Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21 October 2025 at the
Bulkington Village Centre

1. **Welcome**

Richard welcomed all to the meeting, and confirmed that the members present made the meeting quorate.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from: Norma Hogg, Ann Lucas, Janice and Colin Palmer, Ted and Linden Parsons, Kay and Pete Aldersley, Margaret and Tony Cashmore, Sue Adams, Eileen Carter, Brian May, Kath Proctor

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2024, which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Paul Dowdeswell Seconded by Paul Hoskins, and agreed by all.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The only matters arising not included in the agenda was the confirmation that David Archer had been duly elected to the Committee.

5. **Chairman's Report**

Richard gave a presentation of activities nationally and within BNB u3a – see attached document.

6. **Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts**

The accounts for 2024-2025 had been previously circulated, and a copy of the Independent Examiner's Report was available for inspection.

Overall, BNB u3a is in a good position financially, showing a slight upturn in funds of £280 over the previous year, even though additional costs had been incurred with the 21st birthday party and purchase of promotional merchandise (banner stand).

A question was raised about the £2 attendance cost for meetings, and should this be increased. Paul explained how this cost enabled all members to attend whichever groups they were interested in, and there were sufficient funds to support this action.

Richard explained that we constantly look at venue costs, attendance figures, etc, and make adjustments as necessary.

Acceptance of the Accounts: Proposed by Rita Ison Jacques, Seconded by Janet Nash, accepted by all.

7. **Appointment of Auditor**

Gavin Kibble had agreed to being Auditor for 2025-26, and it was proposed that he be appointed.

Proposed by Paul Dowdeswell, Seconded by Paul Hoskins, agreed by all.

8. **Appointment of Committee Members/Trustees**

The following members had agreed to stand on Committee:
David Archer, proposed by Anne Davis, seconded by Jane Smith
Richard Adams, proposed by Sue Adams, seconded by Martin Ball
Paul Davis, proposed by Lorraine Hoskins, seconded by Eileen Carter
Jane Dowsett, proposed by Gary Dowsett, Seconded by Rita Ison Jacques
Sue Quittenton, proposed by Anne Davis, seconded by Sue Dowdeswell

Richard asked if there were any nominations from the floor as the committee would be working on the minimum number – there were none.

It was proposed that nominations be accepted en masse. Proposed by Lucy Beale, Seconded by Rita Ison Jacques Agreed by all.

9. **Consideration of Motions**

No motions had been received.

10. **Any Other Business**

Lorraine Hoskins wished to record thanks to the Committee/Trustees for the work they do.

It was suggested that maybe some of the groups could put on a display of what they do at some of the monthly meetings or AGMs – poetry reading, patchwork/craft, etc, to encourage more people to join them.

11. **Date of Next AGM**

Tuesday, 20 October 2026.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.

Chairman's Report – October 2025

This is now the second AGM we have held in October instead of May as previously, and in fact the national u3a AGM was held last week on the 15th, so we are now in line with this. Although there have been several months since the end of the 2024-25 Financial Year, the Financial results relate to the year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Other comments relate to the last 12 months, i.e. since the last AGM.

Before we review our local BNBu3a activities, I would like to highlight some of the changes that have happened at national level as a result of the national AGM held in October 2024.

- A new CEO was appointed at that time, and
- A new organisation called the u3a Council was accepted and established. This replaced the previous organisation that was based on a Trustee Board made of Regional representatives, and
- The new Trustee Board is now much smaller, with the Council now made up of Regional representatives.

Although BNBu3a is an independent Charity, we are part of the national u3a umbrella organisation, and this change is intended to allow better communication between the regions and the national management team. The national team provide many resources that help local u3as, both the committees running them and individual members by providing online learning resources and other documentation. It is worth looking at the national website, and the West Midlands Regional website, for further information, and links can be found on our website.

