u3a Harborne and Edgbaston (u3a H&E)
(Registered Charity Number: 1101356)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2025

1. Present

Seventy-eight members were in attendance.

2. Website

Glenis Poletti and Chris Bluck were responsible for the u3a H&E website, which provided information about activities, members' noticeboard, information concerning special events, members' portal, and committee contact details.

GP invited anyone interested in helping with the website to come forward, with a view to taking over from herself and/or Chris if they needed to stand down. Mentoring would be provided.

3. Presentation

Ros Salter indicated that u3a H&E could give "items", for example, spectacles, but not money to charity. Small coins and foreign currency collected at meetings could be given to charities, for example, the British Heart Foundation. Clothes for homelessness and refugees had been given to St Chad's and the Salvation Army. Further details were available on the u3a H&E website, though other ideas were also welcome.

4. Apologies

Were received from: Tony Boyer, John Hilbourne and Fran Murphy.

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2024 were received (Paper 1).

Approval of the minutes, proposed by John Worwood and seconded by Sue Hendry, was unanimously passed by the membership.

There were no matters arising from the Annual General Meeting 2024 minutes.

7. Treasurer's Report (including Membership) and Accounts for the year ending September 2025 were received (Paper 2).

While the report had been circulated to members, their attention was drawn to income, gift aid, interest group fees, an increase in operating costs, surplus over income, and bank accounts.

The Accounts had been audited and signed off by the Examiner for the Accounts, Tom McGovern, who was thanked for his work.

It was noted that members' subscriptions had been static for five years and were likely to increase for the 2026-27 year.

Approval of the accounts, proposed by David Hidson, seconded by Janet Cornthwaite, was unanimously agreed by the members.

Tom McGovern was unanimously appointed as external examiner for the accounts.

8. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report (Paper 3) had been circulated to members.

The names of those members who had passed away during the year were noted.

Membership had grown steadily during the year and now stood at 256.

Sue Hendry, who had completed three years as Joint Social Secretary on the Committee, was standing down, but would continue to be involved in individual social events.

A presentation was made to Sue in thanks and recognition of her contribution to u3a H&E.

The successful running of u3a H&E was due in large part by members helping “behind the scenes” and included Chris Bluck, Eileen Waddington, Vicky West, Wendy Critichlow, Sue Lawlor, Liz Price and Group Co-ordinators. Thanks were offered to all.

9. Reports from Members of the Committee

Social Secretaries, Sue Hendry and Jane Street, had organised four events: annual lunch at University College Birmingham, visit to Chester, afternoon tea at the Hotel du Vin and the Autumn quiz at Hagley Village.

It was noted that as this year’s annul lunch was fully booked, another meal would be arranged for those on the reserve list.

Veronica Richards, Speakers’ Secretary, thanked her predecessor, Sue Worwood, for her list of contacts and institutions and other members for their suggestions for speakers. She had one more year in the role. Anyone interested in taking on the role was welcome to contact Veronica.

Pat Smart, Membership Secretary, commented that ensuring the database (Beacon System) was updated and accurate was ongoing.

Glenis Poletti, Website Administrator, noted that the new platform provided by the national u3a was much better. The Beacon system was available for online renewal membership, though payment via cash, cheque, and bank transfer would not be removed.

10. Reports from Group Co-ordinators

Reports from the Group Co-ordinators, available on the u3a H&E website, were noted but not read to the meeting.

The Group Co-ordinators were thanked for keeping their activities running and members for attending group events. Groups, together with General Meetings, were regarded as the life blood of u3a H&E.

It was noted that new groups, such as Tai Chi and Visiting the Arts, had been formed during the year.

11. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Chairman: Ian Trotter had been nominated for this role: proposed by Vicky West, seconded by Eileen Waddington, and was unanimously elected.

Vice Chairman: Tina Howard had been nominated for this role: proposed by Jake Howard, seconded by Ian Trotter, and was unanimously elected.

Treasurer: Ric Poletti had been nominated for this role: proposed by Ian Trotter, seconded by Tina Howard, and was unanimously elected.

Secretary: Jo Anson had been nominated for this role: proposed by Ian Trotter, seconded by Glenis Poletti, and was unanimously elected.

Joint Social Secretary: Liz Price, nominated by Sue Hendry, seconded by Clare Sandercock, and was unanimously elected.

The Committee for 2025-26 would comprise:

Chairman	Ian Trotter
Vice Chairman	Tina Howard
Treasurer	Ric Poletti
Secretary	Jo Anson
Web Administrator	Glenis Poletti
Membership	Pat Smart
Groups	Tina Howard
Speakers	Veronica Richards
Joint Social	Jane Street, Liz Price
Room Bookings	Angela Harvatt

12. Any Other Business

It was noted that Margaret Cannadine would be Minute Secretary for Committee Meetings and the AGM, and was thanked by Sue Hendry.

Marion Hilbourne, on behalf of John Hilbourne, said that the topic at the next General Meeting on Wednesday 7 January 2026 would be “Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics – Uses and Abuses of Statistics in the Media and Advertising and How to Spot Each”.

The next AGM would probably be held on Wednesday 2 December 2026, the date being advised nearer the time.

The Chairman, on closing the meeting, wished everyone a Happy Christmas and looked forward to welcoming members to meetings in the New Year.