

MINUTES OF THE PERTH U3A AGM 2025 HELD AT ST MATHEWS CHURCH 5TH MAY 2025

1. **Welcome:** The Acting Chair (Yvonne Connell) opened the meeting at 10.30 and welcomed the 89 attendees. She explained that due to the recent standing down of the previous Chairman, she was acting in a temporary role and the Committee hoped to have a more permanent arrangement in place in due course. Apologies had been received from David Combe, Evelyne McDonald, Elinor Ashcroft, Douglas Mole, Moira and Donald McKerracher, Lesley Mackie, Lynn Rankin and Morag Urquhart.
2. **Announcements:** the Acting Secretary (Trevor Abell) read some of the important aspects of the News Round Up, covering the next Open Meeting on Monday 1st September (Treasures of Mediaeval and Renaissance Perthshire) and potential new groups – Summer Bowls and Photography Technical.
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the 38th AGM on 4th May 2024**
The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Robert Proctor and seconded by Ray Hodgson and carried unanimously. There were no comments.

4. Chair's Report

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for attending the AGM, meeting our quorum requirement, and thus preventing us from having to do all of this again another day.

I've got a quite a lot to tell you so please bear with me. I'll try to make this as interesting as I can.

Hopefully, all of you will have seen Dave Smith's email on 1 May regarding our Chair, Graham Dry, who has decided to step down due to a change in personal circumstances. I'd like to thank Graham for his work on behalf of the u3a and, in particular, for arranging an excellent roster of guest speakers, and restarting our programme of social events. Over the summer months, the Committee will be seeking a suitable Interim Chair to co-opt until next year's AGM. Could this be you? Speak to us if you think you might have the right stuff.

In other Committee news, Bill Younger and Joan Fraser have stepped down this year, and we thank them for their assistance in helping to run Perth u3a. I'm pleased to say that we've recruited three new Committee members – Anne Rutherford, Jonathan Babb and Don Deeney. In fact, both Jon and Don were elected last year but stepped down mid-year for various reasons. It's great to have them back, and to welcome Anne to the Committee.



And the good news just keeps on coming...Jon and Don have volunteered to jointly take on the task of sourcing speakers for our Open meetings, and also organise our social events programme. These tasks were previously undertaken by the Chair, who will now enjoy a less burdensome list of duties (potential candidates, please take note!). Meanwhile, Anne has volunteered to become our New Member liaison person – many thanks, Anne! And finally, Committee member Trevor Abell has volunteered to take on the Health & Safety role, which is particularly important for our physical activity groups.

However, this wonderful burst of volunteering spirit from the Committee still leaves a couple of roles – not necessarily Committee roles – unfilled. Here's your opportunity to join the volunteering jamboree. Do you have an interest in, or experience in, running Publicity? We need to do more to let people know the benefits of u3a membership. Do you like organising people? We need a Volunteer Coordinator to organise the volunteer members who act as 'meeters and greeters' at various events, and take registers at open meetings. Again, speak to us if you think either of these roles would suit you.

Moving on...standing at 523 members, our membership continues to grow, and this is in part thanks to our Membership Secretary, Dave Smith, who delivers great 'customer support.' He also carries out intelligent analyses leading to useful initiatives to improve membership experience. We would be invisible were it not for the website team, led by Anne Trant – Trevor Abell, Bill Younger, Ray Hodgson, David Combe, Pete Trant, and me. Congratulations again for delivering us a wonderful new website. And lastly, many thanks to St Matthew's for providing comfort, warmth, teas and coffees, and excellent audio/visual support from John Paton.

Are you all still awake? Because I have the best news of all – our Christmas Lunch is booked for 11 December at the Royal George Hotel. Start sorting out your Santa hats and tinsel now.

Now to our Treasurer, Irene Twinn, with many thanks for keeping us in good financial order.

5. Treasurers Report: Irene Twinn

The summary accounts for the year 2024-2025 are on a sheet in front of you. Fiona Brown was elected at last year's AGM as an independent examiner and she has examined the accounts and passed them as an accurate picture of the accounts.

Our total income this year from membership fees was £13,100.00 and we received a donation from Riviera travel of £261.62. This donation is commission from holidays booked with them. It wasn't as much as in the previous year and cannot be relied upon as regular

income. In addition to membership income, we carry a small reserve to cover unlikely events.



Our income covers the three main payments that have to be met. We have affiliation fees to the Third Age Trust, our parent body, also the rental for Unit 7 and thirdly to External group lets. This year it broke even; our regular payments were met by our Income.

