

# York u3a AGM April 2026 Minutes

## 1. Confirmation of quorum (37 members)

The meeting was confirmed as being quorate.

## 2. Welcome

Those present, both in person and online, were welcomed by the Chair to the York u3a AGM for the year ending July 2025.

## 3. Voting procedure

The Chair indicated that when it came to voting all members, whether present in person or online, should vote by holding up their hands and waiting to be counted.

## 4. Receive and approve the Minutes of the year ending 2024 AGM held in March 2024. (These had been posted in good time on the York u3a website at <https://york.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/AGM-2024-draft-minutes.pdf>)

The meeting voted to approve the minutes of the March 2024 AGM.

## 5. Receive and consider the Chair's Report

The Chair's report was received and considered by the meeting.

Welcome to the York u3a AGM and thanks to all of you for attending. This is the final University of the Third Age – York AGM but don't worry, for all of you who love to attend we will be returning as u3a York. A subtle distinction between what we refer to ourselves as at the moment, that is, York u3a and what we are now registered as having become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, i.e. u3a York.

Confused so far?

Back to the University of the Third Age – York. The financial year 2024-25 has been another successful year for our u3a and you will be hearing from our Treasurer shortly about the financial position.

The year saw a change of Treasurer. Andrew Pilot started the year and then handed over to Jeff Todd. My thanks to both for all their hard work. Despite the changes we passed the independent examination without any material issues being raised.

The Board of Trustees has continued to provide careful oversight of the day-to-day operations. The minutes of all the meetings are available on our website but in summary, they have overseen the finances and developed several new policies, including Gifts & Hospitality, Donations, Health & Safety and Photography policies.

We generated 57 actions for the Trustees to implement. 38 of the actions were completed during the year and the remainder carried over into 25-26.

I like to keep them busy.

The biggest challenge for the Trustees was the application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (or CIO), and this was successfully achieved in September 2025.

Another significant achievement was the launch of a Wellbeing service. This service is a support for members, particularly Group Leaders, who become concerned about the wellbeing of another member, especially when it has an impact on the effective running of a group or activity. Details of who to contact are on the website and I would encourage members to take advantage of the service which is being run by Dr.Paddy Neligan.

We worked with the City of York Council on a pilot scheme to bring the u3a to Marjorie Waites Court which provides sheltered housing. Sadly, despite the initial enthusiasm and a successful first event, the residents decided not to continue. However, at least 6 residents became members. My thanks go to Beryl Oppenheim, Martin Brewster, Lesley Petersen, Eleanor O'Flynn, to name but a few, for all of their hard work in trying to get this venture off the ground.

We introduced Honorary Membership for the first time which was to recognise the contribution made by those who have been members for 30 years. We have been publishing their stories on the website and in the NewsMail. We now have 20 Honorary Members, one of whom will reach 100 years old this year.

On the subject of the NewsMail, this has now been relaunched as the u3a York Times with Brian Parkin suggesting the winning entry for the new name. Although not in 24-25, we have just introduced a Flipbook which improves the reading experience for our on-line readers. Sadly, our Editors have recently taken the decision not to continue in their roles, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick and Sue Tompkin for all their efforts over the past 3 years.

As you can see the Trustees have been very busy and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and enthusiasm. They continue to support me to shape the future, and it is a pleasure to work with them. My thanks also go to Philip Firth who has continued to support the Board of Trustees as Minutes Secretary.

In terms of the u3a's day-to-day activities, our membership saw continuous growth, growing at 3.5% over the year. As a result, we had 1862 members as at 31 st July 2025. We continue to grow and anticipate exceeding 1900 members by the same time this year. We held 4 new members meetings during the year, and the Trustees personally welcomed around 100 members into the fold.

Attendance at our Saturday Talks both in the hall and by Zoom remains constant and we have seen some excellent speakers. Our Socials have also continued to be met with enthusiasm, and we often have to turn people away and as reported last year, we are working to address this by looking at alternative venues.

My thanks go to Liz Swinbank who has done such an excellent job in organising the Saturday Talks also to Anna Baldwin and Beryl Oppenheim, who have both supported her. The Saturday Talks are also supported by the front of house team so ably led by Carol, my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Both the UK and Travel Abroad Groups have provided members with a wide range of travel options, day trips and short breaks in the UK along with longer trips overseas.

