



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

This newsletter should come out to you just before Christmas, so first of all, let me wish you and yours a merry and joyful Christmas season.

As I write I've just come back from our u3a Christmas Afternoon Tea. Carol Dean and her team once again put on a marvellous spread for us including sandwiches, pies, cakes and refreshments. Not being from Bolton myself, I was politely informed that we were not eating meat pies but Whist pies!

Mike Haworth and his quiz masters created a fiendishly challenging quiz for us and the Phoenix Knights of Harmony delighted us with their songs this year too. My thanks go to everyone involved for putting on a most enjoyable u3a afternoon.

Your newsletter this time contains details of what's happening in our club in January, the time of year when many people want to try something new. So, will you consider a new exercise with us?

We have canal walks, table tennis, bowling and chair-based exercise to join...and Singing for Pleasure is also considered good exercise. For mental stimulation, we have 2 quiz groups running, Mah Jong, Scrabble and cryptic crosswords as well as many, many other activities all listed in this edition.

In u3a, we are always looking to share our happy times with new members so do invite your friends to come and join us while helping them have fun and stay active this January.

Finally, but no less importantly, may I wish you all a healthy, prosperous and enjoyable 2025.

'Til next time,

Learn, laugh, live!

Jeanne Kelly

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Chair's words for Bolton u3a AGM 2024

At the end of my third year as Chair of Bolton u3a, I am indebted to my fellow committee members who have all worked tirelessly without any payment and put in outstanding work to ensure Bolton u3a runs smoothly and is financially sound. As ever, their knowledge, assistance and enthusiasm has made this a great year for our charity.

Under the careful management of our Treasurer David Dean, Bolton u3a's finances are once again healthy and sound. David is stepping down from his committee role as Treasurer after 5 years and we are indebted to his wise judgement and dedication. Thank You David.

Alison Dyson, our membership secretary who is also standing down from committee this time, has had another busy year handling membership payments & new enquiries, signing up new members, liaising with the Third Age Trust and organising new member events. Despite 40 who have not yet renewed their membership, we now have just over 300 paid-up members: a great milestone. Well Done & Thank You Alison.

Duncan Macpherson, our group leaders' co-ordinator, and another committee member standing down this time, has also had a busy year with 5 new groups setting up. These and the coffee and chat groups are thriving under his management. Thank You Duncan. Steve Brown has conscientiously managed as Room Venues Co-ordinator, and he will take on Duncan's role after the AGM. Along with Maggy Simms, Steve was instrumental in organising our Members' Survey this year, and details of the Survey Report are to be seen on our website. Thank You Steve.

Kathryn Chatwin continued in the Publicity role this year and has been busy managing our Facebook group and page, sharing our info with other local groups, and organising outreach events which are all helping our recruitment drive. Thank You Kathryn.

Our thanks must also go to Maggy Simms, who brilliantly put together and manages our new website and is our technical go-to person. The website, along with member Ted Wisedale's videos, shows prospective members what a busy, socially connected and interesting group of people we are. Thank You Maggy...and Ted.

Pauline Treuherz, our newsletter editor, publishes the monthly updates of news, group times and venues, and has worked diligently to ensure all members can access our newsletters. If you are one of the few who are still struggling to access the monthly details, then please speak to Pauline or myself later. Thank You Pauline.

Recently, we have co-opted Carol Dean, Mark Pillar, Helen Yeldon and Lynn Webber onto your committee. I trust you will approve their nominations.

I must also give my thanks and appreciation to Vice Chair Lynn Gray and Business Secretary Liz Robinson, who are both standing down from committee this time. In their own ways, they have both been helpful and dedicated members of our u3a. Thank you Lynn and Liz.

Our ever-youthful and energetic Win Conway stands down this time as Speaker Secretary and passes on the mantle to Carol Dean. This year we have listened to some great speakers such as Frank Vigon on the 1960s, Mebs Ahmed on Growing up in Pakistan & England, and Peter Watson on Folk Magic. Thank You Win.

