

BRACKLEY & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
Thursday, 7th May 2026
at Brackley Rugby Club

Action

Attending Janet Blunden (JB) Chair, Colin Gillies (CG) Vice Chairman, Mike Shepherd (MS) Treasurer, Elaine Yates (EY) Membership Secretary, Conrad Dower (CD) Business Secretary, Alison Williams (AW) Groups Co-ordinator, John Moore (JM) Programme Officer, Kathy Hodges (KH) Minutes Secretary, Ken Smith - Honorary President John Underwood (JU)

Welcome JB welcomed the Committee to the meeting

Apologies None

Minutes of last Meeting Approved with no amendments

Matters Arising None

REPORTS

Chair

JB thanked AW for all her hard work in organising a successful Open Meeting last month. 10 new enquiries were received. It was agreed to ask the Group Convenors at the lunch today if they were happy with the Open Meeting.

About 16 members of the Traditional Dancing Group performed in the Piazza for about half an hour on May Day. JB felt it was a shame that there was no mention of the performers being members of Brackley u3a – a missed opportunity.

Vice Chairman

CG announced that the charge for the Christmas Lunch this year will be the same as for the last two years at £30. He will continue to organise the lunch to be held on 9th December despite standing down from the Committee.

Treasurer

MS said this was his last meeting as Treasurer when he will be handing over to John Underwood with whom he has been liaising for some time.

The amount in the bank account is now £14,517.66 (last year's figure at this time was £10,828) a very healthy amount. The bill for membership charges is still to be paid to Head Office. MS thanked EY for all the help she had given him. John passed round copies of the accounts signed by John Carter. John Underwood would like to have a Treasurer's email address and will contact Mike Kirkham to organise this. **JU**

JB thanked MS for all the work he had done in his role as Treasurer.

Business

CD has received an email from Head Office concerning copyright law which is basically saying that no information can be used by u3a members without the express permission of the person who originally produced the information.

Members

We have 14 new members since the last Committee Meeting, including 1 associate member. There are now 30 associate members and 6 members who do not have email. CD confirmed that all members are on Mailer, except for the 6 members who don't have email and it was felt that these members need to find out any information through a friend or word of mouth. MS suggested JB send out an email explaining this. **JB**

33 members have chosen not to renew and a further 33 have not renewed. These members have now been removed from all files – the mail membership file, the TAM file and the attendance file.

There are currently 457 members. 60 members have opted for a printed TAM magazine and EY will contact them to check if they still require it. **EY**
A list of members who haven't renewed was sent to the group convenors but only a few replied.

EY said we have only 8 new member packs left. It was agreed that it should be updated and 100 copies reprinted. JB will speak to Diane Bushell to seek her advice. **JB**

Programme

JM confirmed that speakers have been booked up to March 2027. When the time is appropriate JM will attempt to recruit a member to take over his role from 2027.

Member Liaison

JB is hopeful that she has found a recruit to take over June's role. It is possible that the members' liaison team could run itself. If a leader was found, they would not necessarily have to be a Committee member if they chose not to be, but would be supported by the Committee.

Groups

AW thanked the members of the Committee who helped on the Open Day. She feels the event was successful with plenty of space. A few groups didn't do well on the day but others did. AW will speak to the Convenors at the lunch today.

Chess. This has closed due to lack of numbers and it is feared the Art group, which shared a venue at Evenley, will go the same way. Susan Lilley will give a note to AW to circulate. There was no response to her good efforts to recruit new members at the Open Day. Ken suggested that the class could be held in members' homes.

Petanque. Started last week.

Croquet. Started last night. When she is back from holiday AW will contact members.

AW

Classic Cars. Feedback is that the remit is too narrow. It is felt that a group for Boys Toys would evoke more interest but Graham is not interesting in broadening it. He has contacted the person who runs a group successfully in Towcester.

Convenors Lunch. 30 Convenors have signed up. AW asked the Committee to spread out a sit on different tables. Charge is £14 per head.

Publicity

CD will put together a poster for the AGM.

CD

JB thanked AW for the publicity for the Open Meeting.

JB thinks there are 4 places in Brackley where posters etc. can be erected, but thinks a banner is not allowed on the Town Hall.

AW suggested we pay for an advertisement in Brackley Focus or Life in Brackley.

JB felt we should not be complacent and every effort should be made to fill the Publicity officer vacancy.

Website

Mike Kirkham circulated his usual Webmaster report.

Any Other Business

To answer a query CD explained that, although the Committee has to have 4 main officers, one person can hold two of these 4 roles. Therefore, there was no problem with him being Business Secretary and Vice Chairman.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.05am

Date of next Committee Meeting: Thursday, 4th June 2026

Minutes taken by KH

Approved by

