

MINUTES OF THE 30th ANDOVER U3A AGM Held at The Fairground Hall, Weyhill at 2pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were 10 Apologies for Absence. The secretary counted the attendees at the meeting (74) confirming that there were significantly more than the minimum number (43) required to constitute a quorum (10% of our membership of 438: as at 31-March-2026).
2. **Minutes of the 29th AGM held on Tuesday 20th May 2025.** 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, everyone and a very warm welcome to a very significant and special 30th anniversary AGM. I am pleased to advise you that all your committee are seeking re-election this afternoon, except for the Vice Chair post, which remains vacant, with no nomination prior to this AGM.

On the assumption that you re-elect the committee today, Andover u3a will face a significant issue at our next AGM in May 2027. Our current constitution states that the Chair and the 2 Committee members without a specific portfolio, are restricted to a maximum term of 4 years. In May 2027, myself, together with Dorothy Connor, and Ruth Gollings, are all required to retire. If we include the vacant Vice Chair post, that means that we will have 4 vacancies to fill on the committee next year.

More importantly, without a Chair, Andover u3a will be unable to function, and I must now serve notice on the membership, that unless the position is filled in May 2027, there is a significant risk that your u3a may be dissolved. It really is that serious.

On the assumption, that I am re-elected today, your committee will try and identify a suitable candidate to fulfil the role of Chair. It will be a nd the vacant Committee position will be priority to co-opt a Chair Elect (as opposed to a Vice Chair).

My sincere thanks to my committee who have fulfilled their individual responsibilities implacably. Without their commitment, Andover u3a would not be able to function, and I personally thank them for supporting me with some of the difficult decisions we have had to make this year.

Our Finances are in a reasonable position at the end of this financial year, and we will be able to maintain our renewal fee at £11, as our reserves equate to 75% of our annual expenditure, the benchmark we use to evaluate whether a fee increase is necessary.

Following changes imposed on us by Lloyd's Banking Group, last Autumn, we were left with no option other than to charge members an additional 50p in respect of cheques payable to Andover u3a. From January 2027, we will no longer accept cheques. Members who normally use a cheque for payment are reminded that they can make a BACS transfer to us at their bank.

Paul Hardy, our treasurer will give further background to our finances in his report.

Membership numbers have seen a steady increase over the past year and we now have over 430 members, before the renewal process began in April.

Our new 5-minute talks by Group Leaders at the start of our monthly meetings, have proved to be a popular method of promoting the 31 groups. This has shown the variety of subjects and activities that are available to participate in. These talks are particularly directed towards new members, but existing members may also find a new interest group to join, all for the modest membership fee of £11. Please look around the displays after the meeting, especially the Art and Photography groups, whose talents never cease to amaze me.

Attendance at our monthly meetings has continued to increase, and at both the March and April talks we had over 90 attendees, this surpassed our Christmas meeting where attendance was around 80. As speaker's secretary I have tried to identify topics of interest to appeal to all the membership and we hope you have enjoyed the variety.

Earlier this year we were served notice to vacate the Fairground Hall by December. We have therefore had to identify an alternative venue. After an extensive search for a new venue, Upper Clatford Village Hall (also known as The King Edward VII Memorial Hall) has been selected as the only realistic alternative. We will relocate there from our next meeting in June. This venue was the only option that could accommodate 120 people seated, had a fully equipped kitchen, adequate parking and was realistically priced; there were no other viable options.

Further details about the Clatford Village Hall will be sent to all members with the circular email, immediately before the June meeting. Your Committee and I are always available to discuss any issues relating to your membership, please contact us if you need any assistance. Assuming that I am re-elected, I look forward to delivering my final report next year, and truly hope by that time we have a full committee and in particular a Chair Elect ready to take over from me

5. Treasurer's Report.

Pual Hardy read his Treasurer's Report:

The account was successfully audited on 20th April 2026, and a copy of the auditor's report has been posted on the notice board at the back of the hall. It had also been on the Andover u3a website since 21st April 2026. The auditor made no observations on the account that required attention.

To the nearest whole pound, income from subscriptions and gift aid was £6391. Within this, there was a slight fall in income of £128 on subscriptions. Gift Aid is very important to us as a charity, and we can claim 25p in the pound on all donations made from you, our members, so it is very important that if you are still a taxpayer, please complete a Gift Aid form at renewal time that we can use that to claim Gift Aid. Please note that a new form needs to be completed by you, each financial year.

Over £14,000 was taken in income to the Events account and with an expenditure of nearly £11,000 it is vitally important to ensure that when you pay to go on an event that firstly you use the right bank account (we have several) and secondly you put the correct banking reference on the transaction (as given to you by the group organiser). A lot of my time is spent matching payments with events.

A reminder that if any group needs a grant towards equipment, you should apply to the committee for funds from the Jean Owen Memorial Fund, stating your requirement and the cost of the equipment. The current balance of this fund is just over £589.

There will be lots of future cost increases: New hall hire - starting next month at Upper Clatford; Speakers' costs; Postage; Capitation payment to TAT of £4.20 per member and as from late last year we are now charged to use our accounts for depositing cheques and cash (please send cash to me and I will deposit it in bulk). As our chairman has already said the extra charge for

using cheques (50p) must unfortunately be passed on to our members. On a positive end, our accounts are healthy and we hold sufficient financial reserves to meet the Charity Commissions criteria. Therefore, I'm pleased to say that no increase in membership fees is required at the present time.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions concerning the account. There were no questions from the floor to the Treasurer.

6. Election of New Committee Members:

Vice Chair: No Nomination

7. Re-election of Committee Members:

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

Proposed by: Peter Villalard Seconded by Su Macnamara

8. Re-election of Auditor: John Reid.

Proposed by: Su Macnamara Seconded by: Alison Milbourne

10. Any Other Business. There was no other business.

11. Date of Next (31st) AGM. The 31st AGM will be held on Tuesday 18th May 2027 at The King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Village Street, Upper Clatford at 1400 hours.

The AGM ended at 1435 hrs.

Signed:

Dated: