

Winchester  
February 2026

u3a learn,  
laugh,  
live



# WELCOME to the **Winchester u3a newsletter**

It's been a busy early January for the newsletter editor. In addition to asking for contributions, setting them out on the page



and then proof-reading the result, with my treasurer's hat on there's been the year-end accounts work, and that involves asking all the group leaders for information.

Fortunately, not only did you, the readers, come up with some really interesting articles for the newsletter, but all the group leaders I managed to contact sent me the information requested. It didn't help that initially I used old contact details for three of them; it's so often the case that once data gets on a computer, it's very easy to forget to refresh it.

I must make sure my spreadsheets are up-to-date! A New Year's resolution, perhaps? Have you made any? You might think about joining a group. Maybe you could form a new group yourself, if you're happy to share your expertise in a subject with other interested members. Sir Isaac Newton was said to have been the last person to know everything there was to know at the time. These days there's so much more information available that it's probably impossible to know everything about anything. Unless of course you're a very big computer called Google. Enjoy your newsletter! *Vernon Tottle*

## Winchester u3a Committee 2025/6

Chairman	Ann Edwards
<a href="mailto:chairman@winchesteru3a.co.uk">chairman@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Vice-Chairman	Jean Crispin
<a href="mailto:vicechair@winchesteru3a.co.uk">vicechair@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Secretary	Julia Allison
<a href="mailto:secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk">secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Treasurer	Vernon Tottle
<a href="mailto:treasurer@winchesteru3a.co.uk">treasurer@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Members Secretary	Marion Schiesser
<a href="mailto:membersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk">membersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Groups Secretary	John Craig
<a href="mailto:groupsec@winchesteru3a.co.uk">groupsec@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Webmaster	Mike Holt
<a href="mailto:webmaster@winchesteru3a.co.uk">webmaster@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Speakers Team	Nicola Giles
<a href="mailto:speakersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk">speakersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Vernon Tottle
<a href="mailto:u3aletter@gmail.com">u3aletter@gmail.com</a>	

Members without portfolio:

Sian Rolls, Chris Giles, Mark Brown  
Contact via link on website

Please note: The public version of this newsletter has been redacted to remove members' personal contact details such as email addresses and telephone numbers. If you wish to get in contact with anyone as a result of reading an article, please use the contact links provided on the groups page. [www.winchesteru3a.co.uk](http://www.winchesteru3a.co.uk)

**Cover photo** - Vernon Tottle

## Chairman's letter

I do hope you were all able to enjoy some quality communal time with your families at Christmas. It is interesting how this traditional festival continues to provide a much-needed spiritual uplift for so many people.

As you know, every u3a is run by its members for its members, all of whom are volunteers, and I would sincerely like to thank our group leaders and convenors for fulfilling a vitally important role in this regard.



However, it has recently become clear that the waiting list strategy for engendering new groups is not working. Please could anyone who wants to join a specific group (but who hasn't contacted the group leader because they think it is full), email John Craig with the details at [groupsec@winchesteru3a.co.uk](mailto:groupsec@winchesteru3a.co.uk). This should make it easier for the Committee to begin to support the formation of new groups more effectively.


Joining the committee is another really good way for our newer members who have recently retired to meet more people as well as to engage and interact more fully with the wider Winchester u3a community. I personally believe that teams, rather than individuals, are the driving force behind most organizational achievements and that maintaining a healthy balance of younger and older, more experienced trustees could be invaluable in helping our u3a to thrive and flourish. If you are interested in joining the 2026-2027 Committee or if you want to nominate someone else, forms can now be downloaded from our website. Completed forms should be emailed to Julia at [secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk](mailto:secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk) and received by 24 February.

Looking ahead to the rest of this year, I would particularly like to thank Nicola for booking so many interesting talks on such a wide variety of topics. Please note that as Littleton Hall is being redecorated in August and we have been unable to find a suitable alternative venue, there will be no u3a meeting that month.

Finally, I should mention that I have asked Jean to contact all group leaders or convenors during the next few weeks or so to ask if their group would like to contribute towards a Winchester u3a celebration at our meeting in December. It could be an art or craft display, a song or a short presentation of some kind and we hope many groups will want to participate.


Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable 2026,

*Ann*



## May 2026 edition of the newsletter

Any contributions please to [u3aletter@gmail.com](mailto:u3aletter@gmail.com) by Saturday 11 April.  
Photos to accompany the text are always welcome.



