



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Minutes of AGM held on 13th February 2024


1.	<p>Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from: Barbara Banks, Betty Boote, Gaye Coughlan, Sue Esquilant, Chris Hey, Maureen Hickman, Michael Lamb, Eve Marks, Terri Mooney, Kay Odey, Maureen Robinson, Geoff Suckling, Peter Rothwell, Barbara Winsley.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of last AGM held on 14th February 2023 The minutes of the AGM held on the 14th February 2023 were read by the Acting Business Secretary, Lois McClory. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting, with no queries/questions arising. Signed by Diane Silverston, Chair and Alan Stevenson, Business Secretary.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising: See following reports:-</p>
4.	<p>Chairman’s Report: Please see attached report which was read out to members by Alan Stevenson. Copies will be sent out with the Chairman’s next newsletter and on our website.</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer’s Report: Prepared and read by Anne Sorrell, Treasurer. Accounts for 2023-24 accepted as a true record – duly audited without qualification by Mrs. B. A. Davis, LLB, FCCA, ACG and signed by Alan Stevenson, Chair. In her report (attached), Anne was pleased to be able to announce a small surplus of £358 – due on part to the Christmas raffle and a one-off payment of £100 by TSB Bank for errors made during the closing of our accounts with them. Increases in hall rent and fees to Third Age Trust head Office mean we are on a very tight budget for 2024. One outcome of this is the difficulty our Programme Co-ordinators have in finding affordable speakers. Either we attract more weekly meeting members or possibly consider reducing the number of meetings at which we arrange speakers, meaning the members and Groups would need to step in to provide weekly presentations.</p>


6.	<p>Election of Officers: Alan Stevenson and Lois McClory read out the following Nominations and Seconders</p>		
Chairman	Alan Stevenson	Proposed Seconded	Susan Lavering Mavis Sipple
Secretary	Michael Allen	Proposed Seconded	Alan Stevenson Lois McClory

Treasurer	Anne Sorrell	Proposed Seconded	Linda Wagstaff Maxine Sutcliffe
Membership Secretary	Michael Lamb	Proposed Seconded	Diana Kemp Chris Hey
New Committee	Michael Allen	Proposed Seconded	Alan Stevenson Betty Boote
Re-Elected Committee	Lois McClory	Proposed Seconded	Linda Wagstaff Betty Boote
Existing Committee	Wally Bones Barbara Cohen Jo Hedley Kay Odey	1 year to serve 1 year to serve 2 years to serve 1 year to serve	
It was carried that the Officers and Committee for 2023 be elected " <i>nem. con</i> " (no one dissenting)			

7.	Examiner of Accounts: Mrs. B. A. Davis, LLB, FCCA, ACG has audited the accounts and passed them without qualification.
8.	Any other Business: 1.0 As indicated above, the increasing difficulty of finding affordable speakers every week is putting a great deal of stress on our Programme Co-ordinators and our finances. It was proposed by Barbara Cohen and seconded by Alan Stevenson that, as of January 2025, instead of having a paid speaker <u>every</u> week we would have two paid speakers, a Group Presentation and one other presentation arranged by members – e.g. a quiz, an auction or a talk, etc. This motion was carried with no dissent. 2.0 It was proposed by Jeanette Rothwell and seconded by Diane Silverston that we contact all our members and ask them to carefully consider whether they wish to continue receiving the "Third Age Matters" magazine as many members do not read it very often. This would go some way to improving our tight financial situation. Members who wish to continue receiving the magazine need take no action – only those actively deciding to stop receiving the magazine need to reply to our Member Ship Secretary ASAP. This motion was carried with no dissent.
	The meeting closed at 15:15pm

Signed:


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Alan Stevenson (Chair)


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Michael Allen (Business Secretary)

AGM 2025 - CHAIR'S REPORT

Firstly, thanks to the Church for letting us use their building, and to Angel and his wife for their help in preparing the Hall for us.

At the end of 2024 we had 129 members, slightly less than the 137 of 2023. Sadly, we lost 5 members over the course of the year but we had 14 new members who joined in 2024. We hope they have enjoyed being with us.

