

**MINUTE OF THE 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD WITHIN AYR TOWN HALL ON  
APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 1.30PM**

**1. Welcome.**

The Chairman, Barrie Southwood welcomed everyone present to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies have been received from Ella Simpson, Denis Rattenbury, Mick and Maggie Roebuck.

**3. Approval of Minute of 40<sup>th</sup> AGM held on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

The 2025 AGM Minutes were posted on the website, and copies were available in the office, so hopefully members will have had a chance to read them. The minutes proposed as being correct by Margo Ross and seconded by David Bowman.

**4. Chairman's Report**

This is the 41st AGM of Opportunities in Retirement. We recently had a very successful 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the Town Hall with a cake cut by Harry Richardson, our oldest member. Pictures and a report will appear in the summer version of Outlook. I'm pleased to report that our Office finally opened in October of last year and is now open for the usual three days per week. Special thanks to John for all his efforts connected with this and for installing and sorting out all the computers and associated equipment.

The first part of my Report is very similar to last year but the sentiments are just as important today as they were one year ago so I make no excuses for repeating them. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their support and our Treasurer, John Rattenbury for all his work in connection with the finances. Could I also thank our Office Manager, Margaret and all the office volunteers. An equally important part of OiR are all the group leaders so many thanks to all of them. Our organisation would not be able to function without them.

At the end of 2025, we had just over 800 members. This was very similar to the previous year. The newsletter, Outlook, was published in July and December. My thanks to Stephen Dodd and his team for this. Outlook was complemented by a monthly email, the OiR News.

The Executive Committee continued to meet on a monthly basis within Ayrshire Housing. We have recently welcomed four new members to the Committee. More about them later.

A very successful Welcome Day was held in October. The aim of this event was to attract new members and publicise OiR. This event is very important to the organisation and another one

is planned later this year. It draws new members to the organisation and helps existing members interact with other groups. If you haven't been to one yet, I can really recommend it.

Our links with VASA continue with our attendance at the Ageing Well Champions Board Meetings. This supports South Ayrshire Council's Ageing Well Strategy. The long-term aim is to ensure that older people feel valued, celebrated, connected and cared for.

The Tuesday walking group enjoyed their walking weekend in Oban in October. Everyone enjoyed the weekend and we had excursions to Fort William and Mull and Iona. The Saturday walking group continues to be popular with visits to New Lanark, Threave Gardens and many other destinations.

The annual Christmas Lunch was again held in the Horizon Hotel in December, organised by Christine Harris, so many thanks to Christine for that.

There were two new Groups at the beginning of 2026 - Beginning Art Class at Prestwick Community Centre on Mondays (Tom McCrorie, Group Leader) and Gaelic in Ayr on Fridays. Also last year the Choir wound up when Lisa left. It then re-started with a new Choir Leader, Adele Corns who was found by the current Group Leader, Lynda Burgess. They have gone from strength to strength since Adele took over. The Friday Breakfast Club continues to meet every two weeks at Wetherspoons in Prestwick and is very well attended and has a great atmosphere. The History group continues to be very successful and is the biggest group in OiR with over 70 attendees for some talks. A very enjoyable coach trip was arranged to Dunfermline in June.

Looking ahead to this year, 2026, the main focus is to increase our membership and also to increase the number of members attending groups. The main way of recruiting new members is by word of mouth and every one of us can do that. If anyone has any marketing ideas then please let me know.

The Town Hall talks continue with some very interesting speakers. A Solicitor gave an interesting talk on Wills and Power of Attorneys. The line up for the rest of this year is now complete with a quiz, musical entertainment and culminating in the party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall meetings are a very important part of OiR activities. Any suggestions for potential speakers are very welcome.

This is my final task before handing over to Meg Steel. I wish her the very best of luck. Thank you for listening to this Report.

