

Minutes of the Twenty seventh Annual General Meeting held on

Tuesday 8th April 2025 in St Mary's Centre, Clitheroe

u3a Clitheroe Officers: Jacquie Melia (Chair), Paul Fisher (Treasurer), Julie Whitehead (Business Secretary)

Committee Members: David Grimes, Jenny Grimes, Roy Gonsalves, Robin Taylor, Jeremy Lambert, Su Penson. **Co-opted members:** Ann Ward, John Hill

1. **Apologies:** Allan Myers, Tricia Myers, Teri Fisk, Anne Parker, Alison Tapley, Ian Tapley, Anita Kellington, Virginia Salmon, Brian Hudson, Wendy Richardson, Stan Unsworth, Beverley Jones, Howel Jones.
2. The Chair confirmed the **appointment of two tellers** for the meeting: Sue Major and John Wilson.
3. **Minutes of the 26th AGM** had been circulated prior to the meeting (Copy in folder and available on the website). The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Proposer: Mary-Ann Renton, Seconder: Roy Gonsalves.
4. **The Chair gave her report**, a copy of which can be found in the AGM Folder and on the website.

Jacquie referred to the comments made by Marjorie (our previous chair) emphasising the purpose of u3a in the promotion of lifelong learning and wellbeing and outlining the vision of the Third Age Trust (TAT) to increase numbers nationwide.

This year Jacquie has continued to focus on the vision of TAT and the work undertaken in restructuring the organisation. This followed the passing of a resolution to introduce a new Board to oversee the work of TAT with a Council to advise the board. Elections have now taken place with representatives from different geographical regions being appointed enabling local voices to be heard at a national level. Jacquie participated in this process on our behalf and thanked all those who had offered her advice and support along the way.

On a more local level Jacquie reported that Clitheroe u3a continues to be a growing and vibrant group. This is especially due to the following activities ~ in no specific order:

- The dynamic and diverse special interest groups and courses. Often the initial reason people join a local u3a is because there is a group that reflects their interest. A big thank you goes to each and every group and course leader, and to the tireless work of our Group Coordinator.

- The social events such as the coffee mornings for new members, the 2024 summer luncheon and afternoon tea dance, the Christmas meal at Gibbon Bridge and the social dance last month. All these are organised by the ‘Special Events’ team who work hard to find venues and support for these events. A big thank you goes to everybody involved.
- The main meeting organisation, which is undertaken by an extended team, including the hiring of speakers, the organisation of audio visual systems, the provision and delivery of refreshment (including the clearing of tables and washing up) the register-taking (necessary to keep us in-line with fire regulations, etc) the ‘*meet and greet*’ team who show new members the ropes, the people who liaise with the St Mary’s staff to ensure availability and the smooth running of the meeting. This is a big undertaking each month and these people know who they are. So, to you all a big thank you.
- The team who helps us to communicate both within Clitheroe u3a and with the wider population. This includes the ‘*Newsflash*’ editor, and all who contribute to our monthly magazine which we can take pride in. Also a Webmaster who has not only worked with a TAT advisor for over a year to migrate our webpage to a new platform, but who is continually adding to and updating the information, and to our hopefully growing team who deal with all our publicity. They prepare and distribute information on all the ongoing and planned u3a activities. Thanks to you all.
- The September recruitment activities on Clitheroe Market. This was a successful event at which we were blessed with both good weather and an energetic team of people willing to chat to passers-by and members of the community out shopping, thereby ensuring a greater understanding of our organisation. A big thank you to everybody who organised and helped on the day.
- The Committee, officers and members, who provide for the smooth running of Clitheroe u3a and keep us on the correct path to uphold the values and ambitions of the wider movement, whilst reflecting the views of Clitheroe members. I hope that you feel able to approach the committee members with ideas for future activities as well as complaints about things we will inevitably get wrong. So, thank you to all the committee on behalf of the membership and, on a personal level, for your support to me throughout the year.
- No organisation can succeed without its members. That is what the u3a is all about ~ coming together in fellowship to learn from one another, and in doing so to enjoy each other’s company and support. Thank you for coming today to the AGM and thank you for supporting the Clitheroe u3a.

