

MINUTES OF THE 29th ANDOVER U3A AGM

Held at The Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 2pm on 20th May 2025

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were 11 Apologies for Absence. The secretary counted the attendees at the meeting (67) confirming that there were significantly more than the minimum number (43) required to constitute a quorum (10% of our membership of 430: as at 31-March-2025).
2. **Minutes of the 28th AGM held on 21st May 2024.** The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chair's Report.** David Gollings read his Chairman's Report:

Good afternoon, Andover U3A and a warm welcome to our 29th AGM. It has been a privilege to serve as your Chair for the past 2 years. All the members of the present committee are seeking re-election this afternoon. I am also pleased to say that David James is nominated to become the Membership Secretary. I hope that you will all support both his nomination and the re-election of the existing committee. We still have a vacancy for Vice Chair, which has now been vacant for 2 years since my election as Chair. I am keen that we recruit a suitable candidate to be the Vice Chair. The principal duty of this post is to act as Speakers Secretary, a task that is currently being covered by myself. The Vice Chair deputises for me in my absence. Ideally a suitable candidate would realise an ambition to replace me in 2 years' time, when my period in office comes to an end. However, if any member is prepared to fill the post without the commitment to become Chair, we will not turn you down! Please speak to me if you would like to know what the post entails.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to all my committee colleagues, who have carried out their duties impeccably. Without their help and assistance, I would not be able to function effectively as your Chair. Thank you all. A word of thanks also, to all the volunteers who have assisted my wife, Ruth in providing tea and coffee at the end of the monthly meetings.

Members will recall that it was agreed as a policy that we should maintain a reserve of 75% of our annual expenditure. Your Trustees have regularly reviewed this figure at the committee meetings throughout the year, and I am pleased to advise you that we have maintained this figure. Therefore, no increase in fees is proposed at this time and the membership subscription will remain unchanged at £11.00. I am sure that your newly elected Committee will regularly review the membership fee to ensure that our level of reserves is maintained. However, our income is slightly reduced this year as we still await Gift Aid contributions from HMRC. This will be kept under review.

Our Membership continues to flourish, with some 430 paid up members. If our membership is to expand further, we will need to find more group leaders. Many groups are over-subscribed, and if we are to develop further, and accommodate those on waiting lists, we need volunteers to step up and offer to set up new groups to satisfy demand. On a positive note, I am pleased to report that this year 4 new groups have been established. Our thanks to our Groups Coordinator Melenie MacKay for this achievement. Melenie is always available to offer advice or assistance. If we are unable to satisfy demand, there will be little point in substantially increasing our membership numbers further.

As your Speakers Secretary, I have tried to provide a varied programme of talks to appeal to all tastes, and I do hope that this has been appreciated by the membership. This Christmas we will

continue our theme of a seasonal entertainer, and a Christmas Draw which always seems popular.

Next year 2026, we reach a milestone in our history when we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Andover U3A. I am sure the committee will discuss how we can best celebrate this auspicious occasion. Perhaps a celebratory cake, and an invitation to a Civic Dignitary, to say a few words in support of our organisation. Keep a lookout on the website, newsletter, and the magazine, as arrangements are confirmed.

Your committee members are always available to address any concerns or questions you may have about Andover U3A. If they do not know the answer, they will always forward your enquiry to the relevant member, who will contact you.

Please take the opportunity to look at the exhibitions and presentations submitted by our groups. The talent of our Joint Art Group with Anton, the Craft Group and our Photography group, never ceases to impress me. Thank you to all the exhibitors for your contributions today. I am sure the efforts you have made are appreciated by everybody here.

May I make a personal request to welcome new members to our U3A. Please introduce yourself within your groups and at the monthly meetings. I know that it may have taken a great deal of courage to meet an entirely new group of people for the first time. My personal thanks to Dorothy Connor, who acts as our "meet and greet" committee member, and whose efforts in making people at home have not gone unnoticed. May I ask you all to fully support the current committee who are seeking re-election this afternoon. And Finally - Please enjoy the forthcoming summer months, and any holidays that you have planned.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer Paul Hardy is unable to be here today, as he is on holiday. If you need to contact him his email is treasurer@andoveru3a.co.uk. The account was successfully audited on 29th April, and a copy of the auditor's report had been posted on the noticeboard at the back of the hall; it had also been on the Andover u3a website since 30th April. The auditor made no observations on the account that required attention. Some of the more important points relating to the account are highlighted below. For clarity, the figures have been rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Income from subscriptions and gift aid was £4915. This is a small increase in the net figure of £31, however it is an overall reduction compared to last year of £623. This is because no gift aid had yet been paid to us by HMRC. This is an issue that affects all u3a branches. TAT are dealing with this issue on our behalf, but it has yet to be resolved whether gift aid will be paid on membership subscriptions. This would be kept under review. However, notwithstanding this issue, it was important that members who are taxpayers continued to complete the gift aid form with their membership renewal. Gift aid forms needed to be completed every year, as financial circumstances may have changed.

The Jean Owens memorial fund started the year at £688 and this year we have spent £64 on a croquet trolley and cribbage boards; this left a balance of £624. Any group that needed a grant towards equipment, should apply to the committee stating the requirement and cost of the equipment. The Jean Owen's fund was ring fenced for capital items only.

Our other major expenses were:

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| Administration | - £ 670 |
| Monthly meetings including hall hire | - £1561 |

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| Third Age Trust capitation fee | - £1748 (446 members) |
| Newsletters | - £ 375 |
| Website | - £ 137 |
| Miscellaneous | - £233 |

Therefore, overall account showed that we had an excess of income over expenditure of £870. However, the Hall Hire for 2024/2025 had not yet been paid as no demand for payment had been received. This cost of hall hire was estimated to be some £540.

Once again, this year, extensive use had been made of the events account. Apart from it being a directive from the Charity Commission, its use provided a financial safeguard for all event organisers. In the last year the events account had seen an income of £25426 and expenditure of £27144. It should be clear to everyone why its use was important.

In future we would face the following increases:

Capitation to head office is £4 per member wef 31st March 2025.
Second class postage increased to 87p from 1st April 2025.
Speaker costs at monthly meetings were likely to increase further.

In summary the account is sound, and we hold sufficient financial reserves. No increase in fees was required at the present time, although the situation would continue to be closely monitored. Every effort has been made to cut down on unnecessary expenditure, particularly postage.

6. Election of New Committee Members:

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| Vice Chair: | No Nomination |
| Membership Secretary: | David James |

Proposed by: David Gollings. Seconded by: Richard Selley

7. Re-election of Committee Members:

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| Chair: | David Gollings |
| Treasurer: | Paul Hardy |
| Secretary: | Richard Selley |
| Groups Coordinator | Melenie MacKay |
| Newsletter Editor: | Chris Ward |
| Webmaster: | John Pickford |
| Member: | Ruth Gollings |
| Member: | Dorothy Connor |

Proposed by: Richard Selley Seconded by Robert Awde.

8. Re-election of Auditor:

John Reid.

Proposed by: Richard Selley. Seconded by: David Gollings.

10. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

11. Date of Next (30th) AGM.

The 30th AGM will be held on 19th May 2026 at the Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 1400 hours.

The AGM ended at 1425 hrs.

Signed:

Dated: