

Minutes of Stanford le Hope & District u3a 2025 AGM held on Thursday 11th September 2025 at The Springhouse, Springhouse Road, Corringham at 2.00pm

Present:

K. Brice (Chair), J. Deeney (Secretary), P. Brice (Treasurer), D. Fox, C. Henderson, M. Edgings, S. Green, S. Moss, S. Dunn, P. Tate, D. Tate.

126 Members

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

K. Brice (Chair) welcomed everyone to the 2025 Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a AGM. Apologies received from: Sandra Isaacson, Beryl Woodcock, David Jardine, Jean Jardine, Eileen Drewer.

2. Minutes of the Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a AGM held on Thursday 12th September 2024

Proposed by Brian McDonald and seconded by Barbara Taylor that the minutes of the 2024 AGM be accepted as a true record. Approved.

3 Matters arising not covered by the agenda

None

4 Chair's Report -K. Brice

Since our inaugural meeting on 8th May 2014, attended by 150 people, we have experienced a steady growth in membership and the activities in which they can participate.

In the past year our monthly meetings have attracted between 130 and 190 members. We have been entertained by guest speakers, singers and quizzes. Hopefully there has been something for everyone.

Whilst you may see me at the front of the hall at our monthly meetings, there is a team of others keeping everything ticking over. The committee members organising your safe entrance to the building, the Buddies welcoming potential new members, the refreshment team serving your teas and coffees, the raffle ticket sales and our day trip, theatre trip and holiday organisers. On behalf of the committee and our membership, I thank you all.

We have 47 interest groups all listed in our monthly newsletter. Our interest group leaders have worked wonders dedicating their time for our members to enjoy a variety of topics ranging from "Ambling" to "Wine Appreciation", with much, much more in between.

Some group leaders have stood down in the past year for various reasons. We thank them all for their past efforts on your behalf. We have seen the start of some new groups, including "Board Games", "Curry Nights" and "Paws on the Go". Ideas for new groups are always welcomed. If you can't see a group that is of interest to you, but have an idea for one, have a chat with our interest group co-ordinators. As we have around 450 members, it's possible someone else will be happy to join you in forming a new activity group.

I have mentioned the dedication of our interest group leaders. They all give their time freely for the benefit of others. The time they spend researching, organising and leading their groups often goes unnoticed. Again, on behalf of the committee and our membership, I thank you all.

In September last year you elected a new committee, which included five new members and one returning. I can truly say they have all played their part on your behalf to keep your u3a operating and planning for the future.

Last year we learnt about plans to redevelop The Springhouse. Hoping for the best and planning for the worst, alternative venues for our general meetings have been considered with the pros and cons attached to each. Should the worst happen and we can no longer use the Springhouse, we now have the options to hand to deal with the consequences.

In November last year, our new website based on SiteWorks software opened. The move, in line with a u3a national office initiative, involved a massive commitment from Michael Farman and Chris Gomm. Their efforts are greatly appreciated

The cancellation of “MJ the Musical” earlier this year identified some concerns that needed to be addressed for the future. We have commenced consultation with all current trip organisers to agree protocols for future trip organisers.

We have started to critically examine the benefits of adopting Beacon software, an on-line management system designed by u3as, for u3as. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances. A committee sub-group examining this, with input from Brian McDonald

We contacted DP World to enquire if they would consider sponsoring our monthly newsletter. Unfortunately, this was not forthcoming. But we may pursue other options.

Our banker (Barclays) has not been over easy to deal with. Getting signatures changed on our bank account has proven extremely difficult. However, we do now have a card reader to enable credit card payments to be taken as an alternative to cash and cheques.

Membership renewals and updates have been conjured with. I say conjured, because getting some members to comply with what should be an easy membership renewal exercise can be a bit like herding cats. However, we have plans to review the process which includes the potential of adopting Beacon.

Our newsletter editor has continued the hard work of compiling our monthly newsletter. This includes juggling content and editing material, arranging printing and distributing it to members at our monthly meeting. This is in addition to providing our Advance Notice, emailing it out to membership

Our Interest Group Co-ordinators have been on hand to support our interest groups and worked hard to encourage new groups, as already mentioned in this report.

Our Welfare and Disabilities Co-ordinators send cards to those members identified as being sick, ill or hospitalised, or have a bereavement. They may also be able to advise members of organisations that can provide support in some circumstances.

Everyone on the committee, without exception, has played an active role to ensure our u3a operates to the benefit of all members. We may not satisfy everyone all of the time, but hopefully we have satisfied all some of the time.

On your behalf, I wish to thank all the committee for their work and support in the past year.

The Committee Chat in our July Newsletter mentioned that one of the three constants in life is change. As a u3a we are not absolved from this.

Firstly, our Treasurer Paul Brice is standing down after 9 years' service for your u3a. As mentioned, Paul has dealt with the frustrations of having Barclays as our banker. In addition to keeping our accounts, developing budgets, banking monies, and paying invoices he has provided financial advice to the committee. I thank Paul on behalf of the committee and our membership for all his efforts.

Another significant change is that after 10 years Chris Gomm and Jean Jardine are standing down as Day Trip Organisers. They have both worked tirelessly to ensure our members have had a variety of trips to suit most tastes. Day trips don't just happen. The research, planning, coordination and organisation takes a vast amount of time. In addition, Chris and Jean have organised Christmas meals and celebration lunches on our behalf. On behalf of the committee and our membership, I thank Chris and Jean for their commitment and dedication.

In closing, please remember everyone working on your behalf, be they group leaders, trip organisers, Buddies, the refreshment team, raffle ticket sales or committee members - they are all volunteers.

