WHITBY WHALER U3A

Minutes of the AGM Meeting held at 10.30, Saturday 22nd November 2025

At The Rifle Club

Committee present: Trevor Barrowcliffe (Chairman), Sandra Goodship (Business Secretary), Janice Shade (Treasurer), Cynthia Richardson (Access H&S), Rick Harwood, Daphne Wilson, Mike Hodgson

Members present: Maureen Agar, Anne Atkinson, Margaret Barrowcliffe, David Bradley, Ruth Braithwait, Eileen Brown, Chris Bywell, Veronica Carolan, Elizabeth Cheyne, Rose Corner, Jane Crisp, Jeanette Cromack, Eileen Dannatt, Ruth Darling, Phil Griffiths, Frances Hilson, Patricia Holmes, Michael Holmes, Pat Howarth, John Howarth, Joy Huish, Jill Hunter, Dave Jeffrey, Linda Jeffrey, Adrian Jennings, Lucy Jones, Anne Livsey, Susan Lonsdale, Peter Lyth, Rosemary Noble, Maureen Osborne, George Osborne, Ray Randall, Don Readman, Shirley Rhucroft, Dot Russell, Pauline Shepherd, Rob Shilson, Sue Stuart, Lyn Stuart, Sheila Swain, Paul Temple, Barbara Theobald, Sue Wessel, Jane Wilby, Gaynor Wilkin, Ian Wilkin, Liz Williams, Michael Wilson, Marion Wilson, Kath Wood

Postal / proxy votes received: Katherine Davitt, Anita Dryden, Sue Thomason, Jane Welford

A total of 62 members were therefore present or had submitted postal votes, and the meeting was therefore quorate – a quorum being 36 members (5% of the current 713 membership)

1.	**Apologies for Absence** Paula Frankland, Elaine Halliday, Ruth Harwood, Vanessa Hicking, Debbie Hogarth, Stephen Maltby, Marie McCrone, Rob McCrone, Michael Menier, Susan Menier, Dalton Peake, Janet Peake, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Colin Rutland, Sheila Sloan, Gladys Smith, Joyce Stangoe, Graham Templeton, Paulina Templeton

2.	**Minutes of AGM 12/10/2024** Resolution 1: These minutes were accepted and received as a true record and signed by the Chair (proposed Rick Harwood, seconded Sue Wessel)
3.	**Matters arising from Minutes of AGM for 2023-24** It was noted that the suggestions from last year regarding changes to the arrangements for the AGM appear to have been successful in increasing the numbers attending. Apart from this there were no matters arising.
4.	**Chairman's report (attached Appendix 1)** Chairman Trevor Barrowcliffe summarised his written report circulated prior to the meeting, and expressed his thanks to all group leaders, trip organisers and committee members for their work throughout the year. He reiterated that he will definitely be stepping down at the next AGM and that a volunteer is therefore needed to shadow him in anticipation of taking up this role. He reminded members that the Executive Officer positions of Chair, Treasurer and Business Secretary are legally required for us to be able to continue and that without them being filled the Whitby Whaler u3a would need to be disbanded. A shadow Treasurer is also required to relieve the current Treasurer at some point soon. A question was raised from the floor as to whether the committee can influence North Yorkshire Council on the frequency of buses serving the Eastside. This is outside of our control – we continually look for venues that best provide our groups with parking, public transport links and accessible facilities, but it is not possible within the venues currently available across the town to tick all those boxes. Resolution 2: The Chairman's written report was received and accepted. (proposed: Veronica Carolan, seconded: David Bradley)

5.	**Treasurer's report to Receive and Adopt the statement of Accounts 2024-2025 (see Appendix 2)** Treasurer Janice Shade informed those present that due to the increasing price of theatre tickets, which are bought in bulk for our Theatre trips, the daily spending limit on our current account has had to be increased to £7,000. We currently have a high balance in our HSBC current account, largely due to us not having to pay the affiliation fees of £5 a member to the Third Age Trust until April. HSBC have suggested that we open a Business Management Account to use alongside out current account – it is fee free, gives instant access and pays interest (currently 1.3%). This would be an intermediate account (we also have a higher paying account with the Epworth Trust for long-term savings). Those present felt that although the interest rate is quite low, any interest paid is better than none, and if it does not increase the workload for the Treasurer, it would be worth opening such an account – a consensus agreed by a show of hands. The annual Finance report shows that, following an increasing deficit over the last few years, for 2024-25 we had a surplus of just over £7000. This is partly due to the increase in annual membership fees from August 2024, and partly to an increase in class attendances. Janice has therefore come up with the idea that in order to return some of this surplus to our active members we will not charge any class fees for the month of December. 'Fee free December' has been approved by the committee and will be communicated to all members in the coming week. Finally, Janice thanked Michael Scholey for the auditing of our year end accounts for a number of years. Michael is now stepping down from this role. Resolution 3: The Treasurer's report was received and approved. (Proposed: Mike Hodgson, Seconded: David Bradley)

