

**Minutes of the Braintree Area U3A
Annual General Meeting,
16th April 2025, 2.00pm – 2.20pm
The Institute, Bocking End, Braintree**

63 members and two prospective members present

- 1 Opening by Debbi Winchester (Chair)** - Chair's welcome received
- 2 Apologies for Absence** – received from Brian Armstrong, Julia Aves, Beverley Hedges, Andrew Ings, Miall James, Linden Martin, Doug Martin and Shelia Vince.
- 3 Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting, 17th April 2024** – **agreed** as a correct record (proposed by Janis Collis, seconded Alan James) and signed by the Chair.
- 4 Matters Arising** - there were none
- 5 Chair's report** - delivered by Chair and **received and noted** (see appendix 1)

6 Financial Report, Adoption of Accounts year ended 31st December 2024 and Appointment of Independent External Examiner

Report of Treasurer, circulated earlier, delivered by Alan James in absence of the Treasurer Brian Armstrong, was **received and noted** (see appendix 2)

Accounts, circulated earlier, submitted by Alan James in absence of the Treasurer Brian Armstrong, was **received and adopted** (proposed by Debbi Winchester, seconded Philip Heady) (see appendix 3)

Independent External Examiner – no proposition made.

7 Committee Member Reports – there were none

8 Election of Officers

Members present confirmed that they had received formal notice regarding the appointment of officers, and it was noted that four nominations properly made had been received. Election of officers **agreed** unopposed as follows

Chair – Debbi Winchester
Vice-Chair – Christine Deal
Treasurer – Michael Horlock
Secretary – Philip Heady

9 Election of Committee Members

Members present confirmed that they had received formal notice regarding the appointment of Committee members and it was noted that six nominations properly made had been received.

Election of Committee Members **agreed** unopposed as follows – Philip Deal (Membership Secretary), Anne Britton (Outings Organiser); Linda Hellewell (Groups Co-ordinator); Publicity Officer (Andrew Ings); Alan James (Admin and Beacon Advisor); and Janis Collis (Committee Member).

1 **Election of Honorary President – agreed** to re-appoint Geoff Mead.
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1 **Any other business** – there was none
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1 **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 2pm, The Institute, Bocking
2 End.

Appendix 1

Chairs report for 2025 AGM.

WELCOME TO OUR 2025 AGM. THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING

TO DATE WE HAVE 303 MEMBERS.

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN QUITE A BUSY ONE. OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE WENT LIVE. I HOPE YOU HAVE ALL TAKEN TIME TO HAVE LOOK AT IT. OUR THANKS GO ELAINE ORPE FOR ALL HER WORK TO SEE IT THROUGH TO COMPLETION. TWICE THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN UNDER TREAT OF CLOSING DOWN DUE TO ESSENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVING TO RESIGN PART WAY THROUGH THE YEAR AND OTHERS NOT BEING ABLE TO STAND FOR RE ELECTION. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANN HUNT AND BRIAN ARMSTRONG FOR THEIR TIME ON COMMITTEE. WE WERE AND ARE SORRY TO SEE YOU GO. NON COMMITTEE MEMBER REBECCA FULLER IS ALSO STANDING DOWN FROM ORGANISING TRIPS. MYSELF AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK HER FOR ALL HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PHILIP HEADY, JANIS COLLIS AND MICHEAL HORLOCK FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR COMMITTEE. WELCOME. I KNOW YOU HAVE NOT YET BEEN VOTED ON TO COMMITTEE, BUT AS NO ONE IS STANDING AGAINST ANY OFF US, I FEEL ITS DONE DEAL.

OF COURSE MY THANKS GO TO ALL THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK. MY THANKS ALSO GO TO DAN COLLIS, SHEILA VINCE, ELAINE ORPE AND MARY CHAPMAN OUR NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ALL PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR U3A.

