

Annual General Meeting 3rd July 2026

Chairman's Report:

We started the year with 197 members and by June this had fallen slightly to 194. We have held social events which included a Skittles Night at Merchistoun Hall, a Summer Party with a 60s theme, a Christmas Quiz with Buffet and a coach trip to Bletchley Park. Our thanks to Rosy Stone for organising the trip.

An afternoon tea was held in April to thank our group convenors for their hard work. This was organised by Groups Coordinator Suzy Gardiner.

Our Friday afternoon meetings continued with a good variety of speakers with thanks to Braith Harris for organising. Subjects have included:

Judy Theobald - Life and Other Problems (Sept)

How to Protect against Cyber Crime (Oct)

Neil Hanson - Life as the Landlord of the Tan How Inn (Nov)

Photography Group Trips and Images (Jan)

David Allport - What Did You Do in the War Mum? (March)

The Beatles and Astrid Kerchherr (April)

Up the Kalahari (Richard Veitch) (May)

Stephen Harris -Scientific Scans & Accidents (June)

In addition we had an interesting "Antiques Road Show" with Braith and Stephen's daughter Penelope (Feb)

Our thanks are due to Juliet Taylor, Jane Tull, Karen Bowles and everyone who assisted with catering, provided cakes etc.

I would also at this point like to thank all our group coordinators for providing the essential organisation for our activities, along with Suzy Gardiner who provides the essential link between them and the Committee.

As I have now completed the four years as Chairman allowed by our constitution, I will be stepping down and a replacement will be voted in during the AGM.

I would like to record my thanks to the Committee and members for the support and kind words during my term of office.

Horndean & District u3a

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

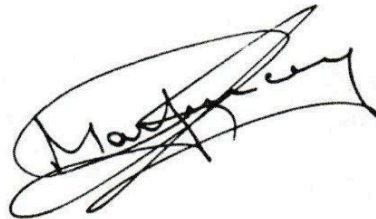
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Receipts & Payments, 1st May - 30th April

Start year Category	2025		2024	
	In	Out	In	Out
-Account Transfers	£269.10	£269.10	£1,270.43	£1,270.43
Accounts Examiner Fee		£50.00		£50.00
Donations	£22.38	£5.25	£56.86	£16.87
Event: Skittles	£380.50	£589.00	£219.00	
Event: Xmas event	£203.00	£158.17	£175.00	£248.16
Gift Aid	£629.40		£688.84	
Group Convenors lunch		£889.02		£600.00
History Trips	£1,933.70	£1,885.80	£1,899.20	£1,711.50
Membership	£3,456.00	£48.00	£3,510.00	£39.00
Miscellaneous		£38.99	£48.00	£253.83
Postage & Stationery		£14.55		£32.54
Refreshments	£127.94	£174.98	£98.23	£151.04
Science & Tech Group			£610.65	£885.00
Speakers		£465.00		£528.00
Sum Up charges		£2.27		£4.09
Summer Party	£151.65	£169.42	£154.40	£163.85
TAM Postage Fee		£464.00		£458.08
TAT Beacon Fee		£436.00		£199.00
TAT Membership Fees		£784.00		£804.00
Trip: Bletchley Park	£1,325.00	£1,319.00		
Trip: Chatham Docks			£1,134.00	£1,148.00
Venue Hire	£929.80	£2,101.30	£1,240.00	£2,418.25
Sub-totals	£9,428.47	£9,663.85	£11,104.61	£10,981.64
Brought forward	£5,615.24		£5,492.27	
Total		£5,379.86		£5,615.24

Balance Sheet

Cash	£25.20	£25.00
Current	£4,913.69	£5,206.25
Group Floats		
Membership		
No.2 Account	£440.97	£383.99
Total	£5,379.86	£5,615.24



Independent Examiner's Report
To the Committee & Trustees of
Horndean & District U3A

I report on the accounts of the Association for the period 1st May 2025 to 30th April 2026 a copy of which is attached.

Respective responsibilities of committee and examiner

The Association's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145(5)(B) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as a committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark Dancey
Barclays Bank Plc Ret'd
Waterlooville U3A Member
34 Sapphire Ridge
WATERLOOVILLE
PO7 8NY

Date: 1st June 2026

Group Reports

Beginners French Group 2024-2025



Canasta Group

Our group meets on the first and third Thursday mornings 10-12 of each month at Bere Grove Care Home..

We are a lively group and would welcome anyone – despite their skill level from beginners to experienced players – to join us.

Canasta is an intriguing card game, for two, three or four players. Luck, strategy and experience all add to the enjoyment.

Please contact me if you would like more details.