**Our website** can be found at “[www.winchesteru3a.co.uk](http://www.winchesteru3a.co.uk)

Almost all the information there is freely available, but in order to access the phone numbers of Group Leaders, the password is

Please let us know by emailing [webmaster@winchesteru3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@winchesteru3a.co.uk) if you experience difficulties, have suggestions or need help using our website.



## New members

We welcome the following new members from

Winchester: Felicity Calderari, Elizabeth and Robert Danks, Andrea Davies, Louisa Dubery, Stephen Elliott, Fiona Garrod, Anne Jasper, John Kind, Venetia Maltby, Sue O'Connell, Derek Palmer, Margaret Parker, Andrew Smith, Jo and Hywel Thomas, Martin Webb

Basingstoke: Barry Hedger. North Waltham: Jan and George Hayter

Ropley: Mary and Ray Panter. Crawley: Sonja Thomas-Wellfare

Chandler's Ford: Geoffrey Wride. Upham: Keith Evans

Cambridge: Vesna Andjelic

*Marion Schiesser*



## Forthcoming talks

Monthly talks at Littleton Memorial Hall, second Tuesday of each month.

Doors open at 1.40pm for 2.00pm start. Tea/coffee and biscuits after the talk.

**Tuesday 10th February** Beyond Beliefs: One Family's Incredible Story by Sohail Husain. Sohail is a local author; on retirement he embarked on research into his family history leading to publication of his memoir *Beyond Beliefs*. He will talk about his amazing journey of discovery that revealed the extraordinary story of his German Jewish mother and Indian Muslim father, and how their own and their parents' lives were impacted by momentous events of the 20th century, most notably the Partition of India and the Holocaust.

It is an unbelievable tale that spans continents and cultures, exposing the horrific consequences of war and violent extremism, and the struggles faced by refugees and immigrants. But it is also a testament to how “love and the indomitable human spirit can overcome tragedy and adversity”.

A well-timed love story for the up-and-coming Valentine's Day.

**Tuesday 10th March** Talk plus AGM (a chance to make your voice heard). A Solo Walk Across Africa by Fran Sandham. Fran is a very experienced lecturer, a former Rough Guides editor, and the author of the critically acclaimed non-fiction book 'Traversa: A solo walk across Africa'. The idea of crossing Africa on foot seemed firmly established in many people's minds as some exceptionally difficult feat. And yet, had anyone actually done it? Fran decided to walk every step of the way from one coast of Africa to the other, completely alone: no backup, no support team, no one to make arrangements for him, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no funding, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds and no strings attached. Above all he had a one way-ticket: no safety nets. He walked across Africa solo from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, a 3,000 mile trek taking nearly a year.

The emphasis is on SOLO; he was unaccompanied in this mighty odyssey.

**Tuesday 14th April** Billy The Kid and Other Bad Eggs by Trevor Rutter of Chandler's Ford u3a, a retired Chartered Surveyor and tour guide to the battlefield of Waterloo for 10 years.

This promises to be an amusing rant against the glorification of crime, featuring ne'er-do-wells, such as Dick Turpin, Al Capone, The Great Train Robbers, Ned Kelly and others!

I hope there is something to appeal to everyone.

*Nicola Giles* (Speakers Secretary)

## Monthly talk reports

### High Flying with Phil Dott

October 2025

How do all of those large aeroplanes that we see flying above us come down and always land safely?

Phil Holt was our guest, and spoke to us of his past role as an Air Traffic Controller. Such operators are now a necessity at every airport and need to be trained very thoroughly (only 2% of

all job applicants succeed) – and must always stay calm! A quick Foster Brooks comedy film showed us how NOT to fly an aeroplane!

Phil's talk explained how the two World Wars had accelerated both the speed and size of aeroplanes. Radar appeared, and could be used to secure accurate navigation. Directly spoken messages to fighter pilots improved to



supersede the use of Morse Code.

The growth of civilian aeroplane flights continued during the 40s and 50s, and became a large problem (tourist flights were popular). Heathrow Airport had to handle 30 landings per day in the early 1950s. This has now increased to a total of 3,500 daily arrivals around London.

This led to the necessity for trained “airport controllers” operating software to avoid accidents, and just to organise the traffic of landing and departing planes.

