

Havant u3a

Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting which took place at the Bedhampton Community Centre starting at 2:00 pm on Thursday 18th September 2025.

Present: The AGM was attended by 112 members. Apologies were received from Gillian Peskett and Barbara Palmer.

1 Welcome. Elizabeth Jorge welcomed everyone to the 13th Annual General Meeting of Havant u3a.

2 Minutes of the 12th AGM, which took place on 19th September 2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted as drawn (proposed by Linda Bird and seconded by Fran McQueen).

3 Chair's Report – Elizabeth Jorge.

This year's AGM marks a major transition for Havant u3a, as six Committee members will be standing down:

- **Alison White** – served as Membership Secretary since Havant u3a inception (13yrs),
- **Elizabeth Jorge** – served for 12 years as Groups Coordinator, Speaker's organiser and lately as Chair,
- **John West** – served for 11 years as Speakers Organiser and Chair,
- **Margaret Stanger** – served for 8 years as Treasurer,
- **Martin Owen** – served for 7 years as Technical Support and Quiz Master,
- **Fran McQueen** – served for 5 years as Publicity Officer.

We thank them all for their outstanding commitment and the vital role they have played in the growth and success of Havant u3a.

Recruiting new Committee members has been a challenge. Peter Newman has agreed to take over the Chairmanship and has worked tirelessly to encourage volunteers. We are grateful that three members have come forward for nomination. However, this will result in a smaller Committee with certain responsibilities delegated to supporting assistants.

I fully support these new organisational arrangements and commend the incoming Committee members to you.

1.Membership Trends

Our membership for 2024/25 has grown by 4.4% from 320 to 357 members. Although many new members joined in 2024/25 a significant proportion did not renew their membership. Special attention will need to be paid in 2025/26 to improve retention and recruitment.

Havant u3a Membership Trends 2021-2024

Membership Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Full	233	267	279	297	306
Associate	15	11	31	23	51*
Total	248	278	310	320	357*

* 23 out of the 51 Associate members belong to the National Online Bridge Group, thus not actually Havant u3a members.

2. Subscription Fees

Despite rising costs, we will be able to maintain our subscription fees at last year's rates: £18 for Full membership and £12 for Associate members.

3. Groups

Jean Munday, our new Groups Coordinator, has quickly settled into her role and has already made a significant impact. She has successfully launched four new groups: **Needlecraft**, **Spanish for Beginners**, **Pilates**, and **Birdwatching**. Unfortunately, two groups—**Wine Tasting** and **Current Affairs**—have now closed.

In addition to supporting group activities, Jean organised the annual **Group Leaders' Meeting** in May and hosted a very successful **Volunteers' Tea Party** in June, to thank everyone who contributes to Havant u3a—whether by running groups, serving on the Committee, or supporting our wider activities.

4. Monthly Talks

Our monthly talks programme under John West's leadership has continued to stimulate, educate and entertain us through a wide variety of topics. John's choice of speakers has been well received with increased attendance at monthly meetings. Sadly, John will be standing down from the Committee but has agreed to continue to source speakers for special talks.

5. Special Events

Talks by senior personalities in 2024/25 included a talk by Col. Chris Davies, former Royal Marines Principal Director of Music about his service on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

6. Social Events

Our **Social Sub-Committee** worked tirelessly to ensure that our regular events were enjoyable, well-organised, and offered good value for money. **Margaret Stanger**, supported by her dedicated team, has led much of the planning and coordination. Her exceptional organisational skills will be greatly missed.

At our **Christmas Party**, we were entertained by **Judy Theobalds**, who amused us with her light-hearted talk "*Christmas and Other Problems*." A festive sing-along followed, led by **Peter Newman** and **Vince Ibbs**, performing as a ukulele and guitar duo.

At the **Summer Party**, the musical group **Folks in Harmony** provided lively entertainment, which was warmly received.

Despite the success of these events, attendance at our parties has been declining. We may need to consider whether changes to the current format are needed to better suit members' interests.

In addition, two **popular Quiz Nights** were held during the year, hosted by **Martin Owen** and **Peter Newman**—both proving enjoyable and well-attended evenings.

7. Outings

Val Worthington has delighted us with four excellent coach trips this year, all very well subscribed. We visited Salisbury Christmas Market, Polesden Lacey, Exbury and The Wyne.

We are indebted to Val for her efforts and look forward to her exciting outings choices in 2025/26.

8. Community Events

We continue to participate in local Community Events to promote Havant u3a and recruit new members. This year we participated in the Bedhampton Show and the Manor Fair.

We are deeply grateful to **Fran McQueen** for distributing our publicity materials at local fairs and for her tireless efforts in promoting Havant u3a to the wider public. As Fran prepares to step down from the Committee, her enthusiasm, dedication, and approachable manner will be greatly missed.

