Princes Risborough and District u3a
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 14:00
St Mary's Church. Princes Risborough

Present
Maggie Forbes - Social Secretary and Co-chair presiding
Joseph Needham - Co-chair presiding
Stephen Cooper - Treasurer
Peggy Peckham - Secretary
Ann Banbury - Communications Officer
Joyce Wooster - Group Leader Coordinator
Elspeth Banks - Membership Secretary
Rosemary Woodward-Court - Speaker Secretary
Maggie Wooster Keyte – Committee Member
Mary Garbett – Minutes Secretary

and 85 members

Maggie Forbes welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Apologies for absence

Brenda and Peter Willett, John Hipwell, Jenny Tench, Geraldine Pinchard, Linda Rudge, Gill Seels, Sally Harborne, Linda Paton, Geoff Huntingford, Michael George, Catherine Bunbridge and Monica Green.

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 10th October 2023**

These had previously been circulated to the members. There were no abstentions or objections. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Peggy Peckham and seconded by Stephen Cooper. The minutes were approved by a show of hands and will be placed in the Cloud.

2. **Co-Chairs Report**

Maggie spoke of how grateful she is to the U3A for friendship, learning and having fun.

Over the last year:

Two new groups have started – line dancing and a new French group

Two have sadly closed Science &Technology and Theatre group

In terms of things Social–

The Christmas party was a fun event

The Dung Beatles entertained us in April, they have been booked to return next May.

And due to the efforts of our Speaker Secretary, Rosemary, we've had a varied group of interesting speakers every month here at our monthly meetings.

Our Open Day in the summer was very well attended and brought about considerable interest not just from those new to the u3a but 'older' members who found there were lots of things happening which they didn't know about.

Maggie gave enormous thanks go to all group leaders, the time and effort they spend on running their groups is greatly appreciated. Many of the groups are doing well, such as Geraldine's book club (now full with a waiting list) and some would like new members

For instance, the photography group was dwindling and losing its long-term leader, Bernard. Thankfully Carole and Susan stood in. several new people joined and, although they would still like more people, it is in fact a healthy group. Maggie emphasised that it's not necessary to have a fancy camera, a mobile phone is fine and can take amazing pictures. They also go to lovely locations for photo shoots and, usually lunch.

Jackie Huntingford was thanked for her work producing the monthly diary sheet.

Jackie was also thanked, along with Sally Dutton and Geoff Hayes for their years on the website. Jackie and Geoff stepped down in February. Mary Garbett and Richard Jones have joined Sally on the website team.

Maggie encouraged members to look at the website. The Web team have kept the website up to date – they've written posts about what the u3a has been up to and added all future events. They have been working on a leaders' page – a really useful resource for group leaders. They've been fixing and checking and doing all thing techy.

Thanks also to John, a member of the church, for operating the sound and video system and also to Peter Dixon and Joyce Wooster who have learned how to use it. Thanks as well to those who come to make tea every month.

Maggie also mentioned her fellow committee members who all do an amazing job and to the team who help run the social events. Everyone is committed, everyone is lovely and all have a lot of fun.

Finally, Stephen is back to running the bridge group, with thanks to Elspeth for holding the fort. He and Babs started the group a while back, and, as might be expected from a group with Bab's influence, it doesn't take itself too seriously. There is room for new members. It's all about having fun, playing, improving by practice and enjoying the tea and biscuits.

Babs was chair for 3 years while she battled with cancer and kept things going during the pandemic. She lost her battle to the illness a few weeks ago. She is sadly missed.

Maggie thanked everyone again for coming.

Joe said that it has been a pleasure to share the role with Maggie – we bring different attributes to the role and I think that means we are able to cover most things better than either one could do on their own.

Following Maggie's earlier comments, Joe reported that the web team have checked through the website to ensure we don't get caught up in copyright issues. This followed a threat to bring legal proceedings against our u3a over an image with copyright which they claimed was being shown on our website, but once we were aware of this and took action, nothing more has been heard from them.

Other problems arose during the year with the Town Council who now run the Wades centre (used to be the Community centre). One problem affected the Bridge Group, who during the winter and spring were feeling the cold whilst meeting there. Joe and members of the bridge group explained to the council that the position of the thermostat (which is high on the wall) meant that a normal setting of 20 degrees resulted in a significantly lower temperature for those seated in the room. They have agreed to set the thermostat to a higher temperature – we shall see what happens during the next few months.

The other problem was with access to our storage unit there. When they redeveloped the Centre, our storage was moved to a unit accessed from the Carrington room – ok if we were using that room or it was not being used by someone else. The problem was when one of our groups went to get items out of the store when someone else was meeting in the room. Joe explained to the relevant council committee that most of our groups who use the Centre meet in the Cherry Baker room, and storage easily accessible from there would be much better. Eventually the council came up with the solution of creating a new storage unit (from an existing larger storage area) for u3a which is accessed from the entrance lobby adjacent to both meeting rooms. The result is a larger storage area for us without access problems.

As was said earlier, two of our groups (Theatre & Science) ceased earlier in the year as no-one came forward to take over the leadership from Penny and Libby respectively, many thanks to them for all they did as group leaders.

Photography would have also gone, but the arrival of new members and the willingness of Sue and Carole to share the leadership role previously done by Bernard (whom we also thank), means that it is continuing to do well.

That willingness to step up and take on new roles is vital for the continuing success of our u3a, and we hope others will also come forward and help either in the groups they attend, by joining the committee or in some way.

