

MINUTES OF BAKEWELL U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 26 MARCH 2026

Held at Friends' Meeting House

Present: John Anderson, Ian and Jean Bell, Malcolm Cameron, Phil Clarke, Kate and Martin Davey, Eileen Gibbs, David and Jo Hardman, Judy Hinsliff, Peter Holt (chair), Kath and John Hopkins, Sam and Pat Lewis, Bernard McMahon, Glenys Moore, Jacqui Rawson, Gill Roberts, Hisako Robinson, Chris Shipley, Ros Stokes, Alison Stuart, David and Jane Thornton, Joy and Clive Thrower, Richard Tucker, Jenny and Chris Unsworth, Pam Walker, Glenys Weldon, John White, John and Sue Wickham, George Wolfe, Irene Yarnell, John Youatt.

By proxy: iris Holt, Ainslie Kelly, Susan Park.

- 1. Apologies:** Anne Almond, Sue Barradell-Smith, Diane Bradwell, Jane Burgess, Jennifer Coffey, Annette Dwyer-Joyce, Christopher Harrison, Elizabeth Harrison, Deborah Henley, Iris Holt, Marie Howes, Ainslie Kelly, Jamie Mather, Susan Park, Helen Parker, Julie Richmond, Jan Sunman, Rosemary Wolfe
- 2. Minutes of 2025 AGM** were approved as a correct record. Proposed Hisako Robinson, seconded Kate Davey.
3. There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report** had been circulated on Beacon and was available on the website. It was summarised from the Chair. Thanks were expressed to Peter.
- 5. Treasurer's Report** had been circulated. Kath Hopkins explained the accounts, which were in a healthy state. These were approved unanimously, proposed Clive Thrower, seconded John Anderson. The meeting thanked Kath for her work.
- 6. A Report on the membership survey** the previous autumn was given by the Chair, with further comments from David Thornton. The 30% reply rate was commendable. The survey had shown the need for better follow-up for those joining groups. It also emerged that the traditional daytime model for meeting times was not working for many younger retired, and more social events in the evening had been asked for. The social aspect of u3a life was reported as key.

7. Election of officers and committee members

	Candidate	proposed by	seconded by
Election of Chair	Peter Holt – until July 2026		
Election of Vice-Chair	none		
Election of Secretary	Richard Tucker	Peter Holt	Sam Lewis
Re-election of Committee Members	Glenys Moore	Richard Tucker	Sam Lewis

All approved unanimously.

8. Any other business

- a. Sheila Sidebottom was stepping down as co-ordinator of the Homes and Gardens Group (visiting gardens) after 10 years. She appealed for a successor.
- b. To a question about waiting lists for groups, David T and Peter said they were not aware of any.
- c. Training on the Beacon system was needed; Ainslie would be approached to offer some when free.
- d. It was suggested that a WhatsApp group could be helpful for small groups.

After refreshments (with thanks to Glenys Moore) Bu3a member John Hopkins gave an illustrated talk on Working in Dubai Education. After retirement as a headteacher John worked as a schools inspector over the years 2010 to 2023 in the many international schools in Dubai. These were large, fee-paying and mostly very well-resourced. He had seen a noticeable rise in standards over his years working there. Where he did not understand the language medium, it had been necessary to assess teaching effectiveness from the responses of pupils. Dubai was an impressive city, growing rapidly and constantly changing, with new builds seen on every visit.

RT 3.26