CRANLEIGH & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES of the 27th Annual General Meeting held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 13th November 2025 at Cranleigh Methodist Church, 188 High Street, The Common, Cranleigh, GU6 8RL.

Those Present: Trust Committee: Veronica Barnard, Chair; Brian Allen; Paul Arrowsmith; Viv Arrowsmith; Robin Chapman; Angela Hardman; Jo Scurry; Marian Walter; Barbara White and 55 Members.

Apologies for Absence: Elaine Collier; David and Karen Shelton; Gillian Chichester; Jackie Avery; Caroline Lucas; Heather Head; Mike and Anna Goode; Sue Dale; Anthony and Penny Coles; Bob Alavoine; Derek Bonham; Gill Ford; Michael and Valerie Miles; Judy Murdoch; Ashley and Gillian Ward; Peter Fuller; Clive and Button Poole; Pauline Thakore; Martin Hayton; Jenny Marty; Barry and Sandy Mursell; Jackie and Duncan Barratt; Roger Wilmshurst; Karen Langer; Steph Witt; Gill Wilcox; Pamela Maynard; David Hickman; Ian Nicholls; Helen Johnson and Dot Mariner.

The Chair opened the Meeting by warmly welcoming all those members present.

1. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 4th November 2024**.

   The Chair reported that all Members had received a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th November 2024 with the Notice announcing the 2025 AGM and were taken as read.

   As there were no Matters Arising, approval of the Minutes was proposed by Barbara White and seconded by Amanda Pizer.

   The Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on the 4th November were unanimously approved.

2. **Chair's Report for the period 1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025**

   Veronica reported:

   "It has been another good year for our u3a; however, we have again lost a couple of very popular groups and several group leaders have stepped down. It was a real pity that Science and Technology folded at the end of the academic year. It was a very popular group with some 60 members but sadly none of them felt able to take over as group leader to enable it to continue. Can I just say here that, whilst thinking about taking on a group leader role may seem quite intimidating, it really doesn't need to be. Indeed, it can be shared between two or three people. Fortunately, we have a number of new Group Leaders who have now settled into their groups since our Open Day last year. I am very aware of the strength of commitment and dedication it takes to be a group leader and am in awe of the resilience of our 78+ current ones.

   In any organisation it is expected that change happens, new interests are put forward and, where we can, we accommodate them. It is always good to meet our members and when we

held our Open Day at The Cranleigh Sports and Social Club on the 12th August, it proved to be a busy and very successful afternoon. Members showed interest in varied areas and in the coming few months groups for Pilates, Tennis, and Italian Culture, as well as Mahjong will begin. I look forward to seeing them blossom. Following the Open Day, we held the New Members meeting at the Methodist Church in September. These are becoming a great opportunity for people to get to know one another and we had a really good turnout. We currently have just over 900 members. I think we would have to find a different venue, should they all choose to come to the AGM!

Our Committee for the past twelve months has been: myself, as Chair; Marian Walter, Secretary; Paul Arrowsmith, Treasurer; Angela Hardman, Group Leader Co-ordinator; Barbara White, Membership Secretary; Brian Allen, Newsletter Editor; Martin Hayton, Webmaster; Viv Arrowsmith; Robin Chapman, Helen Johnson and Jo Scurrey. I thank them all for their support and encouragement, not only regarding the u3a but also to me personally, for what has been, a difficult year for my family.

Sadly, two of our longer serving Committee Members are stepping down today and will be sorely missed, so, at this point, I give huge thanks to Angela and Barbara who, between them, have sat for 17 years on our Committee.

(Veronica presented Angela and Barbara with Gift Vouchers as a token of our appreciation for their great commitment to the branch).

There will be more regarding the Committee after we have heard from our Treasurer, Paul Arrowsmith."

3. **Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025.**

Paul reported:

"This has been my first year as Treasurer and I would like to thank my predecessor Martin Hayton for all of his help with both the transition and his ongoing assistance throughout this year.

I would like to thank Roy Glasper, who has once again given freely of his time and expertise to thoroughly examine our Accounts. Thank you Roy for your patience, knowledge and help in producing my first set of annual accounts.