9. Havant u3a Groups Fair

Our **Annual Groups Fair** will take place on **3rd October**, scheduled to avoid the busy holiday season. This event is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our wide range of groups. Members of the public and existing members are warmly invited to come along, meet group leaders, discover what's new, join groups, and subscribe to **Havant u3a**.

9. Website

In December 2024, we successfully migrated our old Site Builder website to the new SiteWorks platform. This upgrade has resulted in a more visually appealing site and enhanced user experience. Our sincere thanks go to **Geoff Worthington** and **Peter Mumford** for their dedication in ensuring a timely and efficient transition.

10. Conclusion

Thank you to all our members for your continued support, enthusiasm, and contributions—these are the foundations of Havant u3a's ongoing success.

This year marks a significant moment of change for our committee. Six long-serving members are stepping down, and we are immensely grateful for their years of dedication, leadership, and service. Their contributions have shaped the u3a we enjoy today, and they will be greatly missed. We also warmly welcome our new Committee members and look forward to the fresh ideas and energy they will bring.

As we move into 2025/26, we remain committed to providing a rich and varied programme of groups, talks, and events. Your participation—whether as a group member, leader, volunteer, or supporter—ensures Havant u3a remains a vibrant, inclusive, and friendly community.

Let's continue to learn, share, and grow together in the year ahead.

4 Financial Report by the Treasurer

Margaret Stanger read her report:

Our thirteenth-year membership rose to 357. The main source of income was 2024/25 subscriptions, and the gift aid recovered from the previous year. Group members covered their group expenses as the groups are self-supporting. Attendees covered the cost of their events and trips. Regular expenditure was capitation payments to the U3A Trust, magazine mailing costs, licences, publicity, equipment, and the cost of monthly meetings.

We are £826.59 up on last year and the social activities mostly broke even or better.

At the financial year end (31st July 2025), the total balance held was £9362.34. £3045.03 of this balance is the social activities fund and a further £2024.60 has been rolled over from last year by the activity groups and is ring fenced for them. At the moment substantial amounts of money have been paid in advance for group and social activities that will take place in the next financial year. We have 23 extra members and £276 extra income this year because we are running a National U3a Online Bridge Group (ODBG) that Interest Groups Online (IGO) is not quite ready to take on. We now have reserves of £4292.71.

Membership fees

The Committee have reviewed income and expected expenditure and will review it again next year. We are happy to announce that our membership subscription for 2026/26 remains at £18 for full members and £12 for associate members.

Thanks

I would like to thank to the volunteers who helped me run events and record payments. I could not have done the job without you. My thanks to everyone for their help and support, we are getting more bank transfers each year and fewer cheques and less cash – it makes it so much easier to have a better audit trail and less banking. This was my last year as treasurer and the work will be in Ray Beadell's capable hands.

Reserves Policy

The Executive Committee have set a policy to maintain a balance on "unrestricted funds" (if possible) that equates to twelve months of operational costs. The surplus will allow Havant U3A to honour its obligations even if the membership was severely reduced and some of the existing groups folded. Havant U3A would still have to pay speakers, capitation, hall hire, expenses, U3A News, licences, equipment maintenance and carry a working float.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments continue to be undertaken to identify major risks and appropriate procedures are put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact. The committee and convenors have taken on board advice from the Government and the Third Age Trust to minimise risk.

The accounts statement was approved without comment by the meeting (proposed by Peter Hellawell and seconded by Christopher Shaw).

5 Election of Officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

The Chair explained that the Constitution of the Havant u3a requires all officers and members of the committee to resign at the end of the year and to seek re-election if they are eligible under the rules. Elizabeth asked John West to conduct the election of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer positions and Elizabeth Jorge conducted the election of the other committee positions. No nominations for the committee had been received save for those already serving on the existing committee. The following nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

Post	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Peter Newman	Jenny Bishop	Robert van Westarp
Secretary	Valerie Lindridge	Janet Wright	Margaret Hellawell
Treasurer	Ray Beadell	Paul Love	Jill van Westarp

The meeting voted to accept unanimously all three nominations and they were duly elected.

6 Election of other Committee members. The following nominations had been received before the meeting.

Post	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Committee	Tom Hudson	Ken Arkell	Marilyn Hoad
Committee	Jean Munday	Miriam Norris	Jan Jenkins
Committee	Sharon Holden	Alison Coleshill	Peter Hellawell
Committee	Geoff Worthington	Janice Denham	Teresa Flowers

The meeting voted unanimously to accept all 4 of the nominations and they were duly elected.

7 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2:20 pm