Let's have another look at our activities within BNBu3a;

- **Membership Targets - Grow membership to at least pre-Pandemic levels** – At the end of March 2025 we were at 204 paid members this year, which is now very close to pre-pandemic levels of 210, although numbers have varied over the last few years, and have dropped a little this year since March. Nationally the profile of membership over the past few years has been very similar to ours, with a dip during the COVID pandemic and then gradual recovery.
- **Interest Group Activities** – Group activities are varied, as well as social events arranged to Theatres and local places of interest. We also have had a large variety of speakers for our monthly meetings, and attendance at all these events is very good. Here are some examples of group activities:
  - The **Poetry Appreciation Group** select a theme for members to select and read a poem each month, such as Weather, Rooms, Wildlife, Boats and Bridges, Fruit, Flowers.
  - The **Craft Groups** do patchwork, knitting, paper craft and cross stitch, working individually on items they design themselves. Two of our ladies sometimes use local fetes etc. to sell their work for charity. Other members donate work to local hospices.
  - The **Art Group** have 8-12 members and help each other as needed and use various media
    (watercolours, acrylics, oils or pencil). Each year the majority of them enter art work into the Nuneaton and Bedworth festival of Arts. Between them they receive a variety of awards from 1st to Merit.
  - The **Bridge Group** are a large group that meet weekly and hold tournaments to help improve their game, with weekly scores published each week on the website.

- Other Groups are also available, such as the Rambling Group, the Computer & Technology Hroup, the Reading Group, Family History group, providing exercise and other activities for members to enjoy.

More information is available on the BNBu3a website, or talk to me and I will point you towards the right Group Leader. For those not able to go to the Group meetings, maybe due to mobility issues, there are online Interest Groups available on the national website that members can join for a small enrolment fee. Interest Groups are the 'Life-Blood' of u3a, and help meet the national objectives of providing a learning environment for people to provide interest and social interaction during their retirement years. We will be very interested and provide support for anyone who would like to start a new Interest Group.

As well as the Interest Groups, we also have our Monthly Meetings, as you know, which provide a variety of visiting speakers as well as an opportunity for social interaction. You will also know that we have had a number of Social events, visiting Theatres for various productions as well as visiting local places of interest. I know many of you here today are regular attendees at both events.

To move on to another topic of concern, at the meeting last October, I explained our need for members to step forward to become 'Carriers' of the organisation, to help us all move forward and to create the Capacity for us to grow. We still really need new members to 'Carry' the organisation forward, either as Trustees/Committee members, or in other roles to support our activities. When we have just the minimum number of Trustees, it means that they have to do more than one job, and that puts extra pressure on them (and me!). There may be some of you who have been on the Committee in the past, and maybe think you have 'done your bit', but maybe now is the time to come forward again at this time just to get us over this situation. As you know, we will be nominating and electing Committee Members shortly, and we can take late nominations today if necessary, so let us see what happens.

Before closing, I would like to thank the members of the Committee, Paul, David, Jane, and Sue Q, who all make a significant contribution to our work, some of whom are Group Leaders and other roles as well. I would also like to thank all the Group Leaders, who organise their group meetings and keep the interest going in their chosen topics. We also have a great team who provide refreshments at our monthly meetings and provide prizes for our Raffle. Thanks also to Jane D who arranges speakers for our monthly meetings and Sue Q who has been arranging our social events as well as all her other responsibilities. You will notice that several of these people are doing several roles, which is not ideal. (I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!) but let's show our appreciation to them now…..

BNB u3a is a great organisation with lots of members getting involved in the different Interest groups, and that is good to see. We are also part of a national organisation that is growing across the country, providing learning and social opportunities for a variety of people in their retirement years. We had our 21st Birthday in November last year, which was enjoyed by all who took part – let's hope we are around for another 21 years!

BUT these activities don't run themselves, and we do need members to get involved in leadership positions, and in some of the supporting roles that we have mentioned previously, so that we can grow and continue to provide activities that we all enjoy.

Richard Adams
October 2025