



Saffron Walden

Registered Charity No. 290670
saffronwalden.u3asite.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT THE SAFFRON WALDEN BOWLS CLUB

The meeting, which began at 2:05pm, was conducted by James Dwyer, Chairman, who thanked those attending Saffron Walden u3a's AGM. In accordance with the Constitution the Committee will be standing down.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Good afternoon and welcome everybody to this, the Saffron Walden u3a Annual General Meeting for year ending July 2025.

We begin the meeting by announcing a small change to our constitution which has been available for all to view on our website.

We are taking out the following 2 points - (a) all Officers and Non-Officers of the Executive Committee shall have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than six terms in any one role and - (b) no individual may serve more than a maximum of nine years in any combination of Officer roles or Non-Officer member, after which there must be a break of at least one calendar year.

These to be replaced by the following 2 points - (a) Each year the newly elected Executive Committee shall vote in the roles of the Officers and Non-Officers, they shall have a one-year term of office, and (b) No individual may serve more than a maximum of twelve years in any combination of Officer or Non-Officer roles, whether or not the periods of service are continuous.

The reason for this change is simple - it's because there are no other members volunteering to become Committee members, and without a Committee there will be no u3a – as it happens all existing Committee members are doing their jobs very well.

So for this change to be adopted I now ask for a proposer and a seconder from you our members.

Martin Hugall proposed and Colin Taylor seconded that these changes be made.
Agreed Nem.con.

I now hand over to our Secretary Susan Brown

Present:

The meeting was quorate.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were registered from William Brown and Christine Greet.

Minutes and Approval from the last AGM:

The minutes of the 2024 AGM, which have been made available on our website and were not read. No questions were raised from the membership.

Richard Winter proposed and Valerie Abbott seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024 be adopted as a true record.

Agreed Nem.con.

The Chairman signed and dated the 2024 AGM minutes.

Chairman's Report 2024 – 2025

This has been my third year as Chairman of the Saffron Walden u3a and it continues to be a real honour for me to work with you all, and my fellow committee members, all of whom are dedicated to their various roles and who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of all our members whilst upholding the u3a founding principles of membership to all in their third age, promoting the positive values of lifelong learning and ensuring those who wish to join can do so.

I would also like to thank our website manager Martin for all his dedicated work and all our Group Leaders for their contributions.

The Saffron Walden u3a continues to thrive with a membership standing at well over 800 at the end of the year 2024-2025. We have kept our annual membership cost the same at £15 per person which is exceptional value compared to many other u3a's.

Our list of activities has increased with new classes for Folk Music, Outdoor Bowls, German, Anything Crafty, Baking and Drawing. So we now have 44 different activities with many of those having more than one class. If some of our new members find that a class has no vacancies then we would encourage them to please start their own class – we will happily provide the assistance and support for them to do so.

Our Christmas Buffet at the Golf Club proved very popular last year and all places had been booked within a week of the email going out, so we had quite a few disappointed members. But, as promised, this year we are having 2 Christmas Buffets at the Golf Club on 1st and 2nd December – these were booked at last year's event and were the only dates available in December. We will be inviting and advising exact details to all members during September by email and by post for those without emails – so stand by and please book as early as you can so hopefully no one will be disappointed.

Our Open Meeting talks remain as popular as ever with regular near record attendances and we are constantly striving to get really interesting talks. We have

invested in a new projector so the quality of the illustrated talks has improved beyond recognition. We have currently booked speakers right up to the end of this coming year so we hope to see many of you at these meetings which occur here every 3rd Monday of each month where entry is free and so are the refreshments and the raffle. These, along with our bi-annual Update magazine and Third Age Matters magazine offer exceptional value to all our members.

Our Theatre & Travel group have provided some wonderful trips this year and will soon be planning for next year. You'll need to book early because they're very popular and soon become full – the new list is usually published during January. We welcome back all our existing members who have renewed their membership today and over the last few weeks, and we welcome all our new members and hope that the following year will prove to be as successful as the last. Thank you very much – and I now hand over to our Treasurer Steve Messenger with his report.

There were no questions.

Treasurer's Report 2024 - 2025

The annual accounts and financial statements have been prepared using applicable Accounting Standards and have been examined by an Independent Examiner, in accordance with the Charity Commissioners' requirements. My thanks go to Malcolm White who, once again, offered his services to examine the accounts. Malcolm has also agreed to examine the accounts next year.

Total Income for the year was **£70,830** and payments totalled **£70,000**, making an official profit of **£830**.

Usable Income for the year totalled **£13917.50**, which consists of membership fees, Gift Aid, bank interest and subscriptions for last year's Xmas tea. **Expenditure** was **£13902.87**, resulting in a **profit of £14.63**. Expenditure included the payment for the Xmas tea and also the purchase of new projector. **£5568.00** of the expenditure was paid to the central u3a to cover TAT membership and the fees for the TAM magazine. Current reserves stand at about **£18,722.41** in the bank and building society, of which about £2,180 is committed to various group expenses and £5125 is committed to T&T expenses. Membership for 25-26 remains at £15. The financial situation will be reviewed during the year and a decision will be made regarding the following years fee.

Group and theatre and travel activities have been vibrant this year.

New class fees, excluding Theatre & Travel, totalled **£13,215** with **expenses of £13825**. Including bf from 23/24, there is a **net balance of £2180** which will be carried forward into 2025/26. Thank you to all group coordinators for good management of their finances. Please continue to check the current costs of halls (with Susan or me) before working out term fees. Any groups with money left will retain this balance.

Theatre and Travel trips are flourishing. Thanks to Chris Duffy and her team for the hard work they put into it. **T&T received £42,971** and **spent £41316**. The T&T account remains healthy at **£5126** at the end of the year.

Many more people are now paying their **class and T&T fees via BACS**. This continues to work well and eliminates our need to bank cheques in the bank or PO.

About 325 people have renewed using the **automatic renewal via Paypal**. This is encouraging, as it eliminates a lot of work for John and me in processing renewal forms and cheques. Paying via the Paypal interface does not mean having to have a Paypal account, as you can use a credit card as well. We understand the PayPal interface can be a bit clunky and have contacted central u3a to see if anything can be improved.

The use of BACS for paying membership fees has also risen. This is fine for new members, but we would encourage renewing via the automated PayPal route.

There were no questions.

I would like to propose the adoption of the accounts. Peter Gray proposed and Colin Taylor seconded the adoption of the accounts.

Agreed Nem.con.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Malcolm White has agreed to examine our accounts for the year 2025 to 2026.

Election of Committee:

The Secretary reported that the following candidates had correctly completed nomination forms in accordance with the Constitution:

Name	Proposed	Seconded
Elaine Bewick	Martin Hugall	Alan Curtis
Susan Brown	Hugh Herdon	Brenda Lindsay
Mary Curtis	Peter Gray	Rose Peram
James Dwyer	Tim Newman	Jean E Pattenden
Sue Matthews	Martin Hugall	Rose Peram
Stephen Messenger	John Martin	Christine Kerrison
John Trueman	Geffrey Collins	Christine Taylor

Martin Hugall proposed and Peter Gray seconded that the candidates be accepted en bloc.

Agreed Nem.con

Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.28pm.