Barrie Southwood

OiR Chair April 2026

## **5. Treasurer's Report on the Annual Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**

Total income for 2025 was £55,499 and expenditure was £52,750 leaving a surplus of £2,749 in our unrestricted funds. This is our first actual surplus in unrestricted funds since the Covid period.

Unrestricted reserves at the end of financial year 2025 were £22,160 plus our Charifund holdings valued at £7,532.

We received £3,076 in buildings insurance due to the damage done, and most of that has been needed to replace the damage floor covering and some new furniture along with general maintenance and servicing costs to get the office back into a useable state. The purchase of a new laptop for the Membership Database upgrades all OiR computers to Windows 11, and the laptop allows the database to be available on Welcome Days.

Accurate paper records have always been maintained by the office team, but from October last year, updating and maintaining the computer database has been a key focus. Gathering email addresses and checking gift aid status has been part of this process.

I'd like to express my thanks to Margaret and her superb team of office volunteers for all the work they do.

John Rattenbury

April 2026

## **6. Election committee members/Office Bearers.**

- a) There have been no nominations for the committee.
- b) Barrie noted that Douglas Sanderson has retired from the committee after many years of service.
- c) Over the past year the following members have been co-opted onto the committee – Margo Ross, Mick Roebuck, Maggie Roebuck, and Colin Beveridge – subject to approval of the members. All are proposed by committee and seconded by Kay Forde and Liz McAdam.
- d) Barrie Southwood will step down as Chair and proposes Meg Steel to take up the position subject to approval of the members at the meeting. Seconded by Jim Walsham and Irene Bell.
- e) John Rattenbury will remain as Treasurer.
- f) Lesley Brown will take up the position role as Vice Chair subject to approval of the members. Lesley is proposed by committee & seconded by Dorothy Gurr.
- g) Ann Green will take up the position of Minute Secretary – subject to approval of the members. Ann was proposed by committee & seconded by Ann Adams.
- h) In addition, because of the 2-year cycle of re-election of all committee members, Meg reported that the following members are standing down from the committee – Barrie Southwood, David Bowman, Ann Green, and Amy Kinnaird - but all are available for re-election as committee members. They were proposed by Christine Harris and seconded

by Andrew Monaghan. The co-opted members will start a 2-year cycle. Meg reported that the other committee members will continue for another year – Meg Steel, John Rattenbury, Denis Rattenbury and Lesley Brown.

## **7. Life Membership:**

The committee received nominations for the award of Life Membership to two members who have been awarded for giving a long and dedicated service to OiR. The two members who received their awards are Liz McAdam and Douglas Sanderson.

## **8. A.O.C.B.**

a) **Coach Trips:** Meg wrote a paragraph published in the last Outlook asking anyone interested to contact the office, but only one person made enquiries. Since then, interest had been shown by some members when mentioned at various groups. Meg asked attendees for a show of hands if any member was interested and over 30 members responded. Christine Harris is keen to be involved in the organisation of the tours and will start investigating options. Any enquiries can be directed to her at the Tuesday Town Hall Talks or directly to the Office.

## **9. Vote of Thanks**

David Bowman gave the vote of thanks.

David thanked Barrie for his work as Chair over the past four years. He next thanked John for his work as Treasurer, his role in co-ordinating both the website and Facebook, and his recent heavy work with the property. He continued by thanking Meg for her work as Minute Secretary, and for the work of the other committee members. Special thanks went to Margaret Fagan in her work as Office Manager and for all the extra administration she has undertaken to ensure events like today and the Welcome Day run smoothly. Thanks also to the office volunteers for their valued contribution. Finally, he thanked John Rattenbury for organising the entertainment to follow the meeting today.

## **10. Entertainment provided by showing a film.**

John showed gave a short synopsis of the history of Prestwick Laundry. His presentation included a film of "Old Prestwick Laundry". The film depicting the history and work of this local laundry provoked memories of the hard work many of the attendees' mothers were involved in and was enjoyed by all.