

Havant u3a

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting which took place at the Bedhampton Community Centre starting at 2:00 pm on Thursday 17th September 2026.

Present: The AGM was attended by 106 members. Apologies were received from Margaret Stanger, Jacqui Flynn, Peter Hellawell, Margaret Hellawell, Geoff Hallett and Marilyn Rogers.

1 Welcome. Peter Newman welcomed everyone to the 14th Annual General Meeting of Havant u3a.

2 Minutes of the 13th AGM, which took place on 18th September 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted as drawn (proposed by John West and seconded by Elizabeth Jorge).

3 Chair's Report – Peter Newman. Peter announced he would not read out his report in full, but highlight some of the important points. For the completeness of the minutes, the full text of what had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting is copied below.

The 2025/26 year had the potential to be difficult for the committee. 6 long standing members stood down last year and 1 of the 4 newly recruited members was unable to take up the post.

However, despite being thrown in at the deep end, plus the lack of a membership secretary at the beginning of the year, the new recruits showed a level of commitment and enthusiasm which meant we managed to operate virtually normally. Fortunately, Rita Markey took on the membership secretary role for a few months which eased matters somewhat.

We have also managed to recruit some additional people throughout the year so 2026/27 finds us in a much more stable position in terms of a committee.

I would like to express my thanks to Ray Beadell, Jean Munday, Geoff Worthington, Tom Hudson, Sharon Holden, Rita Rymill, Michelle Fletcher and Valerie Lindridge for their efforts. Valerie had to stand down mid-year due to personal reasons but was a great help to me personally in getting a more complicated than expected change to our constitution processed. Next year, we hope to welcome (subject to the members' vote), Tricia Banacowicz and Helen Bailey to our team to further strengthen the committee, both for next year and hopefully, further ahead.

We are also indebted to a number of people who assist in various other roles to ensure our organisation continues to run as expected. The work done by our Group Leaders cannot be overstated. Groups are the lifeblood of any u3a and I'm sure you will all join me in acknowledging their efforts.

Overall, I am pleased to report that our organisation remains healthy with an increase in membership numbers and the number of active groups. Under Ray's careful management, our finances are in good shape which means the subscriptions for 2026/27 remain the same as last year.

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

1. Membership Trends

Our membership for 2025/26 has grown by 10% from 357 to 393 members. This year, there were fewer members who did not renew. Whilst on the surface this all looks like good news, the increase in membership has given the committee 2 causes for concern. Firstly, there are a number of groups that are full or nearly full. If new members join but are unable to join the groups they want to, then this will create an initial negative impression. The second concern is that of capacity at the monthly meetings. The BCC has a maximum capacity of 120 and we have got close to that figure on a number of occasions recently. There is no other venue in the area which provides the combination of: reasonably sized hall; parking on-site and close by; on a bus route and; which charges reasonable fees for hall hire. Neither of these issues are yet at a critical point, and we are not suggesting that we need to close the membership. However, we have decided to refrain from extensive promotion of Havant u3a.

Havant u3a Membership Trends 2021-2026

Membership Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Full	233	267	279	297	306	336
Associate	15	11	31	23	51*	57*
Total	248	278	310	320	357	393

* 21 out of the 57 Associate Members belong to the National Online Bridge Group, and are 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 Groups Coordinator, has overseen the introduction of 8 new groups in 2025/26: Books, Calligraphy, Sociable Singles 5, Sitting Pilates, Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Beginners, Antiques & Collectables, Needlecraft 2 and Canasta 2. Unfortunately, three groups—Sitting Pilates, Wales & the Welsh and Spanish for Beginners—have now closed.

Jean with assistance from Michelle, organised a very enjoyable 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

Jan Jenkins took on the task of organising the speakers for our monthly meetings. The variety of topics, and the quality of the talks that Jan managed to find has continued to stimulate, educate and entertain us. Thanks also to Barbara Palmer for organising the refreshments team at each meeting and to Tom Hudson and his team of meeters and greeters. Paul Love managed the audio and visual equipment for these meetings.

5. Special Events

John West managed to persuade Field Marshal Lord Richards to return for a 2nd talk last October. As expected, this event was very well attended and Lord Richards did not disappoint.

6. Social Events

At our Christmas Party, we were entertained by Cygnus Revival, a 5 piece band who played hits from the 60s and 70s. Everyone seemed to be singing along to all the songs and most of those who are able to, were up on the dance floor and showing us their shapes! The feedback we got from members was so good, we immediately booked them for the 2026 Christmas Party. Many thanks to Margaret Stanger and her team who provided excellent fayre. Margaret and some of her team have now "retired", but Rita Rymill has agreed to head up the refreshments team going forward.

Due to a significant decrease in demand over the last 2 years, it was decided that we would not have a Summer Party in 2026.

A Quiz Night was held in January with Rod Stockwell being our new quizmaster. 8 Havant u3a teams were joined by 2 guest teams: Horndean u3a and Waterlooville u3a and a competitive but enjoyable evening was had. Another quiz is planned for October 2026.

7. Outings

Val Worthington has once again managed to organise a number of excellent coach trips this year, all very well subscribed. We visited Exbury, Kingston Lacy, Polesdon Lacy, RHS Wisley, National Maritime Museum Greenwich and Chartwell. Many thanks to Val for her efforts and look forward to her exciting outings choices for the forthcoming year.

