

Ems Valley u3a AGM Minutes - 28th May 2026

(Quorum = 52 / Attend AGM = 79)

1. Chairman's welcome

Apologies received as follows:

Gwen and Alan Brown, Juliet Walker, Virginia Brown, David Griffiths, Val and Colin Ottewell, Sue and Don Kent, Paul and Liz Rosoman, Ronnie Tyler, Eileen Snow, Nicky Sparrowhawk.

2. Chairman's Report

(Summary below - Full report available on our u3a Website)

Tim reflected on three rewarding years of leadership and announces the transition of the chairmanship to Vice-chairman Rod, while expressing gratitude for his support and confidence in his future leadership. The report acknowledges several committee changes, including the retirement of Business Secretary Dbee Robinson and Minutes Secretary Liz Rosoman, while welcoming Carolyn Joy and Steve Joy as new trustees and highlighting Karen Rodger and Les Brokenshire's reshuffled responsibilities. Special thanks are given to long-serving committee members, including Sue Kent, Hilary Street, Andrea and Les Brokenshire, Rod for organising engaging talks and events, all Group Leaders for sustaining the u3a's many activity groups, and Mal Sturgess for supporting meetings. The chairman notes that the organisation has remained vibrant, with around 53 active groups despite changes over the years, and concludes by reflecting on the honour and pleasure of serving as chairman since taking over from Anne Powell in 2023 while looking forward to continuing support through website and IT administration duties.

3. Business Secretary's Report 2026 / 2027

(Summary below - Full report available on our u3a Website)

Dbee reflected on an enjoyable and rewarding time serving as Business Secretary. Thanks was extended to Chairman Tim for his constant support and guidance, to past and present committee members for making the role easier, and to all members for their patience and support during necessary changes. Monthly meeting speakers are arranged through the Speaker Secretary and members are encouraged to continue

sharing ideas. Although stepping down from the committee, the Dbee will remain an active member of Ems Valley u3a and hopes to stay involved through various groups and the newsletter, where she will begin learning from editor Alan Borrow. Finally, Dbee expressed confidence in nominating a highly capable successor, Carolyn Joy who has already shown dedication, support, and fresh ideas, ensuring the role remains in safe and capable hands.

4. **Minutes of last AGM dated** : Thursday 22nd May 2025 (Emailed on - 10.05.2026)

Proposed: Jane Yoward

Seconded: Christine Taylor

FOR: 78 **AGAINST:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 1

5. **Trustees' Report 2026 / 2027** (Emailed on -10.05.2026)

Proposed: Mike Hunter

Seconded: Diana Faithfull

FOR: 79 **AGAINST:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

6. **Treasurer's Report for: 2026 / 2027** (Emailed on - 10.05.2026)

Proposed: Roger Bleasby

Seconded: Liz Reynolds

FOR: 78 **AGAINST:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 1

7. **Appointment of Examiners - David Griffiths for: 2026 / 2027**

Proposed: Mary Anne Mathews

Seconded: Dbee Robinson

FOR: 79 **AGAINST:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

8. (i) **Election of Officers of the Committee:**

Chairman - Rod Lipscombe

Proposed: Tim Mathews

Seconded: Katie Wiggins

FOR: 79 **AGAINST:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

Vice Chairman & Speaker Secretary - Andrea Brokenshire

Proposed: Mark Parker

Seconded: Sheila Kirkpatrick

FOR: 79 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Treasurer - Hilary Street

Proposed: Roger Bleasby

Seconded: Anne Gains

FOR: 79 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Business Secretary - Carolyn Joy

Proposed: Dbee Robinson

Seconded: Diana Faithfull

FOR: 79 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

(ii) Election of the rest of the Committee Trustees, En-Bloc:

- *Membership - Sue Kent*
- *Groups and Beacon Administrator - Les Brokenshire*
- *Web Master & IT Administration - Tim Mathews*
- *Minutes Secretary - Karen Rodger*
- *Trustee - Steve Joy*

Proposed: Mark Parker

Seconded: Angela Blunden

FOR: 79 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

9. NEW CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

(Summary below - Full welcome available on our u3a Website)

Rod began by humorously thanking members for electing him as the new Chairman of Ems Valley U3A while also wondering what he had taken on. Rod paid tribute to outgoing committee members and give special thanks to Tim for his excellent leadership as Chairman, welcoming him back onto the committee alongside new

members and those taking on new roles. Reflecting on previous experiences with U3As in Kent, Rod praised Ems Valley U3A for being especially welcoming, offering a wide range of thriving groups and opportunities, and continuing to grow. He also highlighted the significance of the organisation's 20th anniversary as evidence of its lasting value and success, and invited members to attend the celebration event on the afternoon of 3rd July.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Save the Date for the Christmas Lunch

-> Thursday 3rd December 2026 at Chichester College

Date of next AGM.

-> Thursday 27th May 2027

Refreshments

Refreshments this month are prepared by our Singing for Fun group, so thank you for that, and all those groups who have served us all with refreshments over the past year.

After the Break

We have Martyn Cox on The Secret History of Vegetables. Featuring stories, myths, legends, history and fascinating facts about some of our most familiar vegetables.

There was no other business.

The AGM was closed at 14:40