Because of the enthusiasm our members have for travel we also benefit from the income we receive back from trips booked through Riviera travel. My thanks go to Sheila McKilligan and her team for all the effort put into organising and facilitating these trips. Unfortunately, we may not be able to continue with Travel Abroad as we have been unable to find someone to take over the lead role.

The core of our activities though sits with the Interest Groups. These continue to enhance the lives of our members. Our Groups Coordinator, Samantha Triggs shows boundless energy and enthusiasm when working with members to introduce new groups. We have seen the introduction of groups such as Listening to Literature, Eco Friendly Support Group, Spanish Stories, Current Affairs, the Meditation Workshop, Can't Sing, Won't Sing, Beginners Italian and Go. My thanks go to each and every Group Leader who take on the responsibilities of organising our Interest Groups. Without them we would not be the success that we are. Thank you all.

We can never have enough groups, particularly as our membership grows so if you have an interest in something and you'd like to share that with like-minded people then get in touch with Samantha and she'll support you in connecting with others.

Our Equipment Manager during this period was Quinn Smith. He has since handed over the reins to Martin Brewster nevertheless; he continues to support this AGM along with a team of volunteers and remains a trustee. Quinn, Martin and the team also support the numerous events that we hold, they are an essential part of what we do, and this is my opportunity to thank them.

Quinn continued to update and replace laptops to make sure volunteers, and Group Leaders can make presentations and use Zoom, which is now such an integral part of how we communicate.

I have picked out a few people in this report to say special thanks to but I would also like to pay tribute to, and express my thanks and appreciation to, all the volunteers who keep us functioning, all of our Operational Team, our Office Volunteers and the Office Coordinator, Mo Sandland; the Meeting House gardeners and all our other ad hoc volunteers.

Thanks, are also due to Chris Williams and Ian Atherton from the Central Methodist Church who have helped with the arrangements for our talks, also to Tracey Sharp and her Team at the Friends Meeting House, for her years of help and cooperation.

I am bound to have inadvertently left someone out, for which I apologise.

So, what does the future hold?

We start operating as u3a York CIO on the 1st of May 2026, after which time we will be publishing our vision, mission and priorities.

Last year I said we were looking at our banking, payment methods, finance and membership systems. We delayed the introduction of any of these systems until we achieved CIO status. This is a priority area for us which has included having a better software package that allows us to centralise information and have less reliance on personal email addresses. It is thanks to Paul Tiplady, our Web Manager, and the Equipment & Technology Team that we have made great strides in this area.

I mentioned earlier about our strong financial position, and this is allowing us to make changes that benefit all members.

We are reducing the membership renewal and joining fee to £15.00 for 26-27.

From the 1 st of June 2026, we are discontinuing the charges for:

- The entrance fee for Saturday Talks, that includes removing the need to pay for Zoom attendance. We will also be discontinuing the charge for refreshments but will be asking for voluntary contributions instead, and
- All the meetings that take place at the u3a York Centre will now be free to members
- Groups already meeting at the Friends Meeting House will also now be free to members.

The aim of these changes is to not only benefit you, the members, but also to reduce our excessive reserves and the administrative burden on Group Leaders and the Finance Team.

I must stress that this is being done on a trial basis and, as with all changes, the Board of Trustees will carefully monitor the financial and operational impact to see if it can be sustained.

I have said thank you many times in this report, but I have a final thank you and that is to all of you for your attendance at this AGM, both in person and virtually. That concludes my report, I will be very happy to try to answer any questions.

No questions were raised.

- 6. Receive and consider the Treasurer's Report and the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2025. The full Annual Report to the Charity Commission can be viewed on our website at <https://york.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/York-u3a-TAR-ye-Jul-2024.pdf>**

Good afternoon ladies & gentlemen.

This report relates to the accounts for our last completed Financial Year from 1 August 2024 to the end of last July 2025.

2024-25 was another year of change in the Treasury department at York U3A, with a new Treasurer at the start of the year and another Treasurer only joining after last year's AGM. Continuity was a high priority for the year and there has also been focus on the CIO application.

The accounts to be shown and the accounting method used here at York U3A, is cash accounting not accrual. So, the figures you see relate exactly when the money moves, not when the money is for. An example of the difference being that we receive a significant portion of our membership fees in the financial year before it is due.