With our current groups numbering more than 35, I will leave Duncan to detail our many group leaders, who are also greatly talented and enthusiastic volunteers, and are the backbone of the learning and the fun we have at our meetings, but our heartfelt thanks must go out to them all.

Thank You Group Leaders and Thank You to each and every one of our members, who support our groups and activities here at Bolton u3a.

Finally, I want to mention some of the external organisations that have supported us in the past year. We signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Bolton in March 2024 to facilitate co-operation in learning, research and knowledge exchange and thus far members have attended several meetings with them. We have continued to utilise the Bolton CVS Bolton Fund grant this year, mostly on Coffee and Chat and exercise groups. And we have strengthened our relationships with Bolton Age UK, Bolton Carers Support, Bolton Guild of Help and Bolton at Home.

In conclusion, this has been another great year for Bolton u3a: a year of new starts, new experiences, new friends and as Cilla Black was wont to say: a lorra lorra laughs!

I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

Jeanne Kelly

Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd November are appended at the end of this newsletter.

Did you know

..... some research has suggested that using technology can help prevent social isolation and reduce the risk of developing dementia in later life. Knowing how to successfully use an i-pad, smartphone or laptop can reduce social isolation, eg through email communication, finding help for common problems, buying products and tickets and booking appointments. More and more of our daily lives are becoming dependent on our ability to use the internet successfully in all sorts of ways and it is easy to feel left out if you lack the confidence to go online.

Some of our more tech savvy members have offered to help those less confident in using technology. If you would like to take advantage of this offer you are welcome to bring your tablet, phone or other device along to the Friday monthly meeting when our **Tech Helpdesk** will be available before and after meetings, and one of our team will guide you through the business of accessing information using the internet.

And if you are a confident user of technology and would like to help others get to grips with its mysteries then please come along and join us in this cause!

Warm Spaces film screenings

Warm Spaces film screenings held every week at the Central Library in Bolton.
Details are given below.



Coming soon!

Chinese Stories - Pop-Up Sessions [in translation!]

These will cover stories from classical times to the present as a follow up to earlier sessions on poetry - linking culture and literature.

We will meet in the cafe area at Waterstones Bookshop - 1030 to 1230ish. Provisional dates are Wed: February 12th and 19th; March 12th and 19th, April 2nd. Spaces are limited to a maximum of 8 participants.

If you are interested then contact [Nick Tyldesley u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk) asap to confirm a place.

NW u3a Photo Competition

A reminder of this opportunity for all you budding David Bailey's to strut your stuff!



Photo Competition

Learn — Laugh — Live

Shine a light and highlight what it means to be a u3a member.

Capture your group as it Learns, Laughs, Lives

Your chance to win a u3a cotton tote bag, a framed copy of your winning photograph, winners certificate and two u3a travel mugs. Runners up will receive a runner up certificate. Winning photos will feature in the u3a North West Region newsletter, website and social media.

u3a
North West Region

Closing date
Friday February 28th

Our two judges (Peter Read – u3a Subject Adviser for Photography, and Rachel Smith – Communications Manager at our u3a Office in London) will be picking a winner, as well as two runners up...

To enter is simple, just send your photograph, in jpeg or png format (you can forward by email straight from your smartphone) to editor.nwu3a@gmail.com with your name, the name of your u3a and also the activity being photographed. Only two entries maximum per person please.

Our ambition is to create our own photo library of our members enjoying being a part of their u3a. By entering you are agreeing that your photo can be used in u3a North West Region publications and social media to promote our u3a groups and activities

Registered Charity 1159091

Bolton Symphony Orchestra

It is a great pleasure to share Bolton Symphony Orchestra's plans for 2025 with a programme of music that promises to be out of this world!

We aim to be an orchestra for the whole community in Bolton and beyond and love to see people of every age and background come along to listen. All are promised the warmest of welcomes.

That diversity is also reflected in our programme, so throughout the year there will be offerings from Mozart to Florence Price, Khatchaturian to Elgar. We will also partner with our friends at BCMCS Choral to offer a night at the opera which is not to be missed. This year we will also be marking the 125th anniversary of the Victoria Hall, which we very much appreciate being able to call home, and which has been a venue for music making from the moment it opened.

