

SPELTHORNE U3A K2
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
The Citadel, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford
Thursday 13 November 2025

Present: Frank Leaver (Chairman), David Macdonald (Vice Chairman), Sylvia Lunn (Social Secretary), June White (Secretary), Irene Butcher (Treasurer), Mike Mertens (Website Coordinator), Helen Beecham (Groups Coordinator), Valerie Matthews (Membership Secretary), Jane Lewis (Minutes Secretary), Sue Smith, Lesley O'Malley (Outings Secretary), Alan Pugh (Side Panels Coordinator), David Watts, Rikki Rance, John Biggs.

Apologies for absence

Carol Ash
Josephine Beaumont
Sandy Driscoll
Marylyn Fuller
David Good

Kay Leaver
George & Sue March
Angela Richards
Roz & Matt Sendorek

Introduction

The voting has been carried out by post and email. After an initial dearth of votes a second email brought forth a much better response and we ended up with a total of 374 replies which comfortably exceeds the 152 required by our constitution and represents a 49% return. Thank you to all those who replied by post and email.

The majority of replies voted "yes" for the motions, there were 13 abstentions, predominantly from new members who did not feel they knew enough about K2 to vote. There were no "no" votes.

The result is therefore that all the motions were carried.

In addition to the votes, we received thanks and appreciations from:

Josephine Beaumont
Martyn Bevan
Jane Boddington
Maureen Body
Jenny Bright
Helen Collis
Mary Court
Marylyn Fuller

Wendy Hurrell
Stella Nolder
Angela Richards
Claire Samuel
Roz & Matt Sendorek
Gill Whitney
Brenda Wright
Mike Wylie

Thank you very much to these members, it is very nice to receive some praise from time to time.

Item 1. Minutes of AGM held on 14th November 2024 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of last year's AGM have been circulated. There were no matters arising but one eagle-eyed member pointed out two minor errors. These did not affect the meaning of anything and have been corrected in the version of the Minutes on the website and the version I have here. With these two corrections the Minutes have been approved.

Item 2. Chairman's Annual Report

The report had been circulated and Frank read a slightly updated version.

The end of an era - at least for me! Yes, it is the end of my second three years as chairman. Three years older - how did that happen? However, K2 has had another good year. Membership continues to grow and at the end of the membership year it stood at 812, an increase on last year's 769 and the first year it has exceeded 800. Some of those members, of course, did not renew for the new membership year and our current membership, I can now report, is 762. Attendance at the monthly Citadel meetings has not increased over the past ten years as much as might be expected from our increase in membership. It was the pandemic lockdown which seriously reduced the monthly attendances and these have barely recovered since then to the previous levels. During the membership year attendances varied from 127 to 225. Still not reaching the peak we had in 2015 of 263 and actually less than last year's numbers. The average attendance of 182, for last year, is less than any of the years from 2009 to 2020.

Enough of figures. There have been some excellent speakers this year, thanks to the efforts of Sanda Connolly and Joan Apergis. We are grateful to Joan for taking over from Sanda. We are of course lucky to have access to the Salvation Army Citadel for our meetings, there is not another equally favourable hall in our area which we could utilize. I thank the Salvation Army for their hospitality and Karen Rowland and her team who support us.

Our meetings would not be so pleasant or well organized without our teams of tea ladies and gentlemen, door marshals, and ushers. This year I must also thank the fire wardens, as regulations have caught up with us and we have had to organize emergency evacuation drills. To this end we have a team of fire marshals under John Biggs.

In addition to our monthly meeting we have new members meetings and group leaders meetings and some interest groups make use of halls. We make use of Staines Methodist Church, and Christ Church Staines and its church hall. We are grateful to these churches for the economic use of their facilities for our meetings.

Having mentioned interest groups I can inform you that the number has increased from 78 to 81 with new Book Club 3, Bridge, Bus Pass Travel 2, Classic Cars, Cribbage, Current Affairs and the interestingly named Tasty Tribe. The original Whist Group has become Cards Unlimited. Sadly, we lost Ambling (although it may be resurrected soon), Gardening 1, Italian for Improvers Level 1 and Military History, but then changes are expected as people age and K2 evolves.