AS A COMMITTEE WE ARE ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO GET NEW. INTEREST GROUPS STARTED AND HELP WITH MAINTAINING EXISTING GROUPS. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT THE BOOK CLUB HAS A NEW LEADER AND SO TOO THE ART GROUP. " BREWING CONNECTIONS " A NEW SOCIAL GROUP IS NOW ALSO RUNNING, MEETING ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 11:00am AT THE HORSE AND GROOM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL GROUP LEADERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO OUR U3A.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED PLANNING OUR CHRISTMAS MEETING, ON THE 3rd OF DECEMBER. LOOKING TO MIX THE NEW AND KNOWN. SOME OF YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT THE INSTITUTE IS PLANNING TO UP GRADE ITS SEATING. THIS WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON OUR MEETINGS, BUT OUR MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE AT THE INSTITUTE. ONCE THE COMMITTEE KNOWS MORE WE WILL INFORM YOU.

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT I HAVE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO TRIPS OFFERED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO GET THE NUMBERS SIGNING UP TO MAKE IT VIABLE, AND AFFORDABLE. THE GREAT GATSBY TRIP WILL GO AHEAD ON THE 29th OF MAY. IF ANY ONE IS INTERESTED THERE ARE 4 TICKETS AVAILABLE. THE COST IS £78 pp. UNFORTUNATELY THURS FORD IN NOVEMBER WILL BE CANCELLED UNLESS ALL THOSE THAT HAVE SIGNED UP, MAKE THEIR PAYMENT BY THE JUNE MEETING ON THE 18th.

I AM SORRY TO END MY REPORT ON SUCH A NEGATIVE NOTE. HOPEFULLY YOU WILL ALL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE GROUPS AND THE SPEAKERS AT OUR MEETINGS.

Appendix 2

Treasurers Report for Braintree U3A AGM 2025

I provide the accounts provided and audited for approval by the membership.

Due to holiday commitments, I will not be at this meeting, but should there be any

Questions relating to these accounts I will be happy to answer them on my return.

Having represented the Braintree U3A as membership secretary I took up the position of treasurer in 2024 as we were at risk of having to close if this position was not filled.

I must confess that it was not an easy baptism trying to balance the bank account and the U3A beacon system. I did find it difficult but my thanks must go to Alan James who spent a great deal of time helping me through any issues that I was finding difficult to handle.

The figures provided show the Braintree U3A to be in a good stable financial position at the end of the financial year. This is partly due to the slow increase in membership which is continuing.

Looking forward we have been advised that the cost to use the institute will be increased from 1st April as are other running costs. However, with the present membership I feel these costs can be covered and do not expect the fees to be increased.

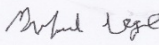
Report Compiled by

Brian Armstrong

Treasurer

Braintree Area U3A

Appendix 3

Braintree Area U3A Balance Sheet			
1/1/24 -31/12/24			
Description	Income	Description	Costs
Membership Subs	£6,145.00	Operating Costs	£1,589.67
Quiz Income	£190.00	Quiz Costs	£157.10
Donations	£0.06		
		Monthly Meeting Costs*	
		Hire Hall	£1,800.00
		Speakers	£873.00
		Misc Meeting Costs	£22.50
Door Receipts	£979.10		£2,695.50
		U3A National Costs	£2,354.60
Group Income	£911.01	Group Expenditure	£983.14
Outings Income	£13,424.40	Outings Expenditure	£13,370.90
		Uncleared from Previous Year	£0.00
Deposit Account Interest	£80.51		
		2024 Profit**	£579.17
TOTAL	£21,730.08	TOTAL	£21,730.08
Opening Balance 01/01/2024		Closing Balance 31/12/2024	
Reserve Account	£4,657.55	Reserve Account	£4,738.06
Current Account	£1,850.77	Current Account	£2,049.43
Less Uncleared		Less uncleared	
Chqs/Income	£100.00	Payments (2024)	
2024 Profit	£579.17	Plus Uncleared	
		Income (2024)***	£200.00
Petty Cash	£25.00	Petty Cash	£25.00
	£7,012.49		£7,012.49
Signed 		Signed 	
Malcolm Wayne		Brian Armstrong	
Examiner		Treasurer	
Date 17-2-25		Date 20th February 2025	
* Monthly meeting costs have decreased because of 1 Free hire of the hall due to double booking 2 Reduced Speakers costs 3 Reduced Misc. meeting costs ** Profit is still less than £2.00 per member *** Membership payments not recorded in 2024 accounts			