The “airport controllers” guide approaching aeroplanes into a circulating but descending “queue”, as they await for their turn to land.

Once landed, “ground controllers” provide pilots with instructions to cross runways, and guide them to their “parking patch” alongside a terminal.

Phil asked us to imagine this as a giant juggling act. “All controllers are humans,” he said, “and definitely have to have a good sense of humour!”

[www.highflyingtalks.co.uk](http://www.highflyingtalks.co.uk) Chris Giles



## **The World’s Natural Wonders with Dr Mike and Hilary Holt,**

November 2025

Wowza, what a truly amazing presentation.

We experienced such an eclectic range of topics, supported by not only Mike’s narrative but also some unbelievable videos and camera stills; all to die for.

Within the epic journey, Mike also gave in-depth explanations of tectonic plate movements and how they created our wonderful world.

The term that comes to mind, from my university lectures, is “Uniformitarianism; the present is the key to the past”, as extolled by Charles Lyell.

We were given such magnificent sights such as:

Mountains: The Canadian Rockies, with both their majesty and grandeur.

A helicopter ride at Zermatt, around the amazing Matterhorn.

Deserts: Ayres Rock in Australia, the highest monolithic natural structure in the middle of flat plains over 1,000ft high.

The Colorado Plateau, with its spectacular pinnacles and pink cliffs, particularly Bryce Canyon.

Volcanoes: The Canary Islands, Santorini, Iceland and Yellowstone (which is a super volcano).

Rain Forests: Queensland, with a most



aggressive bird, the cassowary.

Southern Thailand, a floating hotel and awakened by the dawn calls of screaming gibbons.

Coral Reefs: Hawaii and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, snorkelling and capturing the flora and fauna that inhabit such places.

I've missed out lots and not given justice to all that was presented; such little space.

Mike and Hilary have a website which documents a lot of their travels:

[www.wessexav.co.uk](http://www.wessexav.co.uk)

Enjoy your browsing.

*Chris Giles*

## Christmas Festivities December 2025

Christmas Cheer. Our festive

Christmas event was certainly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Unfortunately, some were absent due to colds and other ailments. Very well done to our duo of compères, Jean and Vernon, who provided a seamless and professional presentation.

We began with a singalong of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and

Vernon's favourite "The Court of King Caractacus". There was a list of Christmas oriented anagrams (some of which were quite tricky), followed by Santa's Sleigh – in which 15 festive objects were displayed on the screen for 15 seconds. Teams had to write down all the ones they could remember.

Each table then teamed up to answer the quiz which included 40 Christmas-oriented general knowledge questions, thus bonding folks and giving members a chance to chat to people they had not met before.



Refreshments of tea, coffee, mince pies and chocolate rolls were served to the tables afterwards by the Wine Tasting 2 group; all were much enjoyed and gratefully received. A very big thank you to the production team!

*Nicola and Chris Giles*

## News from groups

### Stage and Screen Outings

Our winter programme is featuring visits to the arts screenings at the Everyman Cinema and the Theatre Royal Winchester. We saw in the recent news that the Everyman Cinema chain had issued a profits warning and their CEO has resigned, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that Winchester retains its cinema. We really value seeing top class productions from London and New York without leaving town! You also benefit from behind-the-scenes interviews with stars and production staff that help you have a deeper understanding of what you are seeing.

This is our current schedule for the Theatre Royal Winchester:

Thursday 5 February 7pm Hamlet: A National Theatre Live film production starring Hiran Abeysekeva in the title role.

Sunday 15 February 7.30pm Woolf Works: A Royal Ballet production from Covent Garden that features a collage of themes from the writings of Virginia Woolf, including Mrs Dalloway, Orlando and The Waves. Choreographed by Wayne McGregor.

Saturday 25 April 1.30pm Mozart's The Magic Flute: Another choice that is proving popular.

Potential visits are also being planned to see live shows at The Mayflower, Southampton:

7-11 April Top Hat and 15-18 April Don Quixote: Birmingham Royal Ballet directed by Carlos Acosta.

We meet in the foyer before the performance and enjoy having a chat in the interval. A sociable way to get your cultural fix!

*Jean Crispin*



### Art Explorers Group

We are a small, friendly group with an interest in Art. We visit mainly local exhibitions; venues include Pallant House in Chichester, Russell Coates Gallery in Bournemouth, Mottisfont Abbey and Salisbury Museum and Gallery to name a few. We are looking forward to Southampton City Art Gallery reopening in March.

