



Northumbria Region u3a

AGM and Quarterly Meeting

Held at Seaham Town Hall

28th April 2025

From 10.00 – 11.15

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (Whickham), Keith Allison (Washington), Jean Barnett (Wessington), Peter Barnett (Wessington), Mo Brown (Newcastle), Kathy Clegg (Prudhoe), Margaret Corrigan (Durham and District), Arthur Coulson (Whickham), Robert Crabb (Seaham), Kath Crompton (Wearside), Jean Cubbin (Whitley Bay), Wendy Dale (Tynedale), Lynn Deacon (Seaham Harbour), Alan Denham (Wearside), June Elsom (Sunderland), Linda Fowler (Stockton on Tees), Kerek Ginsberg (Washington Village), Audrey Hodgson (Houghton le Spring), Myra Hughes (Ashington), Terry Kirkham (Newcastle), Janice Leach (Seaham), Patricia Marcus (Stockton on Tees), Jane Mathieson (Teesdale), Jean Mayhew (Seaham Harbour), Christine Morgan (Wearside), Theresa Mulkerrin (Durham), Margaret Nickolson (Unknown), Elvira Pirozzi (Washington), Bob Pullen (Prudhoe), Caroline Rabbett (Seaham), Colin Richardson (Baldon), Sandi Rickerby (Mid Northumberland), Kelvin Rushworth (Skiddaw), Moira Stokoe (Guisborough), Vanessa Storey (Blyth), Joan Temple (Seaham Harbour), Dawn Tweddell (Blyth), Phil Tweddell (Blyth), Mike Wallace (Newcastle), Edward Watt (Seaham), Malcolm Wilkinson (Seaham Harbour), Mary Barlow (Sunderland).

Apologies: - Ann Carr (Bishop Auckland), Marian Atkinson (Seaham Harbour), Rev Carollyn McDonald (Alnwick), Thelma Stelfox (Gateshead), Barry Mellar (Tynedale), Fliss Hill (Gateshead).

Welcome: - Cecilia Coulson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave out the housekeeping and safety notices. Unfortunately, our speaker is unable to join us today due to ill health.

Cecilia Coulson then called the meeting to order.

A copy of the agenda, annual accounts plus report and the treasurers report are on each table.

Members were reminded that a copy of the 2024 minutes and the constitution were on the Regions website.

The meeting was declared quorate, with more than the necessary voting representatives present.

There are no proxy votes.

Tellers: - Moira Stokoe and Malcolm Wilkinson were proposed by Jane Mathieson and seconded by Arthur Coulson.

This proposal was carried.

Minutes of the previous AGM: - The adoption of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Mo Brown proposed, and Malcolm Wilkinson seconded the motion.

Motion accepted.

Matters arising: - There were no matters arising out of the minutes.

Chairs Report by Cecilia Coulson : - Cecilia is standing down having completed her three year term as Chair. She has visited twenty seven of the forty seven u3as in the region, sat in on all the Zoom Networks, and visited some face to face Networks.

She would like to thank Ted Watt who with herself devised a Three Year Plan.

She then went on to thank various members who are an asset to the region : -

Peter Barnett for the hours spent inputting data into the Siteworks website as Networks had to manually transfer data.

Mike Cook (Newcastle) for setting up and running the Facebook page.

Mary Barlow for her work as Secretary and as Editor of Messenger.

Theresa Mulkerrin our Treasurer has been in this role for a year and her reports and watchful eye on the money is gratefully appreciated.

She also thanked the team who make the 30th anniversary a huge success.

Beacon was initiated during Covid and continues to be a massive communication system for the Regional Committee. We are grateful for the way Peter Barnett and Ann Carr so ably run the system.

We have a strong system of Networks in the Region both Subject and Role Networks and include Birdwatching, Geology, Art Appreciation, Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers to name a few. I would like to thank the 'leads' as your work is invaluable.

The eight person Events Team have organised quizzes, walks, visits to historic houses, a music day, archaeological workshop with Durham University and much more. Their time is freely given and appreciated.

The Speaker's List is kept updated by Ann Carr and Peter Barnett and is now a database which is accessible via a password. The reason for this is due to GDPR.

Organising the quarterly meetings is no easy task and I would like to thank Malcolm Wilkinson for this commitment to making sure they are a success for those attending.

She thanked Jean Cubbin for providing clarity from National on various issues.

Treasurers Report by Theresa Mulkerrin: - The accounts presented are draft accounts and are with Noreen Freeman of Durham & District u3a for review.

We started 2024 with £8912 in the bank account and ended with £6617. We have had a very active year and subsidised the 30th Anniversary lunch in October and the Music Day in June both of which were successful. One item in the accounts for the North Quiz looks as if a profit was made but the room hire invoice was not received until January 2025.

The majority of the region's expenditure is in support of networking for all u3as in the region. The Committee Meetings are via Zoom which keeps costs to a minimum.

It is deemed necessary to bring back voluntary subscriptions to the Region and proposed charges are listed in the report on the various members tables.

Malcolm Wilkinson proposed that the Treasurers Report be accepted and this was seconded by Margaret Corrigan.

Votes for 19 and none against.

The proposal was accepted.

Peter Barnett proposed the re-introduction of Regional Subscriptions be accepted as presented in the report. This was seconded by Ted Watt.

Votes for 14 and 6 against.

The proposal was accepted.

Mo Brown proposed that Noreen Freeman be appointed to examine the accounts and Terry Kirkham seconded.

Votes for 16 and none against.

This proposal was accepted.

A vote of thanks was then given to Theresa Mulkerrin for her work as treasurer.

Election of members to the committee

The Chair proposed Peter Barnett, Ann Carr, Ted Watt and Malcolm Wilkinson Cecilia Coulson, Theresa Mulkerrin, and Mary Barlow for re-election to the Committee.

They were unanimously voted in.

The Chair proposed Moira Stokoe for election to the Committee.

She was unanimously voted in.

The Chair proposed Keith Allison for election to the Committee.

He was unanimously voted in.

The Chair put Wendy Dale forward for election to the committee and for the position of Chair.

She was unanimously voted in.

Wendy Dale then took over as Chair of the meeting and thanked profusely Cecilia Coulson for the work she has done in the last three years as Chair.

Any Other Business.

None.

The date of the next AGM will be in April 2026.

The AGM was closed at this point.

Quarterly Meeting.

Jean Cubbin and Kathy Clegg joint Council Representatives for the North East then spoke on the transition taking place within the movement.

A chart titled Bodies to be Represented on the New Councillors NE Regional Support Team was each table. It was noted that there should be another bubble for the Trust Volunteers.

The role and numbers in the Support Team are yet to be decided.

Mo Brown then spoke about this being a time of change for Northumbria u3a and we would not be afraid of it.

Speakers List - Peter Barnett Website Manager then updated members on the work involved in updating the list. He would like feedback on how members find this list works for them and suggestions for improvements.

Messenger – Mary Barlow then spoke about the lack of articles for the magazine. The latest issue was postponed because there was one article and eight flyers at the closing date. She asked if members wanted the magazine to continue and everyone agreed they did but they were reminded that they needed to provide the articles. It was suggested that if a u3a has a Newsletter then an article that is already written can be lifted and sent for inclusion in Messenger. It was agreed that this problem would be discussed further at the next regional committee meeting.

The meeting was closed at this point.

Name	Keith Allison	Position	Chair	Date	24 th April 2026
Name	Mary Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date	24 th April 2026