



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE U3A, NEWMARKET,
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th JULY 2026 AT 2.30PM, AT THE CATHOLIC PARISH HALL, 14
EXETER ROAD NEWMARKET CB8 8LT

Minutes of the 2025 AGM, together with the 2025-2026 Accounts Summary, had been made available on the website, plus hard copies were available at the meeting for viewing by members.

PRESENT: 78 members, including 7 current committee members

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jean Wolff, Ann Cant, Shirley Wilson and Rosemary Foreman.

2. MINUTES FROM AGM 2025

The minutes of the AGM held on 28th July 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were signed by the Chairman, Geraldine Cornwell.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Geraldine Cornwell delivered her report (available as a separate document online).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT, including the ACCOUNTS 2025-26

Di Angus-Smith, Treasurer, delivered her report (available as a separate document online), which referred to the Accounts Summary for 2025-26. These had been verified by Joan Watkinson, an independent scrutineer (available as a separate attachment on-line). The accounts were approved. Proposed by David Soanes and seconded by Tim Young.

Joan Watkinson was approved as the independent scrutineer for 2026-2027. Proposed by John Herring and seconded by Sarah MacManus.

6. DECLARATION OF NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BALLOT
IF NECESSARY

It was noted that, as there were seven nominations for positions on the Executive Committee, a ballot would not be required, and all nominees were elected. The details of the nominees, proposers and seconders were as follows:

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded
Geraldine Cornwell	Pamela Melbourne	Andrew Cogan
Sarah McManus	Margaret Jocelyn	Nick Angus-Smith
Roger Worden	Alistair Brown	Lynn Brown
Tim Young	John Wallace	Alistair Brown
Patricia Spence	Richard Rigby	David Soanes
Denise Cioffi	Joan Watkinson	Chris Timmins
Suzanne Stammers	Richard Rigby	David Soanes

7. GROUP LEADERS' REPORTS

Verbal reports on group activities were given by the following individuals. These are available online. The Chairman thanked the group leaders for their hard work and contributions to the running of the groups.

Antiques	David Soanes for himself and Richard Rigby
Art Appreciation	Anna Smith
Brunch	Judy Herridge
Camera Group	John Herring
Carpet Bowls	Lorraine Spalthoff
Crafts	Stephanie Ellington
Creative Writing	Sarah MacManus
Discussion Group	John Herring
Family History	Bridget Kerle
Garden Group	Margaret Webb
History Group	Denise Cioffi for herself and Di Angus-Smith and Tim Young
Mah Jong	Susan Stallman
MOTO – Members on Their Own	Rosemary Foreman (read by Bridget Kerle)
Music Appreciation	Richard Unwin
Portraits	David Watson
Realm of Books	Sabine Deering for herself and Stephanie Ellington
Rummikub	Kath Gifkins
Scrabble	Janet Nevill
Walking Group	Rosemary Foreman (read by Bridget Kerle)
Wings Wheels and Water	Tim Young

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that the item on the Agenda relating to the adoption of a new constitution had been withdrawn by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee had received a question from a member to ask if consideration can be given to holding one off or regular group meetings in places outside of central Newmarket, particularly with reference to Burwell and particularly for members who have mobility issues or who no longer drive.

Bridget Kerle reported that the Executive Committee have considered this issue. Location of group meetings is generally a matter for group leaders. Where a new group is proposed to be established this is done as an initiative with someone who is willing to act as group leader and potential locations for group meetings are then discussed. For example, the Portrait Group was established within the last couple of years and was set up in Ashley. The u3a also attended and publicised its activities at the Burwell annual meeting.

The Executive Committee does not consider that it would be practicable to hold meetings that have a large attendance such as the Speaker Meetings outside of Newmarket as the town operates as a central hub for those travelling from all the surrounding areas of Newmarket.

However, the Executive Committee recognised that difficulty in travelling is a legitimate concern for members of the U3a. It therefore proposed to take the following steps:

- To ask each group leader whether any of their group members could help someone who wishes to travel to their group meeting with transport
- To publicise the various 'dial a ride' organisations that operate in Newmarket and the surrounding area to members of Newmarket u3a
- To see if there is any support in towns and villages in the Newmarket area for local 'meet up' arrangements such as for village walks or coffee or lunch.
- To publicise this matter in the newsletter.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm.