

BRACKLEY & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
Thursday, 6th August 2026
at Brackley Rugby Club

Action

Attending Janet Blunden (JB) Chair, John Underwood (JU) 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

Welcome JB welcomed the Committee to the meeting

Apologies None

Minutes of Meeting on 4th June Approved with no amendments

JB explained that there were insufficient members of the Committee available for the meeting on 2nd July but members submitted reports which were recorded in the usual meeting format. A copy of this report was signed by JB.

Matters Arising None

REPORTS

Chair

Regarding the 6 members who do not have access to email, it was agreed that EY would write to them explaining that we only communicate by email or through our website. It would be up to them if they asked friends who are members to inform them of activities within the u3a or they could attend the monthly Speaker meetings.

EY

JB reiterated the importance of a Publicity Officer and will discuss this at the next Speaker Meeting.

JB

JB has had no response regarding the poppy wreath but will continue to pursue this.

JB

Ruth Harris confirmed that the Singing for Fun Group will entertain at the Christmas Social.

Treasurer

JU circulated his usual monthly report showing receipts of £171.00 and payments totalling £2,046.30. The latter figure includes the Subscription fees sent to Head Office of £1,652.00. The total in the bank account at 31.7.26 was £11,987.27.

JU also provided a report for the period 1.4.26 to 31.7.26 with receipts totalling £1,014 and payments £3,242.54.

Apparently Mike Shepherd is still receiving communications from Lloyds Bank but JU said he has discussed this with the bank and Mike should no longer be contacted. Mike is also still being contacted by Head Office and CD is dealing with this. **CD**

JB explained that the Singing for Fun group need a pianist and wondered if the u3a could pay someone to do this. AW explained that this would cause a precedent. With groups who have to pay a leader, payment is made to the Treasurer by invoice and the funds recouped by members of the group. It was felt that the Singing for Fun group might not wish their charges to be increased. CD suggested that Magdalen music department might be contacted to see if one of its students might be willing to help out on two Wednesday afternoons a month. JB will make contact when the term begins in September. **JB**

Business None

Members

We have 11 new members including 2 new associate members. 2 previous members have rejoined. The current membership total is 477 of which 32 are associate members.

57 members attended the last Speaker Meeting which is a lower total than usual.

EY reported that one new member submitted an old membership form. On investigation EY found both the old and new membership forms on the website. She will ask Mike Kirkham to ensure that only the new form remains. **EY**

Jane Rogers has been sorted.

Programme

JM ascertained from JB that there were no amendments to the September programme.

Groups

Canasta. The convenor Hilary is moving. Three people are going to run the group with Maureen Goodman as Convenor.

Art. Susan Lilley is looking for more materials. AW will email members. **AW**

Croquet. £200 has been paid to the Cricket Club. This year several sessions have had to be cancelled causing a financial problem. AW is hoping to pay the money back. The current venue has become unsustainable and AW will look for a new venue. **AW**

New Groups

Whist. The group has started with no convenor and AW is currently convening.

Strength and Balance. 86 people have expressed interest. There will be two groups starting today run by Frances at the Baptist Church. She may consider a further group.

Website

Mike Kirkham circulated his report to the Committee. JB had asked him to delete items on the website that were no longer of interest.

Any Other Business

Welcome Pack. JB/AW and Mike Kirkham produced an updated Welcome Pack. It was agreed that 100 copies should be printed by Texprep at a cost of £70.30. EY sends the Welcome Packs to new members by post and sends an email to say she has done this. She will reiterate in her email that members should use the website for full information. **EY**

The Blue Sash Team. EY has offered to take over the leadership of Member Liaison. The team have a WhatsApp Group and now use badges in place of the sashes.

Apparently at the last Coffee Morning there was no-one to greet the attendees and no members of Member Liaison. The mornings are now run by Wendy Shepherd who needs to have a list of members who regularly attend and new members (the latter provided by EY). Gill Zachar, who has been acting as a Meeter/Greeter needs to be contacted.

JB will provide the Member Liaison team with a `Jobs List` for the monthly Speaker Meetings. **JB**

Committee Meeting Venue. The Rugby Club charges £10 per hour and Egerton Hall charges £7 per hour for a meeting room hire and use of a kitchen.

JB asked the Committee to suggest any other suitable venues. **ALL**

CD asked if there was a need to have 4 people signing members in at the Speaker Meeting each month and suggested 2 were sufficient. Julia and Avril are happy to provide this service nearly every month and replacements could be found if they were on holiday/unable to attend. It was agreed to have 2 people in future.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.20am

Date of next Committee Meeting: Thursday, 3rd September 2026

Minutes taken by KH

Approved by 