



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – Monday 13 April 2026  
2.00 p.m.  
Liphook Millennium Centre

The Chair, Andy Earwaker, opened the meeting and welcomed those attending members.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Maggie Morgan, Mary Carter, Chris Earwaker, Susan Bradford, Tricia Butchard, Rod Hursthouse, Pamela Robson, Diana Peat, Rosemary Herbert, Carolyn Williamson, Colin Brash and Caroline Lemka

**2. Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2025 AGM held on 5 April 2025, which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Pauline Murdoch and seconded by Anita Harkus.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last AGM minutes.

**3. Chair's Annual Report**

Much to my surprise I have arrived at the end of my first year as Chair and therefore have completed a third of my tenure. Sadly, during this time two members of our committee have passed away, and I must pay tribute to the considerable contributions made by Bill Simpson and Clive Evenden both in terms of the Committee and Group Leadership. Their commitment and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Going forward, my initial focus has been (1) to seek to grow the membership; (2) to improve communications and (3) to ensure that the Trustees and Group Leaders have the support and tools that they need to operate effectively. I must stress this all work in progress, and I am sure there are things that still need to be done but there have, I think, been some early achievements: -

**Membership**

My understanding is that membership fell dramatically following Covid but continues to recover. We now have consistently over 500 members, and I would like to see this rise further by the time I leave. A number of steps have been taken to secure the flow of new members and retain existing ones:

- a) increased the number of Open Events to two a year and expanded our pre-event publicity accordingly.
- b) introduced a temporary recruitment initiative on speaker event payments.

- c) established, and are developing, a small Member Support Team (that is a small team, not a team for small members!) to help new members settle in. My thanks go to Peggy, Angela and Rosemary for volunteering to take that forward.
- d) fees have been set and retained at a level which remains amongst the lowest of neighbouring u3a's
- e) introduced a card payment facility which has greatly assisted the collection of fees and charges.

Lyn Cope, our Membership Secretary, continues to do good work in getting to grips with, and keeping under review, our membership records and renewals process.

Sue Widdup has hit the ground running as our new Speaker Organiser by pulling together an excellent programme which now runs into 2027. Our thanks go to those members of u3a who have volunteered to be amongst the list of speakers.

On the question of speakers, we were lucky enough to catch Donald Trump in an uncharacteristically ebullient mood and before he declared war on the world. Needless to say, we had a (more than) full house in February for that event.

### Communications

- i. Quarterly newsletters are now sent from the Chair to all members together with occasional bulletins and reminders.
- ii. We have made extensive use of social media, Facebook etc to advertise our activities.
- iii. Illustrated news articles are sent to every edition of the Liphook Community Magazine.
- iv. Chris Earwaker has been doing a great job in keeping all the local freebie publications supplied with information on our upcoming events.
- v. We have developed a link with Petersfield Shine Radio. Myself, together with some Group Leaders have recorded promotional interviews.
- vi. Our printed material has been revised and re-issued as appropriate.
- vii. Dave Widdup has kindly volunteered to support Peter Ritchie on ongoing development of our Web pages and is currently "learning the ropes".
- viii. Rod Hursthouse has taken on the role of Secretary, and this will enable us to improve our communications with TAT and the Charity Commission.
- ix. We have developed a formal complaints policy which is now lodged on the website.

### Support for Trustees and Group Leaders

The Trustees and Group Leaders work extremely hard on behalf of the members. Some developments include:

- a) Job roles have been provided for key officers
- b) Induction packs produced for new committee members

- c) I have held initial meetings with Group Leaders and more will be planned
- d) The Group Leaders Handbook has been revised and will be re-issued shortly.
- e) Janet Moore, is our new Group Co-ordinator and is already improving communications
- f) Two of our members, Janet and Rod, recently attended a regional seminar in Aylseford, looking amongst other things at contingency and succession planning. The Committee will be taking forward many of the recommendations that emerged.

Many new members joined the committee over the course of the year - in fact 50% of the committee are new. They are already working well as a team. I am indebted to all my fellow Trustees for their support and especially to Carolyn Williamson whose knowledge has been invaluable and to Pauline Murdoch for her meetings support and more. In addition, our u3a is reliant upon the support of a broader team of helpers including Catherine Oldham with her brilliant catering team, Peter Ritchie our web manager and Peter Day. We continue to require and seek more help from the membership.

Finally, I must take this opportunity to record a debt of thanks to Eric Harkus and Colin Brash who have between them alternated as Treasurer/Asst over many years, but who have quite understandably indicated their wish to now step away from these roles. Consequently, an early challenge in my second year is now to seek two individuals with some financial/Excel knowledge to fill their shoes. These are vital roles without which your u3a cannot function. If you feel that you could provide assistance, or know of someone who could, then please let me know asap. Training will be provided and the two roles will work as a mutually supportive team.

ANDY EARWAKER

There were no questions on the Chair's report

#### **4. Treasurer's Annual Report**

Treasurer's Report for the year 01/02/25 to 31/01/2026

Financially, this year has been a good one for Liphook u3a. an increase in membership has seen fee income, whilst remaining at £15 per member, rise significantly. This is also reflected in increased Gift Aid and increased door takings from our monthly meetings. These are our 3 main income courses.

In addition, we receive income from third Age Trust as a grant, towards our Open Day costs, and a bonus payment from Riviera Travel, as one of our members took advantage of their marketing promotion.

The figures provided today, are slightly different to those previously issued as up-to-date adjustments have been made.

Bank Balances	Total funds	£18394
	Central funds	£5353
	Group funds held centrally	£13041
Group Funds	Held locally by groups	£1889
Central Income	Membership fees	£7939
	Meeting door takings	£1807
	Gift Aid	£ 970
	Other income	£ 513
	Total	£11229
Central Expenses	TAT Capitation	£1704
	TAT Fees	£1350
	Hall hire grants	£1112
	Expenses	£ 971
	Guest speakers	£ 812
	Printing, postage, stationery	£ 621
	Equipment	£ 89
	Total	£6659

Questions from the floor –

- 1) Why are the figures different to those recently produced?  
Eric explained again that there had been a couple of last-minute adjustments.
- 2) Beacon seems to cost quite a lot of money – why?  
Andy explained that it is the TAT communication system and allows emails/messages/statistics using different criteria

## **5. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The following officers and committee members were elected to the Committee for the next year.

Chairman	Andy Earwaker
Vice Chairman	Carolyn Williamson
Secretary	Rod Hursthouse newly elected
Treasurer	Colin Brash
Assistant Treasurer	Eric Harkus
Group's Co-ordinator	Janet Moore
Speaker's Co-ordinator	Sue Widdup newly elected
Membership Secretary	Lyn Cope
Meetings Secretary	Pauline Murdoch
General	Sarah Windibank
General	Christopher Havers newly elected

All members were proposed by John Palmer and seconded by Jenny Vernon-Smith.

## **6. Date of next AGM**

Monday 5 April 2027 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2.20 p.m.