Our ticket prices remain at £13 for adults and under 19s can attend for free.

Please take a look at our website, Bolton Symphony Orchestra,

(www.boltonsymphony.org.uk) and check out the full details for the 2025 season. We hope that you can join us for some, if not all, of our concerts.

Christmas Afternoon Tea

About 80 members of the Bolton u3a enjoyed a seasonal get together on 6th December and with entertainment by Phoenix Knights of Harmony, a quiz and a raffle.



Many thanks go to Carol Dean and her team for organising the event.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 2025

ARTS AND CRAFT: SERENA u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next Art and Craft session will be on Tuesday 14th January from 1030-1200 in our **new venue** at The Hive Community Workshop area on the upper ground floor of the Market Place Shopping Centre in Bolton. We will be exploring traditional decoupage, painting and decorating a natural wooden trinket box.

We have two vacancies so if anyone would like to join us in our new home, please contact Serena.

BRIDGE GROUP: TONY u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Starting again on the 8th January, the group meets every Wednesday from 1315 – 1530 at St Andrew & St George Church.

New players welcome - some card playing skills are useful.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE JEANNE

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Meetings on Monday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th January at 1600 for 1 hour at Harwood Methodist Church (old building), Longsight Lane, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3JP.

New members welcome. Free parking in the church car park. Great music and a good chat. See the video on www.boltonu3a.org.uk/Groups-in-Action.

CINEMA GROUP: CHRIS & DUNCAN u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next cinema group meeting will be on Thursday 23rd January at the Light Cinema in Bolton. Details of the film chosen and time to meet will be emailed to members the weekend before.

New members wishing to join us please contact Duncan to be included in the email list.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME): PAUL DYSON

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The meeting will be on Thursday 9th January at 1030 at The Hub when the topic will be 'Are you not entertained? Mass amusement and spectacle in Ancient Rome'.

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT: STEVE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th January at 1400 at Claremont Church, St George's Road.

This is the second branch quiz group, open to all members, including existing members of Mike's group. Please come long for some light hearted fun with a competitive edge.

Look forward to seeing you.

Those planning to attend are asked to let Steve know in order to inform refreshment needs. Please ring or text on **07902271323**, or email steve492011@hotmail.co.uk

COFFEE AND CHAT: DUNCAN u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

These meetings are held in 4 different venues across Bolton and are an excellent way to meet and chat with other members in a friendly and informal setting.

Olympus restaurant on Tuesdays 7th and 21st January from 1030. Everyone welcome.

Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 14th January from 1030. Some members stay for an optional early lunch/brunch.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane, Heaton on Tuesday 14th January from 1030.

Harwood The group will **not** meet in January.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: EAMONN

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Group One will meet on Fridays 3rd and 21st January at 1400 at Waterstones' café, 32-36 Deansgate, Bolton BL1 1BL at 1400.

This group has learnt all the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords and completes two moderately difficult crosswords in each session.

Group Two will meet on Tuesdays 7th and 21st January at 1400 at Waterstones café, 32-36 Deansgate, Bolton BL1 1BL at 1400.

This group has learnt the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords, is now learning about more challenging clues, and also completes two crosswords in each session.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: JANET u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The Digital Photography Group is taking a break during the winter months of December, January and February and will meet again on the first Friday in March.

DINING GROUP: CHRIS u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The Dining Group is meeting on Thursday 9th January at 1300 at the Spice Valley Indian Restaurant, Dunscair Business Park off Blackburn Road near Egerton (BL79PQ). Set lunch menu £12.95.

Please let Chris know by email by Friday 3rd January if you would like to attend.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: EAMONN & JEANNE

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting is on Tuesday 14th January from 1400-1600 in the Local History section, Bolton Central Library. We use the Council's free edition of Ancestry, pairing an experienced Ancestry user with a novice to help the novice uncover their own family history. New members welcome.

HISTORY GROUP: TONY SETTLE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 16th January from 1030-1230 at the Hub.