Finally, thank you – the members. Thank you for your support, engagement and comments. Without you, we do not have a u3a.

5 Treasurer's report - P. Brice

Firstly, let me apologise for there being no checked accounts available for this meeting.

This year has been a type of trouble full year in that a number of personal issues have overtaken any work for the u3a.

However, I am pleased to report that a set of accounts are now ready for checking and if any changes occur then they will be presented at an Extraordinary General Meeting which will precede a General Meeting in the future.

The draft report has shown a surplus for General Fund for the first time in many years. During the year I took exception with HO about their charges for the TAM Magazine, and this has been amended by them during this year, hence the improved position. They now show on all invoices the time span that costs cover, this being on my recommendation.

As an organisation we are able to hold our subscription at £15 which I think you will all agree is a very cheap fee for what you as Members could take from the organisation. It would not surprise me if the Committee come back to you in the near future with a proposed increase in these fees.

During this year we experienced a Theatre trip which resulted in the show being cancelled only half an hour before it was due to start. We immediately brokered a full refund for tickets which has been refunded to the Members who attended that trip. I am now pleased to report that the Theatre Ticket Agency have also allocated us a further credit note which has now been turned into cash in our bank. From this the Committee has agreed to pay £10 to each of the attendees as partial compensation for their coach cost. There is a balance which we felt we should keep to allocate against any other costs that we may occur.

At this stage I would thank all of the organisers of Trips and Theatre Shows for their help in the financial side of these events. Also, to all of the Group Leaders, many thanks for your time as without you there would be no u3a.

As has been documented, I am standing down from the committee this year after 8 years. There are a number of issues that have persuaded me to stand down, and these are known to the committee.

I would ask the Membership to note that when the Committee make a decision which may not be to their personal liking, these have been taken for the benefit of all. The fact that I was sworn at by a member for enforcing one of these decisions, suggested that others can do better.

I wish all of the new Committee members good luck in the future, and note that numbers on the committee will now be 15. I hope that people who are standing are prepared to work for all of the members in what is very much a thankless task.

I will work with the new Treasurer in the interim whilst they find their feet in the role. Should you have any questions regarding the accounts I will try to answer them.

6 Motion: To approve the examined accounts for 2024/2025

Paul explained that time had not permitted the opportunity for the auditor to carry out an audit of the accounts on this occasion.

Proposed by Graham Hodgson and seconded by Graham Hodgson and seconded by Dick Fox that the accounts be approved, subject to a successful audit. Approved

7 Motions for Approval

There no motions for approval.

8 Election of Chair for 2025/2026

Nominee: Kevin Brice

Proposed by: Ann Bailey Seconded by: Michael Farman

There being no other nominations, Kevin Brice was elected Chair for 2025/2026.

9 Election of Officers for 2025/2026

Vice-Chair:

Nominee: Danni Tate.

Proposed by: Pam Tate Seconded by: Dick Fox

There being no other nominations, Danni Tate was elected Vice-Chair for 2025/2026.

Secretary:

Nominee: Janet Deeney.

Proposed by: Joyce Brice Seconded by: Beverley Brice

There being no other nominations, Janet Deeney was elected Secretary for 2025/2026.

Treasurer:

Nominee: Mel Fox.

Proposed by: Olive Clay. Seconded by: Roger Clay

There being no other nominations, Mel Fox was elected Treasurer for 2025/2026.

10 Election of Committee for 2025/2026

The following nominations were made for the 2025/2026 Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a Executive Committee:

Sue Green:	Proposed by: Michael Farman.	Seconded by: Linda Farman
Sandra Isaacson:	Proposed by: Joyce Brice.	Seconded by: Colin Wale
Marilyn Edgings:	Proposed by: Joyce Brice.	Seconded by: Colin Wale
Eileen Drewer:	Proposed by: Beryl Smith.	Seconded by: Doreen Fallon
Susan Moss:	Proposed by: Doreen Fallon.	Seconded by: Beryl Woodcock
Pam Tate:	Proposed by: Chris Henderson	Seconded by: Danni Tate
Chris Henderson	Proposed by: Pam Tate	Seconded by: Danni Tate
Michael Farman:	Proposed by: Sue Green	Seconded by: John Green
Sue Dunn:	Proposed by: Bernie Smith	Seconded by: Anne Waller
Dick Fox:	Proposed by: Paul Brice	Seconded by: Roger Clay
Jean Angus	Proposed by: Dave Angus	Seconded by: Lesley Smith

There being no additional nominations, all nominees were elected to the Executive Committee for 2025/2026

11 Appointment of an Examiner of Accounts for 2025/2026 u3a Financial Year

Paul Brice (Treasurer) thanked Peter Victory for auditing the accounts in previous year's and for undertaking the audit of the 2024/2025 accounts following this AGM.

Motion: To appoint Peter Victory as our Examiner of Accounts for 2025/2026

Proposed by: Paul Brice. Seconded by: Kevin Brice

There being no additional nominations, Peter Victory was elected as Auditor of the 2025/2026 u3a accounts.

12 To re-elect Julie Coker as the Hon. President of Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a for another year: Year 10 of 10.

Proposed by: Graham Hodgson. Seconded by Paul Brice.

Approved.

13 AOB.

Kevin Brice (Chair) made presentations to Paul Brice (Treasurer) and Chris Gomm (Trips Organiser) in recognition of their services to the Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a.

Kevin added that a presentation would also be made to Jean Jardine (Trips Organiser) for her services to the Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a.

14 Meeting Closed

The AGM closed at 2.30pm