We have 109 paid up members for this year so far, and 4 have been new members since January. Our weekly average since January has been 40 and I would ask all members to "spread the word" and encourage your friends to come along and, hopefully, join. Our Membership Form has had the wording changed to emphasise whether or not members wish to continue to receive the "Third Age Matters" magazine as the contribution can then come to our branch rather than the publisher. Another change was to have only two weeks per month of paid speakers and to rely on Groups and members to come forward and share their passion and interest with us. There has been an excellent response to this request for 2025 with only May 20th and June 24th still empty at the time of writing – so many thanks to all those who have volunteered to do a presentation. It would be great to have members come forward as Group Leaders – one new Group, Gardening, was started in 2024 - or onto the Committee to help our branch move on into the future. If you feel you can help in any way, please speak to me.

I would like to thank Diane for her work as Group Co-ordinator and Welfare Secretary. Diane, you seem to have a gift for contacting those who need a bit of "TLC"! Thanks also to all Group Leaders for continuing to lead our Study Groups. The Winter Newsletter has been sent to all on our email list and hard copies are available for our post list. If anyone is interested in joining, starting, or suggesting a possible group please speak to Diane and we will help you as much as possible.

Thanks to Peter Norman who has continued the task of writing and publishing our Newsletter editions under some very demanding personal challenges.

Thanks to Lois who organised and to the members who contributed to our very own presentation on "The Beauty of the Spoken Word." Thanks to again Kay and to Anne for organising the Raffle at our Christmas Lunch which earned us £61!

Many thanks to Betty for organising our Summer and Christmas Lunches at Affinity in Chalkwell Park. I helped a little this year and was surprised at just how much paperwork and organising must be done to make it all work smoothly – so "*well done, Betty*". The 35 members who attended at Christmas seemed to enjoy themselves.

Thank you to those groups who have organised a Display Board for our meetings, - Photography every week! Hopefully, some of the other groups will offer to do one soon. Also, any groups who are able to do a presentation for future meetings please speak to Barbara Cohen.

Thank you, **Barbara** for organising our meeting speakers. It is becoming harder and harder to find speakers we can afford given the lower weekly attendance numbers and I know that you have put in an immense amount of effort phoning and emailing possible Speakers only to find that we cannot afford the £140+ that many of them would cost us including Travel Expenses.

Our Open Day on October 8th 2024 on the theme of "Seaside" was very well attended with a few current but absent members turning up to chat and socialise.

Our Open Day for 2025 has had the themes of “Festivals & Feast Days” or “Remembrance & Memories” suggested – so please get your thinking caps on!!

To our Committee I have to say an enormous thank you for their support and time. Also, to our Officers –

To our Membership Secretary Mike Lamb who puts in a lot of conscientious work behind the scenes updating the slides for each weekly meeting, managing our membership lists, sending out emails to those members who are listed with emails and printing labels for our Postal Register;

To our Treasurer Anne Sorrell who manages the weekly pay-ins at Metro Bank, tracks income and expenditure throughout the year (*and keeps me right when I mislay receipts or occasionally use the wrong account!*) and draws up the necessary Financial Accounts that allow us to continue operating as a *bona fide* Charity;

To Michael Allen our Business Secretary who handles reams of “weird and wonderful” emails requesting attention from our branch!

To Lois for standing in for me as Vice Chair when I am off “gallivanting” and for helping at the Welcome Desk pretty much every week;

Thanks to Kay for ensuring we have refreshments at the meetings and assisting at the Welcome Desk pretty much every week.

Thanks also to those who are always willing to help out in any way when needed, especially those of you who uncomplainingly accept the Fire Marshall jobs each week and with the tea making and washing up - Thank you. Without your input we simply could not continue to operate. You help make this branch work!

Thank you to all our members for their support, interest and enthusiasm that makes being the Chair of Southend U3A such an enjoyable task. A happy friendly group. Here’s wishing all the best to us in 2025 and the future.

Lastly, an item of some note. Our sister branch of Leigh-on-Sea had to close at their last AGM due to nobody being found who would fill the role of Treasurer or Chair. But it is an ill wind that blows no good and one positive outcome is that Southend U3A has been generously gifted with an amount from their outstanding funds – Ann Sorrell our Treasurer will give more details in her report. Jeanette Rothwell – ex-Chair of Leigh-on-Sea has asked to say a few words after your committee has completed our AGM procedures.

Signed
Alan Stevenson, Chair

Signed
Michael Allen, Business Secretary