All group leaders deserve a pat on the back. There wouldn't be much of a U3A without our interest groups and so we owe our group leaders a huge thank you for all the hard work they put into their groups. A number of groups, of course, are run by small committees and our thanks extend to these and also to all those involved in making our groups such a success.

If anyone has any ideas for a new group then there is plenty of help to assist you in getting it started. Just have a word with Helen Beecham our groups coordinator. It is quite possible for a group to be run by more than one person. If you have an idea for a group then maybe others would also be interested in it and would join you.

Our committee have done a great job again this past year. Like group leaders, the committee are all volunteers who put the effort in simply to ensure that K2 keeps going as well as it can for its members. They get no remuneration other than a biscuit and drink at the committee meetings.

There will be some changes to the committee this year. When I stand down, David Macdonald will become your new chairman, leaving the position of vice-chairman available to someone who would like to contribute to the running of K2.

Sue Smith will be handing over the position of minutes secretary to Jane Lewis after managing to record the minutes of our meetings for 9 years. I think that is a record for minutes secretary. Thank you Sue for an excellent job. We would also like to thank Jane for accepting this important role and welcome her to the committee.

Dennis Leeks is standing down from the committee this year. Dennis is the only committee member who has served on both the SU3A and SU3A K2 committees at different times. Thank you very much Dennis for your support and efforts over the past seven years.

Lesley O'Malley is standing down from organising outings for us. Lesley has done a phenomenal job over the past four years organizing numerous outings each year. Lesley has been particularly pro-active in finding additional sources of outings for K2. So we now need a replacement for Lesley. This is a position that could definitely be shared by more than one person to spread the work load.

Lynne Bevan has organized two holidays for us this year and also one in Sinah Warren for next year. I believe Sinah Warren is already fully booked. Thank you Lynne.

Diana Adolphus continues to edit our newsletter, producing 4 excellent, colourful editions of K2 News per year. However, K2 News is only as good as its contributions, so if anyone has any interesting items about Spelthorne, K2, or our members, then please send them to Diana. Pictures are particularly welcome.

Pat Massey, although not on the committee, helps with the groups administration, and Jill Gane still does all the photocopying despite stepping down as groups coordinator three years ago.

Finally another thank you to the committee in general. They are a great bunch to work with and if anyone else wants to join them please let me or any other committee member know. You can come to a meeting to see what goes on and see if you could fit in and help run K2.

I have thanked a lot of people in this report but there are many others who help make K2 what it is; a thriving U3A which is providing its members with a lot of opportunities to enjoy themselves. There are also a lot of opportunities to get more involved in the running of K2 - for those in a position to do so. So think about it. What can you do for K2?

The end of an era for me, but K2 will carry on regardless and continue to evolve under David's new management, with a lot of the same committee to support him. Including me - I am not disappearing completely.

Final note, next year marks the 25th anniversary of K2 which had its first monthly meeting on 11th January 2001 when the name SU3A K2 was adopted.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Our finances are in a very healthy condition at the end of the financial year. Therefore, it was decided to continue with the Membership fee of £17 for the 12 month period from 1 September 2025 to the 31 August 2026.

At the end of the financial year of 2024-2025 we had 812 members, an increase from 769 the previous year.

For every £17 received in membership subscriptions £4 will be paid to the Third Age Trust in the form of Annual Contributions to fund the overall administration of all U3As. The remaining subscription amount will be used to administer K2 for the coming year.

Our financial accounts showed a great deal of movement over the financial year as many groups arranged outings and events for their members. In addition there is a very active and thriving General Outings group, also a number of holidays have been organised.

This income will pay for essential services such as hire of premises, rental of photocopier, postage, newsletters, insurances and other expenses including the Beacon system which greatly assists the membership subscription process.

We will continue to reclaim tax on the £17.00 current annual subscription, for those of you who have signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

So, if you pay any income tax at all, and have not yet signed a declaration, please ask Valerie Matthews - our Membership Secretary - for a form, as we receive 25% of each membership subscription of £17 in refunded tax on a Gift Aid Declaration.

For the current tax year, we received the amount of £1998 in refunded income tax which is a little less than the £2006 for the previous tax year.