Topic - Slavery, the characters and events that led to the ending of the slave trade and abolition of slavery in the 19th century.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: BRIAN

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting is Monday 6th January at 1400 at the Hub.

Topic: General discussion on the coming year and the future of the group.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION: WIN u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The group will meet on Friday 24th January at 1030 at the Hub.

Our new project for the New Year is that of Language and Food!

Our society is apparently obsessed with food - what to eat, what not to eat, where and when to eat, how much to eat, etc. All these matters are communicated to us by language, in the newspapers and magazines, on the TV and Radio. We are going to have some fun studying this. Join us if you fancy it - no need to phone, just turn up.

MAH JONG: CHRIS u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 20th January from 1030-1230 at the Hub. Beginners are very welcome.

MATHS GROUP: PAT u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting is on Friday 17th January at 1330 at the Hub.

The topic will be coordinates and symmetry, so a sharp pencil and a ruler will be useful.

I shall bring squared paper. Look forward to seeing you all. New members, too.

MINDFULNESS: ANNIE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The group meets on Mondays 6th and 20th January on Zoom at 1300 for about an hour.

For further details, please contact Annie Jones.

MUSIC APPRECIATION: WIN u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 13th January at 1030 at the Hub.

In January, we are going to learn something about the life and music of our greatest English composer, Sir Edward Elgar 1857 - 1934. Join us if you like, to hear the wonderful Enigma Variations and the cello concerto which is regarded along with that of Dvorak, to be the best ever.

The group is open to new members, and does not need any prior knowledge of music or about music. It is simply an opportunity to sit and listen to the interesting details of the life of a genius, and all the great composers are that, and to hear some of the wonderful works they produced. No need to phone, there is always room for a new person.

PHILOSOPHY: CAROLE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk m

The Philosophy Group will meet on Tuesday 28th January at 1400 at the Hub. Nick Tyldesley will lead the group and the topic will be Creative Thinking - 'The little book of Thanks!'

POETRY FOR PLEASURE: DUNCAN, EILEEN or ELAINE

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting of the poetry group will be on Thursday 16th January at The Hub from **1400** to 1530. The topic for the meeting is: Aspects of Winter.

Please bring poems on this topic to the meeting, if you are happy to read them out, and we can discuss them. This is a friendly group and new members will be welcomed.

PSYCHOLOGY: STEVE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday 7th January at 1400 at The Hub.

This month we have a guest speaker, Ian Platt, from Bolton University to speak about their Hummingbird Project to address mental health problems of school children.

All are welcome to join us.

TEXTILE ARTS u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

No meeting in January, the next meeting is on Thursday 6th February at 1030 at Bank Top URC, Ashworth Lane, Bolton, BL1 8RX.

If you are interested in any textile art that involves stitches - sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet, soft toy making (and patchwork and quilting) - then we have it covered!

Bring your own project or join in with a group activity. Do come and join us for a creative and fun activity!

QUIZ GROUP: MIKE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The next meeting is on Friday 10th January at 1330 at the Hub.

The Question Master will be Tony.

This group is currently fully subscribed and unable to accept new members. A 2nd group for potential new quizzers, Clueless at Claremont, meets at Claremont Baptist Church, St George's Road, on either the 3rd or last Wednesday of the month.

READING GROUP: ANNIE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The group will meet on Thursday 16th January at 1030 on Zoom – the meeting normally lasts about an hour. We will be discussing 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

RUMMIKUB:

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 20th January from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome.

SCRABBLE:

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 20th January from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE: PAUL

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Please note this change - this month we will be meeting on the 3rd and 5th Fridays. Claremont Church will not be available on the 1st Friday, as it is still within the Christmas holiday period.

The group will gather on Friday **17th** and Friday **31st** January at 1030 in the Seminar Room at Claremont Church, St George's Road under our Musical Director, Win Conway. We welcome new members in all voices (Alto, Bass, Soprano, Tenor) who want to enjoy singing with others. Claremont Church is an excellent central venue, on bus routes 125, 501 and 575 about a 5-minute ride from the Interchange. There is ample car parking at NCP Topp Way a short walk from the church.