6.	**Adoption of an independent Examiner of Accounts for 2025-6** Following the stepping down of Mr Michael Scholey, Helen Smithies has indicated her willingness to be the Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2025-2026. We thank Michael for his work in auditing the accounts over a number of years. Helen is not a member of our u3a but has an accountancy background and regularly visits the area as daughter of our committee member Cynthia Richardson. Helen had hoped to be here today to introduce herself but sends apologies as the bad weather over the last few days has prevented her from travelling from her home in Bradford. Resolution 4 to adopt Helen Smithies as Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2025-26 was passed. (Proposed: Sandra Goodship Seconded: Phil Griffiths)
7.	**Election of Committee 2025-2026** a) Sandra Goodship has now completed her first three-year term as Business Secretary, but is willing to stand for a second three-year term in the role Resolution 5a) to re-elect Sandra Goodship for a second three-year term as Business Secretary was passed. (Proposed: Adrian Jennings Seconded: Pauline Shepherd) b) Daphne Wilson was co-opted onto the committee during the year Resolution 5b) to formally elect Daphne Wilson onto the committee was passed. (Proposed: Jill Hunter Seconded: Liz Williams) c) Resolution 5c) to re-elect existing committee members Trevor Barrowcliffe (Chair), Janice Shade (Treasurer), Cynthia Richardson (Accessibility, Health & Safety), Richard Harwood (Committee Member), Sheila Sloan (Committee Member & acting Newsletter editor) and Michael Hodgson (Committee Member) was passed (Proposed: Jill Hunter Seconded: Frances Hilson)

8.	By agreement of the current committee, Maureen Agar is stepping down from the Committee but will continue to assist the Treasurer as Social Treasurer. Maureen Osborne will carry out the role of Membership Secretary without joining the committee. There are currently four vacant positions on the committee, including someone to take over the role of Newsletter Editor (currently filled temporarily by Sheila Sloan). Joy Huish and Jill Hunter volunteered at the meeting to sit on the committee and will be invited to the next committee meeting.
9.	**Consideration of Motions from Committee /Members** There were no motions for consideration.
10.	**Date of AGM 2026** The date of the next AGM will be decided by the executive committee subject to availability of venue and publicised to members in good time. Provisional date is 7th November 2026.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m. with thanks to Trevor Barrowcliffe for taking the chair.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report, November 2025

Trevor Barrowcliffe

It doesn't seem very long since I was compiling the annual report after my first year as Chairman (for the second time round). In general it's been another good year for our u3a, our membership numbers have continued to grow, despite the increase in membership fees, and currently stand at 713, compared with 675 for the previous year. We enrolled 39 new members at our busy enrolment day in September, and a further 56 have joined since, but these figures are offset by a considerable number of members from last year not renewing, hence the increase is not as great as might have been expected.

Financially it has also been a good year; because of the increase in membership fees from £12 to £20 the deficit of just under £2000 the previous year has been turned into a surplus of over £7000. As mentioned above, there is no evidence that the increase in membership fees has resulted in a reduction in the numbers of members renewing.

The committee met with group leaders twice during the year; once in January to discuss ongoing matters, and again in July to review the year and for the Committee to express its thanks with a lunch. We owe a great deal to our Group Leaders and I'm sure all of our members appreciate their hard work and commitment in keeping their groups running.

I would like to thank Colin Rutland for continuing to do a very good job organising and updating our website, which is a very useful source of information on all our group activities and forthcoming events, both for our members and for prospective members thinking of joining.

I am pleased to see that most of the of the new and re-established groups from last year have continued this year – Backgammon, Psychology, Quayside Spinners, Bridge and Jazz Appreciation. The only exception is French Conversation, which started last October but has now been discontinued. Languages is one of the few areas where we are lacking – as well as French we have in the past had a Spanish conversation group, and

German and Italian have been mentioned. If anyone would be interested in conversational groups in any of these languages or indeed has any suggestions for new groups in other areas not covered, just contact me or anyone on the committee with your ideas. Nonetheless with 50 active groups there is hopefully something for everyone.

As well as the regular group meetings every week, fortnight or month our members have also been able to enjoy a wide variety of outings. Rose Corner continues to organise frequent theatre trips and during the last year the following shows were visited: *Tina Turner; Swan Lake; Hamilton; The Midnight Bell; Chicago; 2:22 A Ghost Story; Mary Poppins; Miss Saigon*. Further shows which have been booked for next year include: *Priscilla Queen Of The Desert, Red Shoes* and *Moulin Rouge* .

After many years Anne Jackson has retired from organising the popular day trips to places of interest, and Pauline Shepherd has taken over. Those visited during this year include: *Knaresborough, Beamish and Burnby Hall in Pocklington*. The Committee is very grateful to Anne for all her hard work in organising these trips over many years, and to Pauline for volunteering to take over.