Artists we explored this year were Andy Warhol, Elizabeth Frink, the Morris family and a number of British artists at the Pallant House exhibition

“Portraits of Artists, Looking at each other”. We have also enjoyed visits to Roche Court Sculpture Park. We are looking forward to some interesting exhibitions in 2026, including William Nicholson at Pallant House, and Kurt Jackson at St Barbe Gallery, Lymington.

We currently have 13 members, including five members who have joined in the past two years. As well as visits to exhibitions, we enjoy a Christmas meal together, and two of our members are happy to give talks to the group.

*Jacky Little*



**Wine Appreciation 3** is looking for a few more members. We tend to meet late afternoon and evening at members’ homes, usually on a Thursday. At the moment a sitting is around half a dozen people and half a dozen wines to taste, though not necessarily consume fully. We keep arrangements simple with the host providing a few suitable snacks and water for in between tastings, and costs of wines simply being split informally as necessary.

We would be pleased to accommodate more members as the bottles we have can easily be spread to more people. The only real constraint is space as we meet in people’s homes. A group of 10 would be good and from that attendance might sit around 8 at a session, given that not everyone can attend every time. We have met outdoors a couple of times in the better weather so that might ease if there would otherwise be a squeeze.



Tastings can range from grape variety to countries of origin to styles and onto wines that members might enjoy to present to others as they are their own favourites. The January tasting was thematic on the subject of the role of wine in revolution. Whatever we do it is for light-hearted education in the spirit of u3a.

*Harry Mycock*

**The cycling group** has ridden three times this Autumn. Peter Toone led a ride in October in very kind weather; starting in Micheldever the four members rode north to Whitchurch and then back down the Test valley for a pleasant lunch at the Swan in Barton Stacey, before returning via Stoke Charity.



In November, Julian McCarthy led the group in pretty wintry and slippery conditions on a ride from Littleton to Kings Somborne and back via Ashley and Farley Mount, finishing at the Cadence Clubhouse (ex Handlebar Cafe) on Garnier Road for a most welcome toasted sandwich and coffee.



The foul weather in December briefly interrupted itself for a splendid day's ride led by Georgiana Hibberd from Alresford to Bighton, Upper Wield, Four Marks and Ropley, returning to Alresford for convivial refreshments at the Horse and Groom.

As you may be able to see from the photos, nearly all riders now have electric bikes which makes facing our local hills a little less daunting.  
*Roger Bridport*

### Poetry 3

We started the new year with a most enjoyable meeting, but we'd still like more members.

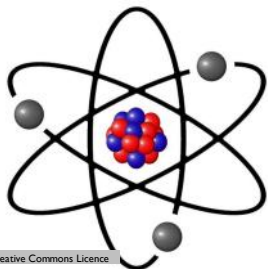
Could reading or writing poetry be something new you'd like to try? It's never too late:

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending  
that always seems about to give in  
something that will not acknowledge conclusion  
insists that we forever begin.

*Brendan Kennelly – Begin*

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, 10.30 a.m. at Winchester Heights Care Home, Stockbridge Road, Winchester (opposite Waitrose). For more information email

*Janet Loverseed*



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## **The Science and Technology Discussion Group**

At present we have eleven members and meet in each other's homes during the afternoon of the second Monday of the month. As the average attendance is about eight members, we would welcome possibly three new Members to join the group. We take turns to present a topic for

discussion about something of interest in the press/magazines, or a research topic such as nuclear fusion, climate change, flood management, the expanding universe.

Occasionally we have a meeting involving short talks about miscellaneous topics. These are easy to develop, usually generate lots of discussion and provide members confidence in presenting full-length talks; the most recent shorts covered the Rogun Dam under construction in Tajikistan, Battery Developments in the UK, an introduction to Quantum Computing and an introduction to Technologies for detecting illegal migrants in lorries and ship containers. Visits have also been arranged to places of interest such as the Signals Museum at Blandford Forum and the Army Flying Museum.