TABLE TENNIS: CHRISTINE u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Table Tennis is proving to be a very popular activity and since it began at the end of September numbers are steadily increasing. It is a sport enjoyed by those wishing to improve their general health such as balance, coordination and eye focus.

The next meetings are on Fridays 10th and 24th January from 1030-1230 at Triangle Annex, New Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5QP. For Sat Nav use: BL1 5SH. Free car parking at Doffcocker Lodge behind the annexe. There are nearby bus stops on the 501 and 125 routes, if travelling by bus. Don't worry if you arrive a little late you are welcome to come at any time during the meeting times.

New members welcome. Please contact Christine Hart if you are interested in joining this fun group.

TOPICAL SCIENCE: ROSEMARY u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 20th January at 1400 at the Hub.

Topics :Science in the news this month - please bring along any items that you have found to share with the Group.

:Science Happenings to Look out for in 2025.

No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind!

All are very welcome - just come along!

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings

Please support them if you can. They are held from 1400-1600 on the 4th Friday of every month, (except December), at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, Bolton, BL1 2BS. Visitors, for an entry fee of £3, are welcome to attend twice. Our next meeting is on **Friday 24th January** when Neil Stevenson will talk about women in Egypt. Do come and listen to what he has to say, and enjoy a cuppa afterwards.

SPEAKERS for 2025

1 st February 2025	RSPB & super swifts	Louise Bentley Lancashire Wildlife Trust
28 th March 2025	The Birth of Television	Frank Vigon
25 th April 2025	History above your head -origins and oddities of English Inn signs	Michael Astrop
23 rd May 2025	Wakes Weeks and Holidays in Blackpool	Professor Robert Snape and Sandra Nichol
27 th June 2025	Singing for pleasure choir.	Paul Dyson. Win Conway (musical dir.)
25 th July 2025	My Career with Lancashire Constabulary	Mahmood (Mebs) Ahmed
22 nd August 2025	Barrow to Baghdad	Philip Caine
26 th September 2025	Blame it on the Beatles	John Winter
24 th October 2025	The Magic of the Musicals!	Marilyn Shalks

Committee Members

Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Steve Brown	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary	Carol Dean	secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Mark Pillar	treasurer@boltonu3a.org.uk
Group Leaders' Coordinator	Steve Brown	groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Treuherz	news@boltonu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretaries	Helen Yeldon Lynn Webber	u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk
Publicity Manager	Kathryn Chatwin	publicity@boltonu3a.org.uk
Website Manager	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk
Venues Coordinator	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Bolton U3A Meeting Venues

To help new - and existing - members find their way around the myriad of locations used for group meetings the addresses of all the venues used by the Bolton u3a are given below.

VENUE	BRANCH GROUPS AND EVENTS
BANK TOP URC, ASHWORTH LANE, BOLTON, BL1 8RX	PATCHWORK AND QUILTING
BOLTON CENTRAL LIBRARY	FAMILY HISTORY
BRADSHAW BOWLING CLUB, THE RIGBYS, BOLTON, BL2 3EU	CROWN, GREEN BOWLS

CVS, THE BOLTON HUB,
BOLD STREET, BOLTON,
BL1 1LS

CLASSIC CIVILISATIONS
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION
MUSIC APPRECIATION
MATHS
PSYCHOLOGY
RUMMIKUB
TOPICAL SCIENCE

HISTORY

MAH JONG
PHILOSOPHY
QUIZ GROUP
SCRABBLE

CLAREMONT CHURCH,
ST GEORGES ROAD,
BOLTON, BL1 2BY
THE COFFEE SHOP,
NEW HALL LANE,
HEATON, BOLTON, BL1 5LW

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT QUIZ
SINGING FOR PLEASURE

THE GLOBE CAFÉ,
273 BLACKBURN ROAD,
BOLTON, BL7 9SN

HEATON COFFEE AND CHAT

EGERTON COFFEE AND CHAT

HARWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
LONGSIGHT LANE, BOLTON BL2 3JP