I would also like to thank Gill Nye, our Assistant Treasurer. She has done a superb job of looking after all of the day-to-day accounting work this year; and has very kindly agreed to continue in the role.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts was sent to all members along with the Notice of this AGM. Our Income and Expenditure as well as the Balance Sheet are detailed on the first page. The Notes on the second page give more detail behind some of these figures.

Before asking you to approve the accounts, I would just like to highlight a few items:

Incoming Resources (Income) - Our total income from Membership Subscriptions and Gift Aid was 10% higher than last year following a 10% increase in subscriptions and more members allowing us to claim gift aid on their behalf.

Income from Group activities was up 20% compared with 2024/25, primarily because:

- Income from Outings was considerably higher than last year with a full program of 10 events compared with 5 events in 2023/24.

Resources Used (Expenditure)

- Hall Hire costs in 2024/25, at £23,835, were 11% higher than in 2023/24, primarily because of continuing increases in hall hire fees.

- Expenses from Outings have increased in line with the number of Outings events. Our annual subscription to the Third Age Trust (£3,708) was 1% higher than last year, reflecting a small increase in our membership numbers, as the fee per member remained unchanged at £4.00.

- Our Administration costs were down 13% compared with last year, as a result of lower printing costs and lower Paypal fees as more members have switched to paying their subscriptions directly to the u3a bank account.

Bank Charges - Paul reported Lloyds Bank had recently informed him that bank charges will be reintroduced from November. It is difficult to assess the impact but, possibly, £100-£150 a year between the Group and the Outings Account. He emphasised the need for members to pay by card to avoid bank charges for cheques, cash, etc. If any members need help or advice with paying in ways other than by cheque or cash, please speak to a member of the Committee or your Group Leader.

Gift Aid - Paul mentioned that in the New Year he will be writing to all members to revisit the topic of gift aid, inviting the membership to renew their declaration, as some members' status may have changed.

Net Surplus - Our overall Net Surplus for the year was £3,080 compared with a surplus of £1,664 in 2023-2024. This figure is higher than anticipated as several invoices (totalling circa £700) relating to the 2024-2025 financial year were not received until September. Going forward the surplus will likely reduce as a result of a full year of venue hire price increases and member subscription rates being unchanged for 2025-2026.

Reserves - As a result of this year's surplus, our Reserves have now increased to £22,672 (still very much in line with our target level of reserves)."

As there were no questions raised by members, approval of the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Brian Allen and seconded by Richard Bryant.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025 were unanimously approved.

4. **Election of Officers**

The Chair reported in her Statement that Angela Hardman and Barbara White would be standing down from the Committee at this meeting.

The following Committee Members offer themselves for re-election:

Veronica Barnard, Chair; Brian Allen; Paul Arrowsmith; Vivienne Arrowsmith; Robin Chapman; Martyn Hayton, Helen Johnson, Jo Scurry; Marian Walter.

Proposed by: Diane Nicholls Seconded by: Don Henderson

The Chair reported that there had been one motion received regarding the appointment of an additional member to the Committee.

Lavinia Martins has agreed to stand and was proposed by Brian Allen and seconded by Martin Hayton.

The said members with the addition of Lavinia Martins were duly elected to the Trust Committee for the coming year.

Veronica stated that she was always happy to hear from any member who would be interested in joining the committee.

5. **Appointment of Examiner for the Accounts**

It was confirmed that Roy Glasper had agreed to continue as the Examiner for the Accounts. The Chair added her thanks to those of Paul Arrowsmith for Roy's continued support.

Roy Glasper was proposed by Hilary Paul and seconded by Rosemary Hickman to continue as the Examiner to the Accounts which was unanimously approved.

6. **Any Other Business.**

There being no other business, Veronica thanked all those present for coming and declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 2.30 p.m.

Don Henderson representing those present took the opportunity to thank Veronica and all the officers of the Committee for their hard work on behalf of the members of Cranleigh u3a.

The meeting was followed with lively entertainment from the Guitar and Ukulele Groups after which tea and biscuits were served.