Full talks planned this year include:

Monday 9 February: Stepper Motors

Monday 9 March: Quantum Computing

Monday 13 April: Alzheimer's

Monday 11 May: Detecting Illegal migrants inside HGVs

Monday 8 June: Coastal Management/Engineering

Monday 13 July: Bridge Disasters

Recent talks have included one on St Helen's Tower, a 55-year-old, 24-storey, 118m high office block built in the City of London. It was constructed using a reinforced concrete central core for lifts and services and the outer steel structure built from the top downwards (with a view to later demolition). The current owners are proposing to build a 74-storey tower which will be the same height as the Shard and known as Undershaft. Demolition has started by removing the outer steelwork from ground level up. Problems to be addressed prior to the new building include the view of St Paul's Cathedral, wind effects, archaeological remains and underground rivers.

Another member talked about Thiophene, an organic chemical which is widely used in everything from nuclear processing, electrochromic displays, denaturation of alcohol, pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals to food flavouring. Traditionally thiophene was extracted from coal tar together with benzene but, as demand grew, it has been made synthetically, initially in the UK and France and, following the closure of the UK site, now in China. A more technical talk was given on the Expanding Universe, discussing both Dark Energy and Dark Matter.

*Janusz Adamson*

### **Walking through “Hidden” Winchester**

The u3a Walking Group 3 is aiming to organise ten or eleven walks for 2026. Most of these will be between 4 and 5 miles long, and designed for a half-day walk. But not all of them will be through the countryside.

This is why eleven walkers faced off Storm Goretti on 9th January (no rain fell on us!), and travelled for three miles through some of Winchester's “forgotten” paths: those parts of the city that most of us have heard of, but may have never had the time to walk past.

Where did the alleyways lead? Did you know that Oram’s Arbour leads to a marvellous view from North View? We walked across the large West Hill Cemetery. Also, a chance to view some of those lengths of the very grand houses along Clifton Road and Christchurch Road. We entered the Peninsula Barracks by the “back door” pathway. These were



just some of many sights that we passed during the morning.

Later this year, we shall try to follow a few longer “8” routes i.e. a circular walk in the morning (as usual), but with a few extra miles (from the same starting point) for those who fancy continuing further after lunch.

Please contact me if you would like see our list of monthly walks, or would like to “try us out.”

*Mark Brown*

### **Retread Walkers visit the Island**

The newsletter has received a comprehensive report on the October 2025

holiday enjoyed by many members on the Isle of Wight. Alas, it is too long to print here but it can be read in full on the Winchester u3a website.

As a taster, here is day one's diary:

Monday 13th

We caught the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry and all arrived safely at Warner's Norton Grange and discovered our various chalet numbers for the week. Some of us took the opportunity to visit Yarmouth Castle and explore the surrounding area as we were not allowed into our chalets until 3 p.m. The Tudor castle was built in 1545 and was the final one built by Henry VIII to defend us from French invasion. The castle remained in service for 350 years and Yarmouth's 700ft pier is the longest timber pier in England. Some lucky walkers saw the daily parade of two swans through the town's streets. We met up in the bar that evening at 6pm before dinner so Tony could tell us the route for tomorrow's walk, and bus times and numbers if shorter walks were required. Disappointingly, the Number 7 bus that usually stopped at Norton Grange had a change of route because of road closures so this meant everyone had to walk the half mile to Norton Grange from Yarmouth. At this first meeting, we arranged to sit in a large circle and took it in turns to introduce ourselves. It was then 7pm, time to visit the restaurant and enjoy the excellent choice of food that continued throughout the week.

*Tony Westlake*



## Apple Mac User Group

*"I changed my phone recently, and I thought I had ordered exactly the same kind, but it's not. I'd just managed to get on top of the old one, and now that's broken. My kids say 'It's OK - just swipe it, Dad!' But what does that mean? The mystery drives me insane. I don't understand why they give you a phone and no instructions. You're just thrown ill-equipped into the world of technology to fend for yourself".* Billy Connolly.

Are you the proud owner of a new, or an older much-loved Apple iPhone, iPad, laptop or desktop computer? Does it sometimes mystify, frustrate or defeat you? Such wonderful devices - but only if you understand them.

The u3a Applemac group is a friendly gathering of members who own Apple devices, and we all benefit from support from each other and from a knowledgeable "Apple" expert. We meet once a month for ten months of the year, but our expert is available by telephone any time. We have large



enough accommodation at our meetings to welcome more members, so why not try us? Even if you have owned an iPhone, iPad or Mac computer/laptop for some time, and think you know how to do as much as you want with them, do you know how much more they can do? Alternatively, some of our members are only just beginning to explore their devices, so could you help them along the way?