5. **Treasurer’s Report.** Paul presented his report (Copy in folder and circulated with the March Newsflash and can be seen on the website)

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Charity Commission and agreed by the committee.

Details of income and expenditure can be found on the U3A Clitheroe website. The bank balance at the end of the year was £8117.92.

The meeting **approved acceptance of the examined accounts.**

6. Paul proposed appointment of Emily Watnik, Treasurer of Todmorden U3A, as **Independent Examiner of accounts** for 2024-25

The meeting **agreed to the appointment of Emily Watnik.**

7. **The Groups Co-ordinator's Report.** Jenny Grimes presented her report (Copy of the full report can be found on the website, and in the AGM folder).

At present we have 29 special interest groups, many of which have outgrown their original meeting places and are now in larger venues. Six groups meet in West Bradford Village Hall, namely Music Appreciation, Art Appreciation, Geology, Genealogy, Singing for Pleasure and History. There is excellent free car parking available, but public transport is not good. There is a bus from Clitheroe that arrives shortly before 2pm, Getting home would rely on a lift back to Clitheroe, but this should not be a problem. Seven groups meet in Trinity Methodist Church Community Hub, namely, Architecture, Scientific Enlightenment, Play Reading, Poetry, Gardening, Photography, and Table Tennis. Immediate car parking is very restricted, but car parking is available at Mitchell Street Car Park, Booths carpark and there is also some street parking. Two dancing groups meet at Pendleton Village Hall. Other groups meet in the homes of members.

The Discussion Group has been run for long time by Liz Lawson with meetings in her house. Her recent very sad and sudden unexpected death means that a new convenor and venue need to be found. The Poetry Group has been re-established with Roy Gonsalves being the convenor. We have three new groups this year, Knitting and Crafting, Quiz, and Scottish Country and Ceilidh Dancing. We are always open to the formation of new groups. For example Marjorie Taylor will be setting up a new summer only Bus Pass travel group. When considering a new group, it is important to discuss this with the Groups' Co-ordinator.

Groups are generally progressing very well with increasing attendance. Some groups enjoy day trips, particularly, Art Appreciation, Architecture, Geology, History, and Scientific Enlightenment. Reports of these have been displayed in the excellent NewsFlash. There have been three excellent Short Courses, namely Philosophy Bites led by Meg Shaw, Fashion Study led by Jacquie Melia, and a Taste of Food History led by Ann Ward.

I would like to thank all the convenors for their enthusiasm and commitment. As groups become larger, there is more to be done in each group. The convenors require support, especially with preparing the venue and catering. There is also a need to share the registration and financial arrangements. Programming is a function that convenors

should share with other group members. We must remember that u3a is effectively a self-help organisation. I have produced an annual report of the special interest groups of u3a Clitheroe, and if you did not pick up a copy on entry, you can do so on the way out. I will be sending it out as an email to all members. My role as Groups' Co-ordinator comes to an end today and I wish my successor well.

8. Election of Officers and Committee 2025 - 2026

Nominations have been received for:

Maureen Pickup as **Chair**. Proposed: Jacquie Melia, Seconded: Hazel Best

Christine Snape as **Treasurer**. Proposed: Paul Fisher, Seconded: Eileen Narain

Denise Hayton as **Groups Co-ordinator**. Proposed: Jenny Grimes, Seconded: Jacquie Melia

Ann Ward as **Committee Member**. Proposed: Maureen Pickup, Seconded: Anne Gladwin

There being no other nominees, the Chair was pleased to confirm the newly elected members of the committee as published with the agenda.

Jacquie thanked those retiring from the committee:

At the end of the formal meeting a vote of thanks was given by Paul Fisher to Marjorie Taylor and Janet Elliott acknowledging their part in helping u3a Clitheroe to flourish.

Date of the next AGM

14th April 2026.

Julie Whitehead, Secretary

14th April 2026.

Chairman's signature Date

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