT Support	-	Eimett de Graaff
Member with responsibility for IT Website	-	Liz Ross,
Committee Member	-	Ellen Schofield
Host Rota Co-ordinator	-	Linda Ruston
Co-optee:	-	Sandra Morris
Accounts Examiner	-	Tony Trathern

**This was agreed by the meeting.**

The Vice Chair gave thank you cards to Tony Trathern and Cliff Bassett as a token of appreciation for their work with the group over the last year.

**8 Date of Next Meeting:**

A date for the 2027 AGM would be set at a later date.

The Vice Chair closed the meeting.

The Vice Chair invited member Nicki Mott to make a presentation about her experience of attending The Edinburgh Fringe.

At the close of the presentation members were invited to join together for light refreshments.