The Applemac group has recently made a number of changes. We took on board some concerns about the computer side of the group being irrelevant to the owners of just iPhones and iPads. We want to support the needs of all our members at the same time, so we now have two short illustrated presentations each month instead of one longer one, ensuring there is always something for everyone, no matter your level of understanding.

The operating systems for the latest iPhones and iPads, computers & laptops are all growing more similar to each other every year, making it far easier to plan our presentations to cover everyone all of the time. In addition there is now much more time set aside for members to circulate, bring their own problems to our expert, and exchange tips with fellow members. We all get to know and help each other much more.

The meetings are on the fourth Tuesday morning of the month (January to July and September to November) in Littleton Hall. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me.

*Gill Goodwin*

## Proposals for new groups

### Bird Watching

I wondered about starting a birdwatching group. The local bird societies (RSPB, HOS) have walks, but they tend to get huge numbers, which I don't like. I would prefer a maximum of 8 people. I have been birdwatching for years, but am not a great expert. Do you think it would work? I could certainly take people to good places to see birds.



Contact me

*Charlotte Farmer*

### Music Appreciation

Meeting once a month for a couple of hours in a group member's home, we would listen to recorded music, discuss our musical passions and drink tea or coffee with like-minded people.

The proposal is based on a similar group to which I belong in Andover u3a.

There, we have listened to most types of music, with the general exception of classical as many pieces would take up too much of a session, although exceptions can be made! We also try and avoid 'top20', rap, grunge, etc, for the sake of our mental health!

Apologies to aficionados of these genres.

We pick a topic for the following month at the end of each session to give members a chance to think of pieces to play. Topics have included:

Christmas-themed music, Artists



olderadults.co.uk

who died young, Multiple versions of the same piece, Artists we've seen live and Artists we wish we'd seen.

We also have the occasional themed session when a member will present on a specific topic, such as a genre (Blues, Jazz, Southern Rock, etc) or artist (so many to choose from)!

We create a Spotify playlist for each session to distribute to members.

Basically (just about) anything goes. There are a number of artists and songs I'd not heard before so this can be a great learning experience too.

Anyone interested can contact me

*Mike Deverell*

## News from outside Winchester u3a

### Backgammon

The group is growing nicely, now up to 13 members. New ones always welcome, so if there's anyone interested, let me know. Our backgammon group meets at the Dovetail Cafe, Chandlers Ford every Friday from 10 to 12. Participants from other u3a groups are always welcome.

*Trevor Rutter*



### Handy Hints for Winchester u3a members

Real Christmas trees are great. They look good, they smell good and, with luck, they're just the right size for hanging all those ornaments you've collected over the years.

When the season is over, the council kindly collects your tree from the kerbside - but you've got to get it there first. And that's when all the needles decide to drop over the carpet in a continuous neat trail from sitting room to front door where the branches have rubbed against door frames and furniture. But no longer! I do get a pile of needles but only where the tree has been standing. I cut all the branches off with the tree in situ, moving them carefully, a couple at a time, through the house. The spindly trunk can then be hauled out of the house without any further needle shedding. Magic!

*Vernon Tottle*



## **This year's AGM information**

Feel free to bring this section with you, either electronically or printed out. The pages will be also displayed on the screen.

## **2026 Annual General Meeting of Winchester u3a**

Littleton Memorial Hall

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 2.00 pm

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 11th March 2025
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Vote on the adoption of the new Winchester u3a Constitution
7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
  - Appoint an Independent Examiner for the coming year
8. Election of Committee for 2026-2027
9. Any other business
10. Date of next AGM – Tuesday 9th March 2027

*Julia Allison*

*Secretary, Winchester u3a*



## **Minutes of 2025 Winchester u3a Annual General Meeting**

Littleton Memorial Hall 2pm 11th March 2025

1. WELCOME: Joan Sherrin, Chairman, welcomed 87 members to the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES: Christopher Giles, Myrtle Trumper, Jennifer Smith, David Smith, Mary Powell, Julian McCarthy, John Howard, Chris Stevens, Maureen Osborne

### 3. . Minutes Of Annual General Meeting Held On 12th March 2024:

These were accepted.