Avril Adams-Baxter, Canasta Group Convenor

Cinema Group

In February 2026 Nicky Pendleton had the brilliant idea to reinstate a Cinema Group for our u3a.

With The Odeon at Port Solent offering an incredible deal for seniors on a Tuesday, there was a huge take up from our members to join the group which now stands at 33 strong.

The Silvers runs screenings on most Tuesdays at 1pm (showings may vary in holiday times) for just £2 which includes a hot drink and biscuits. Members are required to make their own booking – in advance or on the door – but can be sure that they are very likely to see some familiar faces as they go along to see the latest releases on offer.

Information is sent out on a fortnightly basis to publicise the films which are coming up.

Suzy Gardiner



Computer Users Support

My role is to assist members as far as I can with any issues they have with their computers or laptops and to advise where they could go to resolve any problems I cannot identify or fix.

During the past year I was able to set up Windows 11 on a laptop which a member had been given by their grandson after he had removed all his programs from it. I subsequently also installed Open Office on the laptop.

I listed the steps a member needed to follow to set up a new Gmail id for a Group after establishing that this was what they required, although in the end they needed assistance doing this from a friendly computer shop.

I also investigated a problem with emails not being received by a member which ultimately required a long phone call by the member to Apple to resolve.

Andy Forbes Convenor

Horndean u3a Ten Pin Bowling

We currently have 19 u3a members signed up for the group and regularly have eight to fifteen bowling on the last Friday morning in the month at the Ten Pin Alley in Chichester.

Although we are not really competitive, members are really pleased if they score better than their convener which has not been too difficult over the past year as although my average has increased slightly it is still only in the low 90's. High scores by the ladies have been 113 from Jane Beveridge, and 102 from Jane Tull.

Other notable scores from the ladies have been 99 from Chrissie Middleton, 94 and 95 from Ann Thompson, 92 from Christine Sowerby, June Barratt and Gill Kernan and 90 from RoseMarie Fassoms.

Although we have very few men and would love to see more, I have managed three scores over 100, Bob Beveridge has struggled with injury with his best being 98 and Roger Brewer has struggled to keep the ball on the lane but has managed a couple of 60 plus scores.

We always have fun, even when the scoring is not so high and those with the lowest scores shall be nameless but we have had numerous scores in the 30's and 40's and even a couple of scores in the 20's so there are targets for anyone to beat

Why not come and join us where, for £7.25, you can have two hours fun and chat and after the January bowling, we have a post-Christmas meal which for the last five years we have been really well looked after at the Fox and Hounds Funtington.

Finally, I would like to thank Gill for standing in for me when I have been on holiday.

Geoff Southgate

Convener u3a Ten Pin Bowling



Discussion Group

We meet on the last Thursday of each month at my house; address available, as a group who discuss everything from current affairs through some politics to shopping habits. The discussions are open, unbiased, candid but always in good humour. The discussions offer a platform for members to voice opinions and to experience other people's views and an advantage to those who live alone. We have ten people in the group with an average of eight attending each time and could take two more who would be most welcome. If interested please phone me on 07871692866 or email elverytony4@gmail.com

Food Appreciation

The food group meets on the second Friday of the month, usually at St James Church hall in Clanfield. We have space for new members if anyone is interested.

Meetings are well attended with between 20 and 25 people coming. We seem to manage to find an everlasting range of food related topics, although new members have suggested we reprise some of the topics covered when we started.

In June we have an annual barbecue, hosted by Geoff and Angela with a welcome Prosecco on arrival, followed by a delicious range of barbecue food, salads and mouth watering deserts, At the time of writing we are planning the 2026 one.

We had a splendid session on Nuts where we learned the health benefits with a quiz, and sampled dishes cooked by members including a nut roast, nutty fudge, apricot frangipane, tarta de Santiago, and walnut pate, bread and biscuits.

In November, inspired by the 70's themed garden party we had a "back to the 60's themed lunch", all prepared by group members. We started with melon boats or prawn cocktail, Coq au vin or boef bourgignon, followed by Crème caramel or Black Forest gateaux and coffee served with after eight mints. All accompanied by wine supplied by Tony and Jenny Symes. Then back home for a rest!.

In December the theme was Cocktails and canapés including rum punch or "dark and stormy" and a wonderful variety of canapés.