8. Community Events

Due to the issues highlighted in the Membership Trends section (1) above, we decided not to participate in any promotional events this year.

9. Havant u3a Groups Fair

Due to the issues highlighted in the Membership Trends section (1) above, and after consultation with the group leaders, it was decided not to stage a Groups Fair this year.

9. Website

Geoff Worthington and Peter Mumford had a slightly less hectic year in 2025/26 after the introduction of the new SiteWorks website the previous year. We are grateful to both for the prompt and efficient work done to ensure the website is fully up to date. Towards the end of the year, a new Online Subscription process was successfully introduced which we expect to make the joining process easier for both the member and the membership secretary. Peter Mumford has decided to step down from his website support role but fortunately Tricia Bancowicz has agreed to assist Geoff going forward.

10. Conclusion

Firstly, I realise that I have mentioned a number of our volunteers by name, but by no means everyone. If your name isn't mentioned, please rest assured your contributions are equally valued by the members and the committee.

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

As we move into 2026/27, 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

Peter read out a summary of the Treasurer's Report as Ray Beadell (Treasurer) was unable to attend. Peter explained that he would not read out Ray's report in full, but highlight some of the important points. For the completeness of the minutes, the full text of what had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting is copied below.

This report relates to the Annual Account August 1st 2025 to July 31st 2026.

Summary and Comparison with Previous Year

Item	2024/2025	2025/2026
Number of Transactions	1130	1269
Income	£24987	£29395
Expenditure	£21414	£30407
Nett	£3573	-£1012

Item	2024/2025	2025/2026
Groups Income	£10287	£13796
Groups Payments	£9751	£13717
Groups Nett (including carry over)	£1860	£2176
Events and Trips Profit	(£171)* See Notes	(£213)* See Notes

Notes

* Includes Group Convenors Party and adjustment for non-completed events

Residual Funds	2024/2025	2025/2026
General Fund	£9362	£8350
Cushion (General less Groups)	£7186	£6092

The total income exceeded £25000.00 and as such the account is required by the Charity Commission to be independently examined. This has been completed with no issues arising and the report will be included with the minutes of the AGM. NOTE – Albeit not required by the Charity Commission previous years accounts were independently examined.

Our fourteenth-year membership rose from 357 to 393. Membership formed the main source of income and gift aid reflected an increase based on the increased membership of 2024/25.

Groups covered their expenses. The Sit-Down Pilates and Spanish groups closed. There was a significant increase in group income and expenditure primarily due to Pilates.

Both organised events and trips covered their costs.

The National Bridge Group organised a charity event and the sum of £151.00 was raised and donated to Portsmouth Age UK for an education project.

Expenditure was primarily capitation payments to the u3a Trust, magazine mailing costs, licences, and costs of monthly meetings. There was significant equipment expenditure for the procurement of a new projector, new sound system and a membership lap- top. The projector and sound system were a procured against an operational risk assessment and the lap-top for use by the Membership Secretary. The cost of this equipment was the primary reason for Expenditure exceeding Income. Further reasons were room hirings in 2024/25 that were not invoiced in that financial year and were income for events in 2024/25 had been received but at year ending had no expenditure.

Membership Fees

The committee have reviewed expected income and expenditure and are pleased to announce the membership subscription for 2026/27 will remain at £18 for Full Membership and £12 for Associated Membership.

This is consistent with our Reserves Policy as set out below and assumes a membership subscription of 85% of the 2025/6 financial year.

U3a Trust Magazine mailing costs have risen and it is likely the membership fee will be increased next year (2026/27). Where membership fees have been paid more than once these have been refunded and do not appear in Membership Income Line item

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is to maintain a cushion (see Residual Funds Table above) that equates to 12 months of operational costs. This comprises of monthly meetings speaker and refreshment costs, BCC Hire and u3a Trust costs.

This has been assessed as being £5500. This cushion would allow Havant u3a to honour its obligations even if membership was severely reduced.

It has been assumed in the equipment budget that no additional presentational of IT equipment will be required.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments continue to be undertaken and the current financial position and risks are addressed at the monthly committee meeting such any emergent risk can be addressed and mitigated promptly.

The committee and groups operate under the financial policies set out for Havant u3a. These are available for viewing on the Havant u3a Website.

Thanks

My thanks to Margaret Stanger for handing over an account that was in good order.

Many thanks to those members that have undertaken taking payments both in my presence and absence.

There has been a 10% increase in transactions this year and clearly bank transfers, as opposed to cash and cheques, make the accounting process easier for me. There is however no problem if members wish to continue using cash and cheques.

Report compiled by Ray Beadell
(Treasurer on behalf of Havant u3a)

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. Peter asked Jean Munday to conduct the election of the Chair position. Peter conducted the election of the Secretary and Treasurer positions and he also 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	Tricia Banacowicz	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
Committee	Helen Bailey	Elizabeth Jorge	John West
Committee	Michelle Fletcher	Fran McQueen	Bob Child
Committee	Rita Rymill	Valerie Pitther	Christine Webb

The meeting voted unanimously to accept all 7 of the nominations and they were duly elected.

7 Any Other Business

Nigel Gossop took the opportunity to thank the members who contributed to the collection to repair The Drake mural in Cosham and reported that this work was underway.

The meeting closed at 2:25 pm