

Minutes of East Renfrewshire u3a AGM 2026

Held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

At 2 pm in Broom Church, Newton Mearns

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ANNUAL REPORT

MF welcomed members to the 18th AGM of East Renfrewshire u3a. It has been another successful year with 130 new members and 90 Groups established.

The Facilitators' lunch was very popular this year and Marbe McNeill said it was the best Facilitators' lunch attended.

Our u3a receives a 10% donation from Riviera Travel.

One member donated towards our Christmas party. The Christmas party will be different this year. In previous years, we have had committee members as an elf and Santa. Details to follow.

In March this year we had the New Members Fair and Pop-up café. A huge thanks to Shirley our hospitality co-ordinator and Group Facilitators.

The membership payment through the website is much more user friendly with links to Beacon. Beacon is our management system and is compliant with GDPR policies. There is a link between the website and Beacon. This ensures instant joining and an email is generated with a new member's membership number and newsletter.

The second stage to this process is that online renewals for membership automatically fills in Beacon. This had to be done



manually previously. Our thanks to Allison Kershaw who got this system up and running.

Last year our Treasurer stood down, and Alison Gordon became a worthy replacement.

The ER u3a does its banking through the Bank of Scotland which is part of the Lloyds Group. The bank decided there should be a monthly fee of £4 for each of our 3 accounts. This amounted to £12. The BOS had our accounts as The University of the Third Age and this was changed to u3a and all accounts are now the same, therefore, no fee is charged. However, if a cheque or cash is paid in there is a fee.

PayPal is up and running, ensuring membership renewals are now an automatic process. This has proved to be an efficient process of payment for our members.

Mary and the rest of the committee were very saddened by the death of our previous chair, Marbe McNeill. Marbe had served our committee for 9 years and had contributed greatly to our u3a.

One of our founder members, Douglas Yates, sadly passed away recently.

Thank you to all our Committee Members, as without them our u3a would fold. The ethos of the u3a is By the Members for the Members.

The Committee would like to thank Stuart McColl as Speaker Organiser and his contribution to our monthly meetings.

2. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 18 August 2025

The Minutes of the 2025 AGM which have been available on the website were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2025/2026

The accounts have been independently examined and verified by Colin Botfield, retired Chartered Accountant who stepped in at short notice after the previous examiner resigned. Colin came highly recommended and has many years of experience.

The deficit for this year is £2,000, mainly due to increased room hire costs and replacing equipment. The deficit for the previous year was £284.

In terms of income, the bulk came from subscriptions of £16,676 for the year compared to £14,870 the previous year.

We received Gift Aid of £1,057.

We received a donation of £757 from Riviera Travel as part of their charity scheme.

In terms of costs, catering costs were £816 which included the Christmas party and a Facilitators' meeting at which a sandwich lunch was provided.

Most of our costs are attributed to room hire which amounted to approx. £13,000 minus contributions from some of our groups bringing the total to approx. £12,500 compared to £10,700 the previous year, an increase of approx. £1,700.

From the subscription fee of £24, £8.30 was paid to the Third Age Trust for affiliation fees, magazine subscription and the Beacon licence leaving £15.70 to cover everything else.

The Motion

- This is to address the issue of the deficit identified in the accounts this year and ahead.

The Solution would be to increase the fees:

- from £24 to £30 for individuals, and from £20 to £25 for associates.

Justification

- Room hire costs are increasing year on year and more rooms are required to accommodate the increase in members and groups.
- Some equipment will need be replaced.
- A reserve bank balance of between three & six months' operating expenses is recommended. Based on the 25/26 return our expenses were £22,000 that's reserves of £5,500 minimum and £11,000 maximum.
- Our Public Liability Insurance Excess is from nil to £5,000 which ERu3a is liable for. In the eventuality of a large claim, it would need to be paid from our reserves if the bank balance is not sufficient.
- Substantial payments are due to the Third Age Trust in April before that year's fees are collected therefore it is essential that sufficient funds are available.
- We project another deficit in 26/27
- To be clear, we are not running out of money, simply taking action to ensure our account balance remains sufficient.

We understand that some members may be unhappy with this increase due to not using room facilities. However, there are other benefits that everyone can enjoy, such as free monthly meetings with

speakers and refreshments. 5 editions of the magazine per annum, insurance cover and access to u3a Scotland online events, to name a few.

The Floor was opened up to questions:

One member asked what is an Associate Member?

AG replied that an Associate Member is already a fully paid-up member of one u3a branch and joins a second or additional u3a, with a reduced membership fee.

Motioned carried to increase the fees.

There was a majority vote out of 96 members for approval of the increase in fees. One member voted against.

5. Motioned carried to appoint Colin R Botfield as independent examiner for the accounts for 2026/2027

6. MF advised that a Committee Nomination was considered void as an incomplete form was submitted.

7. **Nominations for the East Renfrewshire Committee 2026 – 2027**

In alphabetical order:

Hazel Dunnachie
Mary Fyfe
Alison Gordon
Elaine Greaves
Allison Kershaw
Leslie Rigg
Jacquelynne Shore
Shirley Thorogood
Annie Wills

There was a majority approval of the members nominated.

8. AOCB

There wasn't any other competent business for discussion.

9. FORMAL CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting was concluded at 2.25 pm.

10. NEXT AGM

The next AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th August 2027.

Signed.....
Chair

.....
Secretary

Date