

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ALNWICK U3A AGM
HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2025**

WELCOME & APOLOGIES – Carollyn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from several members who were not able to attend.

1 APPOINTMENT OF TWO TELLERS - Sue Willoughby and Pat Ashton.

2 MINUTES OF OCT 2024 AGM - The minutes of the AGM held on 17th October 2024 were accepted as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING - None.

4 CHAIR'S REPORT - Carollyn thanked Trevor for preparing the presentation on her behalf. Carollyn talked through the slides and informed the meeting about Committee activities during the last 12 months.

Community engagement activities – we attended the Alnwick Garden Wellbeing event and Trevor has given presentations at Elderberries.

Newsletter – we have produced 32 copies of the Newsletter since the revamp in 2021 and Shelley Willis is now assisting with the Newsletter.

Facebook – Mary Brazier is Facebook Secretary and the group had 327 participants at the end of September.

Website – Trevor and Mary set up the new website with u3a Siteworks and the site received over 24,000 hits in 2024/25.

Trevor, Anne and Carollyn have attended various Regional Zoom Meetings.

Your Committee has saved many members money by giving a clear option to opt out of receiving Third Age Matters (TAM). In 2023, 144 members received copies of TAM, and this is now reduced to 74. Your Committee is pleased that the new membership form has helped to clarify the options.

Monthly Meetings - The presentation showed the range of interesting speakers who had given presentations at monthly meetings. Carollyn thanked Kathy Platt for organising all the speakers for us to enjoy.

Outings - The Archaeology group had a trip to Hexham and Chesters Roman Fort and the History group visited Trinity House in Newcastle.

Groups – We currently have 31 interest groups, including 3 new groups, namely Geology, Singing and Conversational French. Information about groups is on the notice boards at monthly meetings and on the Website. Anne McMillan is Group Co-ordinator and the main contact if anyone wishes to set up a new group.

Committee Members – New Committee members are welcome and if anyone is unsure about joining the Committee they are welcome to attend a meeting to see what we do.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN EXAMINER – Trevor Robinson presented the accounts for the year, which were accepted.

See attached document for the full Treasurer's report.

Brian Ellis has agreed to examine the accounts for the following year.

6 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Kathy Platt has completed twelve years on the committee including two years as Chair. Kathy wishes to stand down. Trevor thanked Kathy for her help when he took over from her as Chair, and also for steering our u3a through Covid.

Pat Ashton has completed nine years on the Committee and is Membership Secretary.

Mary Brazier has completed one year on the Committee including one as Minutes Secretary.

Carolyn McDonald has completed three years on the Committee including one as Chair.

Anne McMillan has completed five years on the Committee including four as Groups Coordinator.

Cathy Robinson has completed one year on the Committee including one as Business Secretary.

Trevor Robinson has completed five years on the Committee including one as Treasurer.

Shelley Willis has completed two years on the Committee including one as Vice Chair.

Sue Willoughby (currently a co-opted member of the Committee) is willing to stand.

Paul Wright was co-opted onto the committee in February 2025 and wishes to stand down.

It is therefore recommended that the following Alnwick u3a members be elected to serve on the Committee for 2025-26: Pat Ashton, Mary Brazier, Carollyn McDonald, Anne McMillan, Cathy Robinson, Trevor Robinson, Shelley Willis and Sue Willoughby.

Proposed: George Ellames Seconded: Kathy Platt

Agreed by all. No one voted against and there were no abstentions.

7 AOB – Tessa Nichol raised the issue of capacity constraints in the Small Hall. Tessa asks that the matter be looked at by the committee.

Carollyn explained that the number of people in the small hall is a Health and Safety matter, particularly in relation to fire evacuation. At present the two groups involved are trialling different methods of controlling numbers and this will be kept under review and discussed at the January Committee Meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT AGM – 15th October 2026

M Brazier 18/10/2025