

Formby U3A AGM 2026

Draft Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 11th March 2026

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee. There being 99 members attending, the AGM was quorate.

- 1) Apologies for absence
 - i) Andy Dickinson, Ian Robertson, Linda Sharratt, Sonia Greenyer, Andrew Greenyer, Noel Blundell, Kathy Robinson, Kit Robinson, Val Tibbitts, Ken Jones, Shirley Jones, Mike Hastie, Jane Nelson-Woods, Susan Parkes, Patrick Parkes, Les Page
- 2) The Minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved.
- 3) There were no Matters Arising from the minutes.
- 4) The Annual Report was received and approved (see Appendix 1).
- 5) The Treasurer's Report and Independently Reviewed Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 were approved.
 - a) The Treasurer reported on the financial statement highlighting the principal sources of income (membership subscriptions) and expenditure. Accounts were prepared on Receipts and Payments basis. She ran through the figures in the report, highlighting the significant areas of expenditure.
 - b) The accounts for the year show a deficit of £234 (cf. 2024 surplus of £41) and reserves carried forward of £18,398 (2024 £18,632). Bank and cash balances at year end are £18,398 (2024 £19,117.)
- 6) The appointment of an Independent Examiner was to be confirmed later.
- 7) The following Amendments to the Formby U3A Constitution were agreed following a unanimous vote in favour:
 - 16. Officers and trustees:** (5) The number of trustees shall be not less than 5 and not more than 12.
 - 16. Officers and trustees:** (8) No-one may hold any specific officer position for a continuous period in excess of 6 years without an interval of at least 1 year between the periods of service.
 - 17. Proceedings of trustees:** (7) The quorum shall be 4 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the trustees.
- 8) Elections of Officers and Trustees.

The following Trustees were re-elected unanimously:

- a) Chair Helen Lewandowska

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| b) Treasurer | Sue Robertson |
| c) Secretary | Graham Higley |
| d) Membership Secretary | Christine Hosie |
| e) Groups Secretary | Veronica Curtis |
| f) Trustee | Andy Dickinson |
| g) Newsletter Coordinator | Ian Robertson |

The newly nominated Member was unanimously elected as a Trustee :

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| h) Trustee | Bill Russell |
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9) There was no further business, and the meeting was closed at 2.28pm.

Appendix 1

Formby u3a Annual Report for the year 1 Jan to 31 December 2025

Membership

The membership as of the end of December 2025 was 1078. 93 new members joined during the year.

Achievements and Performance

Formby u3a committee meetings have taken place monthly other than August when we have a summer break. The Committee has remained stable this year although we sadly lost our volunteer Newsletter Editor Dave who had completed years of loyal service. We are now paying for the Newsletter to be produced as no volunteer has come forward to take his place. We have during the year had some switching of roles on the Committee to ensure our skills are best placed. It has been difficult to recruit new Committee members, and no one has come forward to replace Helen as Chair. For this reason, we must change the constitution to allow Committee members to serve longer than the usual 3 years. The AGM will take place on the 11th of March when this matter will be addressed.

Coffee Mornings have continued monthly. These have been very successful and are regularly attended by 50+ members. At times these have included short presentations by local organisations which members appear to find interesting. Our thanks go to Kitty and her team who do a great job serving refreshments.

Speaker meetings have been held monthly; 10 events having taken place this year. Attendance at these is generally good and feedback positive. Book and Jigsaw exchange has continued as part of these meetings, thanks to Keith.

Trips have continued this year and are very popular. We went to Conwy and Bodnant Gardens on 27th May, Ambleside/Bowness in the Lake District on 15th July and Lytham Hall and Blackpool Illuminations on 15th December. Everyone reported enjoying the trips although we have been plagued by bad weather. The Lytham trip was particularly good, and people said the best yet!! We are planning a further 3 trips this year to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens and Shrewsbury, Llangollen/Betws-Y-Coed in the Summer and Haddon Hall and

Bakewell for Christmas. The Theatre group has continued, and we enjoyed another trip to the Royal Court to see Scouse Christmas Carol. We would like more theatre trips and if there is anyone willing to take on leadership of this group it would be much appreciated.

We have been looking into a few events for this year including a possible meal at Himalayan Spice, another Cheese and Wine evening and possibly a 10-pin bowling afternoon. The Committee is relatively few in number and this limits the number of activities we can offer to members so new Committee members are always welcome. We currently have a vacancy for a Speakers Secretary and if anyone is interested, please come forward.

Our own u3a music groups again hosted the 2025 Christmas concert at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall Formby which was very successful. They again worked very hard to ensure this went well and feedback was positive. Refreshments were provided and our thanks go to Pam for organising these. We enjoyed a very successful Christmas meal which about 50 people attended at the Grapes in Formby on December 19th with a Michael Bubl  tribute act and bingo.

There are 70 groups presently running and members seem to be happy both with the choice of groups and access to these. We would like to remind members that new groups are always welcome either in relation to an existing subject or new and some start-up funds are available if needed.

The Chair continues to enjoy a good relationship with Southport and Meols U3as which benefits members as Southport have invited us to events, they have organised and Meols have included us in trips they have held this year. Southport again kindly arranged a discount for u3a members to the flower show this year which we are grateful for.

Newsletter and Website

The quarterly newsletter has continued and remains popular. 250 copies are printed and distributed around the local area in the library and leisure centre as well as being available at coffee mornings and speaker meetings. Four Newsletters have been produced this year which have included many interesting articles and photographs from different groups. The committee continues to encourage members to put material forward for Newsletters. The website continues and is utilised by members seeking information about Formby u3a. Group information has been kept up to date to ensure it accurately reflects the organisation and our activities.

Members have been kept up to date with activities through regular emails, thanks to Frances Taylor for all her help with these. Formby u3a continue to use the Beacon system as their electronic recording device. Beacon is an online management system designed by u3a for u3as. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances. Our thanks go to Noel who is our Beacon/Data Manager and Webmaster, despite living in Plymouth!

Groups

The number of active groups at the end of December 2025 was 70. 3 new groups have started during the year and 2 have closed.

A new members meeting was held on 13th November which new members said was helpful.