Maggie and Joe thanked everyone again for coming.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

3.1. Summary of Income and Expenditure

	2022-23	2023-24
Total Income This includes all monies from groups that use the central bank account	£28994.94	£25172.07
Total Expenditure Again including all monies spent on behalf of groups	£23665.20	£24772.75
Net Income/(Deficit)	£5329.74	£399.32

3.2. Income Breakdown

	2022-23	2023-24
Membership		
Individual and Joint	£9002.00	£6596.00
Gift Aid	£2527.78	£1154.58
Major Group Income		
Theatre	£7552.20	£611.00
Gardening	£5295.74	£8914.60
Badminton	£3220.50	£2548.00

3.3. Major Expense Breakdown

	2022-23	2023-24
Monthly Meetings including venue hire	£1602.80	£2608.29
Theatre	£6796.40	£1175.00
Gardening	£5316.10	£6792.69
Badminton	£3195.50	£2808.00

3.4. Balance Sheet

As of 31st August 2024 our position was as follows

Total Assets (cash in the bank) £20966.74 (2023 £20567.42)

Representing	£15831.47	Central funds
	£5135.27	Group funds

3.5 Significant changes

The reduction in membership from £15.00 to £10.00 will reduce our income for 2024-25 and future years by c £3500.00 as there will both be a reduction in the membership and the consequent Gift Aid. Looking at the current balance and our existing membership base we should be able to retain the reduced fees for several years depending on the increase in our costs over that period.

3.6 Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members, volunteers and group leaders for their unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Without their commitment, our achievements would not have been possible.

Conclusion: The financial health of Risborough and District u3a remains strong, thanks to the continued support and careful financial management. We will continue to use our resources efficiently and transparently.

If you have any questions or require further details, please feel free to contact me directly.

Stephen Cooper
Treasurer,
Risborough and District u3a
treasurer@risboroughu3a.org.uk

Ann Banbury proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Jackie Huntingford. There was a large show of hands accepting the 22/23 accounts.

4. **Membership Secretary's Report for AGM: 8th October 2024**

In the past u3a year, September 2023 – August 2024, a steady stream of 90 new members have joined us. Some may have wished to become involved in just one interest group, some with several different groups, while others may simply have wanted to attend our monthly meetings, enjoy listening to our variety of excellent speakers and have a chat over tea and biscuits afterwards.

So u3a gives the chance to get to know more people and make those new friends. It is always daunting arriving somewhere new on your own, but being met by a friendly face at whatever group or event attended, makes all the difference.

At our monthly meetings at St Mary's, we always have at least one or two of the Committee at the door to welcome attendees (with name labels identifying us!) So no one new will remain on their own, but will be introduced to other members to help them enjoy their afternoon even more.

Group Leaders all put in a lot of time and effort into running their groups, which is much appreciated by those who attend. With their contact details on our website, new group members are able to have a chat beforehand, either by phone or email and ask any initial questions. That undoubtedly eases any first visit, when the new attendee will hopefully decide to continue membership of the group and enjoy the company of the others there.

I continue to receive a lot of lovely emails from members, so thank you. Quite a few, of course, come from those on the Committee and members are urged to join and find out for themselves that that is another excellent, rewarding and fun way for them to become even more involved in the life of our u3a.

A few membership facts and figures……..

- Members at the end of September 2023: 544
- Members deciding not to renew their membership after the 2023 renewals period: 32
- New members throughout 2023-24 (as mentioned above): 90
- Members at the end of July 2024: 585
- From that number, still to hear from (at the time of the AGM) re their 2024-25 membership: 43

(For those adding and subtracting these figures, we do lose members during the year, for both sad and happier reasons, so no, the maths is not wrong!)

Many emails are also those exchanged at the time of subscription renewals. With our 'New Year' starting on 1st September, grateful thanks must go to the more than 500 members who renewed by then. Their prompt response is greatly appreciated, helping towards getting everything in place before our AGM.

Elspeth Banks

Membership Secretary

5. **Any other Reports**

No other reports were presented.

6. **Election of Committee Members for 2024/25**

Proposed committee members for 2024 / 2025:

Name	**Position**	**Proposed by**	**Seconded by**
Maggie Forbes	Co-Chair and Social Secretary	Peggy Peckham	Joe Needham
Joe Needham	Co-Chair	Maggie Forbes	Peggy Peckham
Stephen Cooper	Treasurer	Joe Needham	Peggy Peckham
Peggy Peckham	Secretary	Joe Needham	Maggie Forbes
Elspeth Banks	Membership Secretary	Maggie Forbes	Joe Needham
Ann Banbury	Group Leader Co-ordinator	Peggy Peckham	Maggie Forbes
Maggie Wooster Keyte	Speaker Secretary	Joe Needham	Peggy Peckham
Mary Garbett	Minutes Secretary	Peggy Peckham	Maggie Forbes

Each proposal was accepted by a show of hands from the members.

Joe advised that there were vacancies for Vice chair, Communications Secretary and an Ordinary Member on the Committee. No nominations had been received and if anyone is interested they were asked to speak with him separately.

Rosemary Woodward-Court, Speaker Secretary, and Joyce Wooster-Keyte, Group Co-ordinator, have stood down from the Committee. They were both thanked for all their work to support the U3A and presented with thank you gifts of plants.

7. **A.O.B.**

None.

8. Date and time of next AGM

Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 2.30 pm.

Refreshments were then served.

Matthew Allman, a professional singer, provided us with some excellent entertainment.