CHAIR BASED EXERCISE
HARWOOD COFFEE AND CHAT

THE HIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
AREA, UPPER GROUND FLOOR,
MARKET PLACE SHOPPING
CENTRE, BOLTON, BL1 2AL
THE LIGHT,
MARKET PLACE SHOPPING
CENTRE, BOLTON, BL1 2AL

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CINEMA GROUP

OLYMPUS RESTAURANT,
35-41 GREAT MOOR STREET,
BOLTON,
BL1 1SW

OLYMPUS COFFEE AND CHAT
WELCOME MEETINGS

THE TRIANGLE ANNEXE,
NEW CHURCH ROAD,
BOLTON, BL1 5QP

TABLE TENNIS

URC OF ST ANDREW AND ST
GEORGE, ST GEORGES ROAD,
BOLTON, BL1 2BS

BRIDGE
MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

VARIOUS VENUES ANNOUNCED
IN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BEE LINE TRAVEL
DINING CLUB
WALKING GROUPS

WATERSTONES' CAFE,
32-36 DEANSGATE, BOLTON,
BL1 1BL

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

ZOOM MEETINGS

ARCHAEOLOGY
MINDFULNESS
READING

Help us to stay informed

If you know of a member who has been ill, or is recently deceased, please inform the relevant group leader so that the information can be circulated appropriately. Please leave a phone number if you want a group leader to respond to a phone message.

Groups and activities

We are always happy to support new groups and activities.

E-mail: groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk

Newsletter items

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk

Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is **Friday 17th January**.

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk

**Minutes of the Bolton U3A Annual General Meeting
held on Friday 22nd November 2024 at 2.00pm, St. Andrew and St.
George's United Reformed Church, St George's Road, Bolton BL1 2BX**

Officers

Jeanne Kelly – Chair
David Dean – Treasurer

Committee Members

Alison Dyson - Membership
Steve Brown – Venue Coordinator
Maggy Simms – Website
Kathryn Chatwin – Publicity

Duncan
Macpherson –
Group Leader
Coordinator
Steve Brown – Venue
Coordinator
Pauline
Treuherz - Newsletter

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Jeanne Kelly, following confirmation that the number of members present constituted a quorum. Jeanne welcomed all members and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies had been received from: Maxine Sara.

Lizzie Bomber
Maggy Simms
Elizabeth Ginniff
Serena Johnson

Carole Collins
Veronica Walker

David Speller
Nellie Platt

1. Minutes

Minutes recorded of the 2023 AGM had been circulated prior to today's meeting. The Chair asked members present to confirm the Minutes as a correct record by a show of hands. Approval was proposed by Mark Pillar and seconded by Lesley Anthony.

Members confirmed the 2023 AGM minutes as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM Minutes.

Bolton U3A

Reg Charity 1140495

3. Chair's Report

Jeanne thanked the committee members for their tireless and outstanding work on the committee. She thanked the following committee members who were standing down at this AGM.

David Dean standing down as Treasurer.

Alison Dyson standing down as Membership Secretary, and all the work that entails as well as organising new members' groups and liaising with the Third Age Trust.

Duncan Macpherson standing down as Group Leaders' Coordinator, who managed the setting up of 4 new groups and thriving coffee and chat groups.

Jeanne introduced each of the remaining committee members, outlining their contributions to Bolton u3a.

Many thanks and much appreciation go to Vice Chair Lynn Gray and Business Secretary Liz Robinson who are both standing down.

Win Conway, our Speaker Secretary, who has brought us many varied and interesting speakers over the years is standing down. Carol Dean will take on the role.

The chair expressed thanks to all our group leaders, who constitute the backbone of our organisation.

A new Memorandum of Understanding with University of Bolton in March 2024 has been signed to foster cooperation in learning, research and knowledge exchange. The Bolton CVS Fund grant continued to facilitate groups such as Coffee and Chat and exercise groups. The chair noted strengthened links with Bolton Age UK, Bolton Carers' Support, Bolton Guild of Help and Bolton at Home.

