

Minutes of the REDDITCH u3a AGM, held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 20th May 2024 at The Bridge Community Hall, Headless Cross.

1. **Present:** 53 members of Redditch u3a.

Apologies were received from: Louis and Maureen Thomas, Philip Roberts, Steve Prosser, Sue Oddy, Les Tomalin, Rosemarie Davies, Bill Macham, Anne Lacey, Sue Smith, Doug Richards, Barbara Maryon-Smith, Howard Springthorpe.

2. The **minutes of the 2024 AGM** had previously been sent to the membership. A vote was taken to accept them as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Sue Gee Seconded: Sylvia Edwards The vote was carried unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report 2024-2025

I really love Redditch u3a. We are still relatively small in numbers, but we are lively and growing steadily. We have just passed the 200 mark! Our ratio of interest groups to member numbers is above average. In the last year 4 new groups have started: Awesome Amblers, Ancient History, Lunch Club and Coffee and Chat. My hope for the coming year is that we continue to build on that success and that many more inhabitants of Redditch realise how much we have to offer. Now I want to thank everyone who has contributed to that possibility.

Malcolm was Chair for most of the year. He insisted that we should get the message out to everyone who could benefit from joining us, and put great personal effort into organising recruitment events. Following on from that, we now have a subgroup for Marketing and Retention, dedicated to making sure that we offer existing members what they want, as well as advertising to potential members. They are organising the Open Day in August, when I hope to see many of you there, because it's going to be fun.

Sylvia is a very hardworking and efficient Secretary, who keeps track of everything the committee is doing, or should have done, as well as the multiple legal requirements, and still finds time to come up with ideas and planning for Marketing.

Jill joined the committee, only a year ago, as Membership Secretary. She has thrown herself into the role with great enthusiasm and is the other leading light in Marketing.

Of course, in these times, some of our most effective advertising is online. So, thank you to Steve Prosser, our website coordinator, who has done a brilliant job of moving us to a new, vibrant website, and continues to put in a lot of work keeping it up to date. Steve is stepping down from the committee due to other commitments but thankfully will carry on supporting the website.

Anne is also leaving the committee, and her role as Treasurer. We are all very grateful to her for carrying this out so conscientiously over several years, particularly during this last year when she has had the added burden of maintaining 2 sets of records while ensuring that the new system is operating correctly. She leaves us in a better state than she found us.

To explain about the new system, we have transferred our membership and financial records to the Beacon computer system, which was developed specifically for u3as and is used by over 600 of them. We can now call on a national network of users for help and advice, making our administration much more resilient. This change went more smoothly than I had feared, and for that I thank Anne and Jill who took on much of the work.

Redditch u3a is also increasing engagement with the wider u3a movement. Our Cotswold Link membership has increased the number of activities open to our members, and several of our interest groups have regular attendees from other Link u3as. Peer support groups have helped our Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary by sharing ideas online. We are also at the beginning of a new national structure to give a stronger voice to members, and one of the new West Midlands Regional Representatives is our own Rob Rowberry.

All of the above grows out of, and depends on, us as individuals doing our bit to support the activities we enjoy. Not just the committee, or the Group Leaders for whose efforts we are very grateful. Judith does a great job of editing our newsletter, but she depends on many others to send in news and details of events. Thanks also to the many unsung heroes who help to provide refreshments or set up vital equipment, both in our main Tuesday meetings and for the Interest Groups in various venues. You know who you are, we call you the Support Team As Required and you truly are STARS.

So, thank you to every one of you for being part of this great organisation, for all the fun we have had together, and all that is to come.

Sue Gee, Acting Chairman

5. Treasurer's Report 2024-2025

The Treasurer presented the consolidated accounts in absentia. No questions were raised by those present.

Proposals:

- A vote was taken to accept the accounts.

Proposed: Sylvia Edwards Seconded: Sue Gee The accounts were accepted by unanimous vote.

- A vote was taken to agree that John McBride be appointed to approve the accounts for 2025/6.

Proposed: Sue Gee Seconded: Sylvia Edwards This was agreed by unanimous vote.

6. Nomination of Officers and Committee members for 2024/5. The following nominations were approved by unanimous votes.

Chair: Sue Gee, proposed by Murray Taylor and seconded by Sue Smith

Vice Chair: Sue Smith, proposed by Sylvia Edwards and seconded by Murray Taylor

Secretary: Sylvia Edwards, proposed by Jill Barrett and seconded by Steve Lawrence

Treasurer: Neil Gordon, proposed by Sue Gee and seconded by Sue Smith

Other Committee members:

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Margaret Toole	Sue Smith	Jill Barrett
Steve Lawrence	Sylvia Edwards	Murray Taylor
Murray Taylor	Steve Lawrence	Margaret Toole
Jill Barrett	Margaret Toole	Sylvia Edwards

7. Proposal to celebrate the Redditch u3a 35th anniversary in 2026.

A vote was taken to approve the proposal by the Committee to hold a summer party in June or July 2026 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of Redditch u3a. Entertainment, a buffet meal and modest beverages at a local venue will be offered free to all who are members at that time. Some of the capital reserve which has built up over those thirty-five years will be used to fund this.

Proposed: Sue Gee Seconded: Sylvia Edwards This was agreed by unanimous vote.

8. AOB

There were no AOB items.

The meeting closed at 2.27pm.

Sylvia Edwards, Secretary, May 2025.