



Saffron Walden

Registered Charity No. 290670
saffronwalden.u3asite.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT THE SAFFRON WALDEN BOWLS CLUB

The meeting, which began at 2:02pm, was conducted by Mary Curtis, Vice Chairman who thanked those attending Saffron Walden u3a's AGM. In accordance with the Constitution the Committee will be standing down.

The Vice Chairman read a short statement explaining the Chairman's absence. He is currently undergoing treatment for cancer in hospital. No further information was provided regarding his condition or treatment.

Present:

The meeting was quorate.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were registered from Kate Atkinson, Mary Brooks, William Brown, Christine Duffy, James Dwyer, Jeanette Fulcher, Betty George, Rod George, Diane Golding, Christine Greet, Margaret James, Ann Joslin, Jean Little, Libby Richards, Meryl Tyers.

Minutes and Approval from the last AGM:

The minutes of the 2025 AGM, which have been made available on our website and distributed to all members were not read. No questions were raised from the membership.

Peter Gray proposed and Martin Hugall seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025 be adopted as a true record.

Agreed Nem con.

The Vice Chairman signed and dated the 2025 AGM minutes.

Chairman's Report 2025 – 2026

Hello and welcome all you Saffron Walden u3a members, thank you so much for attending this AGM and for renewing your membership. And to all our new members, thank you for joining us – it's great to have you on board and we hope to be seeing you at some of our events.

Apologies if you have had difficulties renewing or applying for membership on line, we had this issue last year as well. But we are advised that the system will be having

an upgrade later this year so it is sincerely hoped that any issues will be resolved (*Fingers crossed*).

The last year has been my fourth year as Chairman of the Saffron Walden u3a and it continues to be a privilege to work with my fellow committee members, each one of whom is as dedicated as I am in giving you the very best service and the opportunities to really enjoy your u3a experience.

Our membership at the end of last year was in excess of 850. Having held our membership fee at £15 for the last two years, we have had to put it up by £1 this year. I'm sure you'll agree that this is still exceptional value when you consider what you get: Third Age Matters five times a year, our own Update magazine twice a year, Newsletters each month, a huge range of activities to get involved with plus, of course our monthly Open Meetings.

Whilst on the subject of Open Meetings, these are held on the third Monday of every month here at the Bowls Club; free entry, refreshments and raffle (*except today sadly when our tight schedule allows no time for a raffle – sorry*) and the illustrated talks this last year have all been exceptionally entertaining with near capacity attendances.

This last year has also seen our range of groups expand; we currently have 46 different groups, many have more than one class. You can see our complete list of groups with contact details on our website and in our upcoming autumn edition of the Update magazine.

If any member applies to join a group and are told there are no vacancies, then ask to go on their waiting list – which will be reviewed regularly by the Committee. Any member can also start a new group for which they would receive full Committee support.

We have also held special events throughout the year, namely Quizzes, Film Club, recruitment drives and concerts at Jubilee Gardens and Audley End House, and of course we have our Christmas lunch to look forward to over two days for which you will all be receiving details in the coming weeks and months.

Finally I would like to thank our Website Manager and all our Group Leaders for their dedicated work throughout the year which has greatly assisted us in achieving our success – may the coming year prove to be even more successful whilst we continue to uphold the u3a founding principles of membership to all in their third age, promoting value of lifelong learning and ensuring those who wish to join can do so – thank you.

I now hand you over to our Treasurer Steve Messenger with his report.

Treasurer's Report 2025 - 2026

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 **£77,973.27** and payments totalled **£72,850.61**.

Usable Income for the year totalled **£16,396**, which consists of membership fees, Gift Aid, bank interest and subscriptions for last year's Xmas tea. **Expenditure** was **£15,709**, resulting in a **profit of £687**. **£7,102** of the expenditure was paid to the central u3a to cover TAT membership and the fees for the TAM magazine and Beacon.

Current reserves stand at about **£23,084** in the bank and building society, of which about **£7,177** is already committed: £4,076 for group expenses and £3,041 for T&T expenses. That leaves a net balance of **£15,907**.

Membership fee for 26-27 has increased to £16. This is to cover increasing costs. We are aware of some people having issues renewing via the Beacon PayPal system. Central u3a are working to provide a better solution and we hope we can use this next year.

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

New class fees, excluding Theatre & Travel, totalled **£20,029** with **expenses of £18,129**. Including brought forward from 24/25 there is a **net balance of £4,076** which will be carried forward into 2026/27. Thank you to almost all group leaders for good management of their finances. Please continue to check the current costs of halls (with Susan or me) before working out term fees.

Theatre and Travel trips are flourishing. Thanks to Chris Duffy and her team for all the hard work they put into it. **T&T received £41,503** and **spent £38,196**. The T&T account remains healthy at **£7,692** at the end of the year. I think the team could use some help otherwise we may see fewer and fewer trips.

Dealing with cash is becoming more and more difficult and hard to control. Therefore, we will no longer be accepting cash for payments of membership, group fees or theatre and travel trips. Group and T&T leaders may still accept cash, but any money passed to the treasurer must be in either cheques or via BACS.

Martin Hugall proposed and David Nicholls 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 2026 to 2027.

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	Peter Gray
Susan Brown	Brenda Lindsey	Mary Jowett
Mary Curtis	Ann Paul	Rose Peram
James Dwyer	Martin Hugall	Paul Sharpe
Susan Matthews	Martin Hugall	AM Mulligan
Stephen Messenger	Margaret Halls	Colin Potterill
John Trueman	Martin Hugall	Ann Cousins

Peter Gray proposed and Rufus Barnes seconded that the candidates be accepted en bloc.

Agreed Nem.con

Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 2.18pm