Each year I complete a Receipts and Payment Form showing the total amount of money spent and received. This shows the balance of funds in the current account and our COIF charity fund.

At 31 August 2025 the balance of funds was £23,307 in our current account and £10,000 in our charity account which is a little more than the £22,537 and the £10,000 in the charity account for

year ending 2024. This is because some of the receipts and payments show amounts of receipts and payments which have been paid or received for events dated after the 31 August 2025. Those events will need either payments or the receipts reallocated to the year ended 2026.

In addition, a large percentage of members have paid their subscription for 2025-26 in the months leading up to the end of the financial year of 2024-25, with many members taking advantage of the facility to pay their subscriptions online from June 2025 onwards.

I also complete a Statement of Assets and Liabilities which actually shows what K2 is worth at the end of the current financial year.

ASSETS

Assets are where a prepayment has been made for an event in the new account year.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are payments not made to creditors during the current account year because invoices have not been received during the financial year.

Or it could be deferred income where receipts for an event have been received in the current year for an event in the new financial year.

In addition, some interest groups hold funds in the current bank account, for use by the group on request.

The total amount held in the main bank account for groups was £1320 at 31/8/25 whereas the amount held at the end of 2024 was £1416 so one or two groups have been spending some money.

These funds are a liability as they can be called upon at any time by the groups.

Assets are added to the total amount held in the current account and liabilities deducted from the total amount held in the current account.

Our current net worth for year ended 31 August 2025 was £20,121 which was £1,060 more than the previous year of £19,061.

One of the reasons for the higher worth figure is that Membership numbers increased during the current financial year.

Also the other monies which did not belong in the current account year were received as deferred income.

These were membership subscriptions of £10,557 for 2025-26 which were received but cannot be included in the "worth" figure for the current year, and also monies received for outings for future events held after the end of the current financial year.

Interest received for the current accounting year on our Charity Account was £413 a little lower than the £511 received for previous year ending 2024.

Our accounts have been independently examined by professional accountants John A Hyde & Co at a cost of £420 including VAT, which the K2 Committee accepted as a reasonable charge for services.

At the conclusion of this account, Frank noted that Irene does one of the most important jobs on the committee. She is also the longest standing member with over 18 years of service.

No questions were asked and the accounts were thus approved.

Item 4. Results of Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

No additional nominations were received from the membership so all those proposed were duly elected.

Committee members stood when their names were given by the Chairman.

Chairman – David Macdonald

[Vice Chairman - Vacant]

Secretary – June White

Treasurer – Irene Butcher

Membership Secretary – Valerie Matthews

Minutes Secretary – Jane Lewis

Social Secretary - Sylvia Lunn

Groups Coordinator – Helen Beecham

Website Coordinator – Mike Mertens, who additionally administers the Beacon system

Data Protection Officer and Side Panels Coordinator - Alan Pugh

[Outings Secretary - Vacant]

Committee Members - John Biggs, Frank Leaver, Rikki Rance, Sue Smith and David Watts

Do not assume that those committee members without a job title do not work. All your committee work very hard to make K2 a success. It is worth me repeating that they are all volunteers who receive no remuneration.

Item 5. To appoint the Independent Examiner of the Accounts

For several years now we have used professional accountants to examine our yearly accounts. This has proved to be convenient and economic. The vote was to agree to continue to use a professional accounting firm and was carried.

Item 6. Any Other Business

We had one question asked for AOB. This concerned the possibility of organizing a car share scheme. We had a discussion about this at the November committee meeting.

Some groups, such as Walking organize car share on a regular basis because they visit different parts of the countryside to do walks. Other groups organizing outings will often include car share. However, the type of car share now being requested is, I think, a regular car share for members to go to a group meeting. This can only be the responsibility of the group leader and all we can do is

encourage leaders to think about this, particularly if their meeting place is off a bus route or they have members known to live away from bus routes and unable to drive.

I don't suppose that fully answers the question but I think it is the best we can offer. We cannot organize K2 wide car share or compel leaders to organize it for their groups.

There were no other questions asked on any of the distributed documentation.

Item 7. Date, time and place of next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel at 2pm on Thursday 12th November 2026.