### 4. Matters Arising From The Minutes:

#### Review of Trial on Timing of Monthly Talks

A show of hands indicated the following:

1. Doors open 1.30pm/Starting Time 2pm -- 47

2. Doors open 2pm/Starting Time 2.30pm -- 6

3. Winter Time (October - March) -- 14

Doors open 1.30pm/Starting Time 2pm

Summer Time (April - September)

Doors open 2pm/Starting Time 2.30pm

Members will be notified when the new timing will take effect.

### 5. Retiring Chairman's Address: :

Joan noted that the AGM marks the end of our 35th year. She thanked members for all the ways that they support our local u3a and encouraged each to take advantage of the many opportunities offered.

Joan thanked the current Committee for their efforts over the past year and encouraged all members to support the work of the new Committee, especially as it will involve the adoption of a new Constitution.

Finally, Joan expressed her enjoyment of meeting so many u3a members during her two years as Chairman and wished everyone well.

### 6. Treasurer's Report And Accounts:

The accounts have been approved by David Smith, Independent Examiner. He has agreed to examine next year's accounts.

### 7. Approval of Committee for 2025 - 2026

The following are happy to continue on the Committee:

John Craig

Ann Edwards

Christopher Giles

Nicola Giles

Mike Holt

Sian Rolls

Marion Schiesser

Vernon Tottle

Members gave their approval by a show of hands.

The following wish to be appointed to the Committee:

Julia Allison

Jean Crispin

All were given approval by members in a show of hands.

Ann Edwards was appointed as Chairman for the next year.

Jean Crispin was appointed as Vice-Chairman for the next year.

All other roles will be decided at the next committee meeting by the new Committee.

8. Any Other Business :

None

Joan then declared the formal meeting closed at 2.15pm and the afternoon continued with the usual monthly talk.

Next AGM: 10th March 2026 at Littleton Memorial Hall

*Susan Shannon*

*Secretary*

## **Accounts for the year to 31 December 2025**

These accounts have been independently examined, just in time for the newsletter!

The figures show that Winchester u3a continues to control its finances with a view to breaking even in a typical year. The number of members decreased in 2025, meaning less subscription income but, consequently, the per-capita levy by National Office and the newsletter costs also fell slightly.

*Vernon Tottle, Treasurer*



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**WINCHESTER U3A - a registered charity No. 1026342**

**SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Subscriptions net of refunds	9,410.09	9,520.09
Gift Aid Refund	1,803.79	1,817.75
Interest and other income	196.74	205.01
	<u>11,410.62</u>	<u>11,542.85</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Meeting costs	1,986.70	2,093.75
Newsletter printing and postage	3,013.04	3,032.57
Third Age Trust - Annual capitation fees	4,424.00	4,500.00
Third Age Trust -Magazines	2,013.08	2,010.20
35th Anniversary costs		1,204.40
Other costs	196.72	445.87
	<u>11,633.54</u>	<u>13,286.79</u>
<b>Interest group activities</b>		
Income	8,327.08	6,309.51
Expenditure	<u>-8,151.29</u>	<u>-7,240.34</u>
	175.79	-930.83
<b>(Deficit) Surplus for year</b>	<u>-47.13</u>	<u>-2,674.77</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2025**

Balance brought forward from previous year	19,748.50	22,423.27
(Deficit) surplus for year	-47.13	-2,674.77
	<u>19,701.37</u>	<u>19,748.50</u>
represented by:		
Payments in Advance	881.10	1,074.00
Bank balances	17,333.64	17,433.63
Cash held by groups	1,486.63	1,240.87
Creditor		
	<u>19,701.37</u>	<u>19,748.50</u>

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

The Winchester U3A is a Registered Charity No. 1026342  
Registered address: Hazeldene, Ithen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BE

Trustees at 31 December 2025

Mrs A Edwards	Chairman
Mrs J Crispin	Vice Chairman
Mrs J Allison	Secretary
Mr M Holt	Webmaster
Mr J Craig	Groups Co-ordinator
Mrs M Schiesser	Membership Secretary
Mr V Tottle	Treasurer
Mrs N Giles	Speakers
Mr C Giles	

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO TRUSTEES OF WINCHESTER U3A**

In my opinion the summarised accounts set out on this page are consistent with the full annual accounts, which I have examined.



David Smith Independent Examiner

Please do make every effort to come along to the AGM this year. We need as many members as possible to turn up so we have a quorum to vote on the adoption of our new, recommended constitution.

**Littleton Hall, 2pm Tuesday 10 March**