There had been several requests to the committee by the relevant group Leaders to provide a good projector for Unit 7 so it was decided to buy one out of our reserves. You will see the accounts show a loss which is attributed to the purchase of the Projector.

With unit 7 becoming almost fully used, with no capacity available for new groups, the committee are aware that more accommodation will have to be found next session especially if the number of groups continue to increase. One avenue that is being looked at is Unit 6 in the same building as Unit 7 but other appropriate space may be required. With that in mind we have decided to increase the membership fee to £28.00. We think this will give us an income which will provide flexibility to provide enough accommodation for group meetings going forward and still allow U3A with over 70 groups to be very good value .

Membership invitations to join in 2025-2026 will go out to all current members at the beginning of July to allow you to pay by Paypal which most of you do. However, if you prefer to pay by cheque that is fine too. We now have a card reader so it is possible to also pay by card and on registration day that will be available for you to pay conveniently in addition to cash or cheque.

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Irene stated that she would like to propose that we appoint Fiona Brown as external examiner again. She is wholly independent of the U3A, has agreed to continue as this year and has accounting experience and qualifications.

This was supported unanimously by the attendees along with the formal approval of the accounts

7. Group Coordinator's Report: Ray Hodgson

The 2024-25 session has been one of continued strong membership and our portfolio of interest groups has seen some growth. At this time last year I happily reported that we had grown to 72 active groups, and I am happier still to report that we end this session with 74 groups on the books – the most recent acquisition dates from barely 2 weeks ago. This seemingly insignificant expansion though disguises much activity below the surface with some groups disappearing and others emerging – more of this shortly. I must sincerely thank, on behalf of the committee, all group leaders and co-leaders who continue to keep their groups in good health and offer the community such a diverse range of interests. The leadership role while intentionally informal does nonetheless demand much of leaders' time and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Equally deserving of thanks are the leaders of groups who have had to shut up shop for various reasons. So, what are the changes we've seen?

New Groups: there has been something of a population explosion with new groups: Aviation, Armchair Theatre, Carpet Bowls, and Table Tennis are all active. New groups

approved by the committee but have yet to become fully formed are: Artificial Intelligence, Environment Matters, Outdoor Bowls and Photography (Technical).

Lost Groups: Sadly though there have been some casualties too. Backgammon 2 expired almost before drawing its first breath but Scrabble 2 and Botanical Illustration also did not survive.

Uncertain Groups: Unusually, we currently have no groups whose future hangs in the balance at the moment.

On a similarly cheerful note, 2 groups on the endangered list at the end of the last session are now off life support and are continuing to prosper!

8. Election of the Treasurer and 6 Committee Members

Post	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Treasurer	Irene Twinn	Trevor Abell	Joan Fraser
Committee 1	Trevor Abell	Irene Twinn	Joan Fraser
Committee 2	Sue Hendry	Ray Hodgson	David Smith
Committee 3	Ray Hodgson	Sue Hendry	David Smith
Committee 4	Anne Rutherford	Jack Orr	Dorothy Garvie
Committee 5	Don (Brian) Deeney	Irene Twinn	Anne Rutherford
Committee 6	Jonathan Babb	Yvonne Connell	David Smith

A single vote for the entire list of Committee members was put to the attendees and was agreed unanimously.

There being no other business the AGM was closed at 10.50.

There followed a talk by Asha Lai, a Community Safety Adviser from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. She was able to highlight the main causes of house fires and the precautions one should adopt, especially when in the role of a carer



PERTH U3A - SCOTTISH REGISTERED CHARITY SC008302

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2024-2025



PERTH U3A RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2025

Main Account

Receipts	2024-2025	2023-2024
	£	£
Membership	13100.00	12275.00
Donations	261.62	1007.31
Trading Profit from Diaries	13.70	3.01
TOTAL INCOME	13375.32	13285.32

Payments		£
Rentals -External Accommodation	3725.00	3343.25
Rentals- lease of Unit 7	4700.00	4560.00
Affiliation Fees and Annual Dues	3497.25	3062.03
Open Meeting Speakers	190.00	120.00
Paypal/sumup commission Comm	206.63	183.20
Stationary printing	710.09	590.22
Capital Expenditure	1317.96	774.04
Miscellaneous expenditure	301.73	131.61
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14648.66	12764.35

Loss	1273.34	Gain	520.97
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BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
Current Account	14605.38	15879.27
Paypal Account	14.45	13.90
TOTAL	14619.83	15893.17
	1273.34	520.97

Social Account		£	
	284.88	582.65	
Loss	297.77	Gain	85.00