

Blackbourne U3A
Minutes of Committee meeting 11.30am, 01 September 2025
Bowden Room, New Green Centre, Thurston

Present

Liz Morgan	Chair
Sue Adams	Secretary
Brenda Last	Treasurer
Julie Cubitt	Joint Names Registrar
Stephen Cubitt	Joint Names Registrar
Chris Ives	Membership Secretary
Geri Collingwood	Interest Groups Co-ordinator
Sue Kelly	Committee Member
Liz Chester	Committee Member
Bill Blackaby	Minutes Secretary

Apologies for absence

Sarah Robinson	Committee Member
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Ref	Item	Action by	When by
1.	Minutes of previous meeting: 13 May 2025 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.		
2.	Matters arising (those not dealt with through agenda): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Documentation for succession: Will be a continuing agenda item. (ii) Website update - pictures: Chris will produce a collage of place names/village signs with aim of updating web site front page Geri will review ideas for a suitable picture for the Interest Groups page. (iii) Asset List: Brenda will circulate the current list to committee members to seek any further updates. Bill to liaise with Laurie Marshall Social History group lead to list the books local history group may have passed over but also to suggest could be disposed of at the forthcoming book sale at Novembers lecture. (iv) Facebook: Liz C liaised with Christina and is now set up. 	Chris Geri Brenda Bill	ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP

	<p>(v) Promotion of Blackbourne U3A: Liz C confirmed that the Thurston newsletter has been updated with lecture dates for next three lectures. Bill confirmed that the article in the Gt Barton newsletter has now been published. Bill will put notification on the "Next door" site. Bill will also send in an article to EADT and Bury Free about the lecture on the 1 Sept 2025.</p> <p>(vi) Kitchen: It appears cleanliness has generally improved although some of the crockery remains stained at times. Watching brief to be maintained.</p>		
3.	<p>Chairs report:</p> <p>(i) Christmas social:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to cater for 150. Sue to liaise with Sarah Robinson regarding sausage rolls, serviettes etc. Agreed to provide shop bought mince pies and shloer drink. Agreed to £125 budget for the raffle prizes, Geri to source. Brenda to provide raffle tickets. <p>(ii) 2026 AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz M, Sue A, Chris and Bill will be standing down from the committee. Liz M to compose letter to members requesting new volunteers to join the committee – will circulate to committee for comment and will aim to send out to members Mid October 	<p>Geri Brenda</p>	<p>Nov 2025 Nov 2025</p> <p>Liz M</p> <p>ASAP</p>
4.	<p>Treasurer's report: Brenda presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current account - £4,196.60. Cash in hand £86.71. Following bills to be paid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convenors lunch £41.20 September hall hire £118 September speaker £100 September committee room hire £22. Savings account - £4,248.23, interest rate currently 1.04%. It is anticipated there is no need to raise subscription in 2026. 		

5.	<p>Membership Secretary's report: Chris reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership now stands at 538. • New members added as follows: May - 2; June - 14; July - 8, August - 5. • The yearend position to 31 August 2025 indicates a net increase in membership of 16 over the year following resignations, lapsed and members now deceased. • The renewal process went well and new membership cards and programmes were printed and sent out in the usual way. 		
6.	<p>Interest groups: Geri reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very successful Group Leaders lunch was held on 15/7/2025. 16 groups were represented. • Social Bridge group have confirmed the assets they hold. • Tables to promote Groups at monthly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Quilting group successfully displayed at the July meeting and attracting several new members. ◦ Craft Group aiming for October meeting. ◦ Book group intend a book sale at November meeting. ◦ Flower arranging group intend to display at the January meeting. • Ann Hunter is preparing to launch her Short Walks with Talk group in the autumn. • Committee confirmed that the U3A insurance covers group activities in 3rd party properties such as village halls. • Had a request to see if the u3a would be interested in supporting New Green Croquet Club. Committee agreed that members be encouraged to do so on an individual basis. • Sue A reported that the play reading group have been successful in getting a play written by a member to be performed at the John Mills Theatre in the autumn. 		
7.	<p>Beacon Management System update: Stephen reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 4 groups now not using Beacon to aid their activities. • Noted that total group membership is 520, however many members belong to more than one group. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen /Chris updating membership template to include provision for opting out of email communications. • A member is using a free app “Boxbe” to filter emails. Committee agreed not to engage with Boxbe protocols meaning the member may no longer receive U3A emails. 		
8.	Events –theatre and garden visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actual report but noted the events/visits page on the web site displays the currently available events only. 		
9.	Any other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee agreed to the title “Interesting visits” for this group. Sue K will administer this group. 		
10.	Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 13.30pm, Bowden Room, New Green Centre, Thurston.	All to note	
11.	Meeting closed at: 13.15.		

Signed:Chair Date:.....