Chair observed it's been another great year for Bolton u3a and hoped we enjoyed new friends, new experiences and new starts, and hoped we had fun.

4. Treasurer's Report

David had circulated the Annual Financial Report to members prior to the meeting. The Annual Statement for the year 2023/24 (year-end September 2024) has been scrutinised and approved by independent examiner Allison Thornton.

- There was a deficit of £2,398.31, but this should not raise concern. The expenditure of the remaining £6,671.62 from the Bolton Community Volunteer Services contributed to the 2023/2024 deficit.
- Group activities continue to be the main source of income and expenditure. Although room rents continued to exceed income from meetings, this was mostly offset by annual subscriptions.
- Our gross income for last year was £23,035.90 and our expenditure amounted to £25,434.21 but £6,284.54 of this was accounted for by grant related spending.

- Membership subscriptions for 2023/2024 are £7,464.00 but include £3,600 paid for 2024/25 subscriptions.

Members accepted David's report with a show of hands and there were no objections.

5. Report from Group Leaders' Coordinator

Duncan had published the annual Group Leaders' Report which had been sent out to members.

- There were 34 groups in our organisation listed at the 2023 AGM and there are now 44, thanks to existing group leaders taking over groups in danger of folding. He appealed for more volunteer group leaders.
- 9 new groups were created.
- There are 4 new pop-up groups that are proving to be very popular.
- He noted joint leadership has been very successful and may be the way forward.
- The membership has expressed a desire for foreign language groups and Duncan felt that conversation groups would best suit our needs and invited any members who have basic fluency in a modern foreign language to consider setting up a group.
- It is hoped to set up some more coffee and chat groups and some more walking groups, tailored to different walking abilities, next year.

Members accepted the Group Leaders' Coordinator's Report by a show of hands

It is a requirement of the U3A Bolton constitution that all Officers and Committee members stand down and stand for re-election each year. All listed below had been proposed and seconded by U3A members and their names were read out before the member vote. Nomination forms will be retained for one year for reference.

6. Re-election of Officers

Jeanne Kelly - Chair

Steve Brown Vice Chair

Were proposed and seconded.

Members voted to re-elect the Officers listed above by a show of hands

7. Re-election of Committee Members

Maggy Simms – Website and venues coordinator
Kathryn Chatwin – Publicity
Steve Brown – Group Leaders' coordinator
Pauline Treuherz – Newsletter
Were proposed and seconded.

Members voted to re-elect the Committee Members listed above by a show of hands.

8. Election of Co-opted Committee Members

Carol Dean – Business Secretary
Mark Pillar – Treasurer

Were proposed and seconded

Members voted to elect the Committee Officers listed above by a show of hands.

Helen Yeldon – Membership Secretary
Lynn Webber - Membership Secretary

Were proposed and seconded.

Members voted to elect the Committee Members listed above by a show of hands.

9. Presented Motions

No motions had been put forward by members.

10. Committee Members standing down

Jeanne informed members that some committee members were standing down;

Treasurer - David Dean

Group Leader's Co-ordinator - Duncan Macpherson
Membership Secretary – Alison Dyson
Vice Chair – Lynn Gray (absent)

Liz Robinson - Business Secretary (absent)
Win Conway – Speaker Secretary

A vote of thanks was given to those standing down from senior roles.
All were thanked and presented with a small parting gift as a token of gratitude.

11. Questions

Janice Drake asked why the grant money wasn't used to fund other groups. The chair explained that the grant was obtained to fund new initiatives for reducing mental stress and isolation that can be experienced by older people.

12. Close of meeting

As the business of the meeting had been completed, the Chair closed the meeting. The next AGM will be held on **Friday 28th November 2025, at 2pm, St. Andrew and St. George's United Reformed Church, St George's Road, Bolton BL1 2BX**

Following the meeting, Nick Tyldesley, Steve Brown, Duncan Macpherson and Pauline Treuherz read and acted out Nick's playlet: The Worst Group Meeting Ever. Much hilarity ensued and the point made was that being a group leader need not be a daunting prospect and not to worry if things don't go to plan.