Other outings during the year were organised by the Gardening Group, to Constable Burton Hall, Newburgh Priory & Gardens and Raby Castle & Gardens; by the History Group to Bishop Auckland, and by a number of the Walking Groups, as well as two concert outings to the Glasshouse Gateshead. I'm sure that all members would like to join me in thanking the organisers of all these trips for their dedication and commitment, they give a lot of pleasure, especially to people who don't have a car.

In addition to all the regular group meetings and outings the year was filled with a number of other events. During last autumn and winter and this spring the following took place:

- On Remembrance Sunday a u3a wreath was laid by Gabrielle Finnerty.

- At Christmas there was a decorated u3a tree as part of the exhibition at St Mary's.
- At the Christmas coffee morning we were entertained by the u3a Singers.
- The Spring Social took place in on 23rd April, Shakespeare's birthday, at the Pavilion, with over 120 people attending, many in fancy dress based on a Shakespearean theme. The event started with a ceilidh, provided by Gaynor and Ian Wilkin, and finished with a disco, organised by Derek Robinson, and in between the 3rd Age Stagers entertained us with a sketch loosely based on Shakespeare characters.
- The 3rd Age Stagers also performed their traditional pantomime, entitled "Alice in Pantoland", to sellout audiences in January.

Many thanks to all those who helped organise these events - though we could always use more volunteers; let us know if you would like to help with any of these or other activities.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their continued excellent support. One of our committee members is stepping down after many years, and two other prospective members have decided not to join, so we have three vacancies. We would particularly like someone to help Sheila Sloan with the newsletter and publicity with a view to eventually taking over, and similarly someone to shadow myself as Chairman and Janice Shade as Treasurer. If you enjoy what our u3a has to offer do please consider giving something back to the organisation, and if you are curious as to what's involved you would be welcome to come as a guest to one of our monthly committee meetings.

Appendix 2: Finance Statement

WHITBY WHALER u3a

(Registered Charity No. 1031689)

Receipts and Payments Account for 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Membership subscriptions	14640.00		8104.00	
Class fees	27554.06		23659.53	
Coffee Morning	370.04		366.21	
		42564.10		32129.74
Other Receipts				
Gift Aid	2740.14			
Merchandise			52.25	
Donations	170.00		84.00	
		2910.14		136.25
Epworth Account Bank Interest		533.86		564.35
Total Receipts		46008.10		32830.34
Less Payments				
Room Hire	24545.05		22663.18	
Class activites	7256.92		6856.29	
Merchandise				
Coaches	890.00		425.00	
Bank Charges	268.49		261.92	
	32960.46	32960.46		30206.39
Support Costs				
TAM	184.36		143.04	
Affiliation Fees	2888.00		2616.00	
Management and Administration	1896.75		991.07	
Beacon	729.00		654.00	
Printing			170.00	
Site Works	50.00			
Licence (TAT)	136.58			
		5884.69		4574.11
Total Payments		38845.15		34780.50
Surplus/Deficit for the year		7162.95		1950.16
Cash Funds at 1st August 2024		22732.90		24683.06
Cash Funds at 31st July 2025		29895.85		22732.90
Represented by:				
HSBC Current Account		17937.52		11308.43
Epworth Cash Plus Fund		11958.33		11424.47
		29895.85		22732.90

Audited and found correct and in accordance with information supplied :-

G M Scholey FCA ..... Date ..25.8.25..

Whitby Whaler U3a Social Account

Receipts and Payments from 1st August 2024 until 31st July 2025

Receipts	**2025**	**2024**
Excursions		
Gardening Group	£9,645.00	£6,313.75
Theatre Group	£26,577.00	£23,660.00
Concert Group	£2,552.00	£2,619.00
	£38,774.00	**£32,592.75**
Social Events		
3rd Age Stagers	£654.00	£1,125.00
Coach Outings	£6,206.97	£3,196.50
Winter Social	£2,759.00	£1,330.00
History Group	£1,258.00	£1,957.00
York Music Festival		£116.00
	£10,877.97	**£7,724.50**
Total Receipts	**£49,651.97**	**£40,317.25**
Less Payments		
Excursions		
Gardening Group	£9,827.50	£6,082.32
Theatre Group	£25,992.50	£20,077.70
Concert Group	£2,512.50	£2,612.70
	£38,332.50	**£28,772.72**
Social Events		
3rd Age Stagers	£321.05	£364.87
Coach Outings	£4,991.50	£2,669.00
Winter Social	£2,870.48	£1,235.38
History Group	£1,795.80	£2,047.00
York Music Festival		£425.00
Christmas Coffee Morning		£26.67
Receipts books	£13.74	
	£9,992.57	**£6,767.92**
Bank Charges	£348.98	£313.03
Total Payments	**£48,674.05**	**£35,853.67**
Cash funds at 1st August 2024	£9,288.11	
Cash funds 31st July 2025	£10,266.03	
Surplus	**£977.92**	**£4,463.58**

Signed _____ date 25.8.25