#### **Receipts and payments during the year.**

Total income was £136,408 for the 2024-25 year compared with £150,970 in the previous year. A fall of around 10% over the previous year.

There was a drive by the membership team for early renewal for the forthcoming year in July 2024 which increased the income in the previous year.

Our expenditure also decreased to £123,219 from £130,220 (5%) mostly due to reduced group costs.

This meant that overall, our funds increased by £13,189, compared to the previous year's surplus of £21,000. This left us in a comfortable financial position last summer.

<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	Central Funds	Groups	Other	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Total receipts	59,058	81,870	-	140,928	150,970
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Total payments	49,132	78,607	-	127,739	130,220
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,926	3,263.00	-	13,189	20,750

### Breakdown of receipts

As you can see, the vast majority of the income came from our groups. But on the next slide, you will see that this was mostly turnover, not profit.

We received income from donations and interest, but the gift aid submission was not made in the year owing to the late change of treasurer so we will have 2 years gift aid in the current year.

	Central Funds	Groups	Other	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members Subscriptions	30,337	-	-	30,337	32,524
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	4,164
Donations	6,914	-	-	6,914	10,394
Fees for Charitable services (TAM)	1,188	-	-	1,188	1,395
Interest on Deposit Account	1,034	-	-	1,034	1,006
Charitable Activities	19,585	81,870	-	101,455	101,487
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>59,058</b>	<b>81,870</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140,928</b>	<b>150,970</b>

### Outgoings for the year

As it says on the slide, charitable activities are for the most part made up of group costs. Groups that meet outside the office run on a break-even basis.

Those groups that meet in the office contribute towards office rent. Group income exceeded outgoings by about £14k, and no groups operated at a loss in the year to 31 July 2025.

Our biggest cost is the Office rent, and other running costs are mostly made up of printer charges, card fees, office costs.

	Central Funds	Groups	Other	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Rent of u3a centre	22,735	-	-	22,735	20,406
IAT Membership (incl insurance)	7,200	-	-	7,200	6,900
Telephone, internet, website, software	835	-	-	835	2,460
Printing, postage, stationery	3,458	-	-	3,458	2,380
Charitable Activities	8,181	78,607	-	86,788	92,842
Cost of Charitable Services (IAM)	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,303
Equipment & Equipment Maintenance	2,561	-	-	2,561	2,225
Promotion	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Charges	498	-	-	498	463
IE Fee	450	-	-	450	420
Other Costs	1,414	-	-	1,414	821
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>49,132</b>	<b>78,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>127,739</b>	<b>130,220</b>

### Money held by York U3A

We hold 3 central bank accounts, and some groups hold their own bank accounts. The totals column is at the end and it can be seen that at the end of the last financial year we held £136,812, an increase of £13,189 at the start of the year.

The 2024-25 financial year ended with York u3a holding total reserves of circa £136,800, this was an increase on the previous year by £13,189.

All of these reserves are unrestricted; however, the Charity's policy is to retain amounts sufficient to cover the rent commitments and necessary running costs.

	Central Funds	Groups	Other	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	9,926	3,263.08	-	13,189	20,750
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	114,441	9,182	-	123,623	102,873
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>124,367</b>	<b>12,445</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>136,812</b>	<b>123,623</b>

### Transfer to CIO

The comfortable financial position will be transferred over to the CIO shortly and the Board of Trustees will be exploring ways of utilising free reserves to enhance the operations of the new charity for the benefit of the members.

The Treasurer's report was received and considered by the meeting.

No questions were raised.

## **7. Election of Board of Trustee members**

As required by the constitution, the following Trustees were standing for re-election, proposed, and seconded by other members of the committee.

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Role</b>
Alice Leyland	Secretary
Beryl Oppenheim	Events & Volunteering Trustee
Andrew Pilot	Membership Trustee
Karen Sawyer	Chair
Jenny Slee	Trustee
Quinn Smith	Equipment & Technology Trustee
Samantha Triggs	Groups Trustee
Jeff Todd	Treasurer

The meeting elected the Trustees.

## **8. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts**

The committee proposed the re-appointment of Hunter Gee Holroyd as the Examiner of Accounts.

The meeting approved the appointment.

## **9. Any other business**

On behalf of the members Phil Walters proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair for her work during the year, in particular for steering the organisation through the transition to the new charitable status.

The meeting was closed at 12.20 pm.