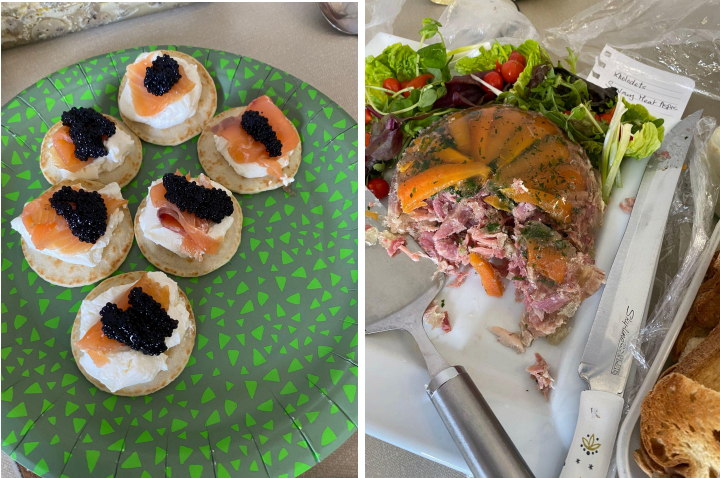
In January we tried a huge range of different oils including pumpkin seed, avocado, walnut, rape, and olive, learning about the health benefits and trying to identify what the oils were.

February's topic was flour and members baked with buckwheat, gluten free, rice flour, coconut flour, rye and graham, and one ingenious member did research on other uses of flour beyond baking.

IN March we visited South Downs college training restaurant, always good value and supporting the future food industry

Aprils' topic was Russian food which was absolutely delicious despite our original misgivings! Plenty of beetroot, cabbage and dumplings but also some very delicious deserts.

Our most recent meeting was out to visit Hampshire Market garden at their Hambleton site to hear and see all about the development of organic veg boxes, which originally started during Covid when the contents were bought in. Now they grow much of the content of their veg boxes. Afterwards we visited the Beech cafe at the Sustainability centre for lunch, where All the food is vegetarian and locally sourced.



Nicky Pendleton Convenor

Photography Group

The Photography Group has 29 members and primarily concentrates on visits around the local area where we can explore, take photographs and generally enjoy ourselves. There is not too much emphasis on technical matters though we have some members who are always willing to give advice if asked.

We have a photoshoot meeting on the second Thursday of each month and in the last year have been to Brighton, Chichester, Stansted, Victoria Park, Buriton, Gunwharf, Waverley Abbey, Wickham and Guildford. A typical day will see members going off to take photos and then meeting up later for refreshments. For our December meeting we had an indoor session on smartphone photography and a review of our images for 2025.

We also have a theme each month where we can submit images to our dedicated Facebook site “Horndean U3A Photography Group” Themes have included “Red”, “Letters”, “Flowers”, “Textures”, “Movement”. And “Ground Level”.

We aim to have four evening meetings during the summer, weather permitting.

Clive Midson



Photography Group at the Mad Hatters Tea Room in Hayling

Science and Technology Group Report

The combined expertise and enthusiasm from members has provided another year of diverse topics and events from the theoretical to the practical: Arab mathematicians, Pyrotechnics (5th November), Commercial Ship Propulsion Systems, Ionising Radiation, the Enigma Machine and the beauty of Moths.

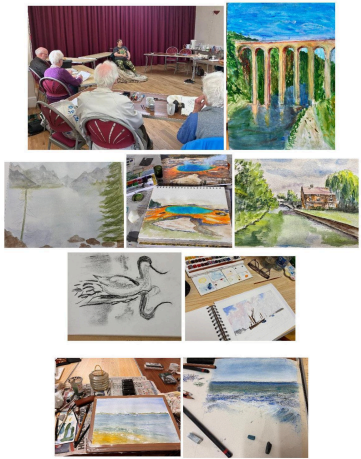
Highlights included the Xmas lunch and the visit to Havant Thicket Reservoir following a presentation by Amy Rushton (Communications and Engagement Officer, Portsmouth Water).

The cost of the meetings in the Napier Hall on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month is currently only £1 which includes refreshments – what value for money!!!

New members welcome, there is a varied programme for the rest of the year – something for everyone for sure!”

Drawing and Painting Group

The Group continues to enjoy the excellent facilities at Merchistoun Hall. The monthly theme is open to wide interpretation and members use varied mediums that suit their expertise. This year's figure painting challenge was "Sheila who provided us with both a prone and seated subject. June's subject was "Water" some of which are included here:



Discovering History

John Pinkerton II is a boat on the Basingstoke Canal that in July thirty-one of us had an excellent lazy morning with a little bit of history, with drinks and our own packed lunches we floated (just) for a couple of hours in a corner of Hampshire.



Basingstoke Canal trip

We have had a packed agenda for the year with one cancellation.

The year started in May 25 with a trip to the Weald and Down Museum. We have a good team of helpers and Andy led (I was away)

Other visits have included Amberley Museum which was a lovely day and very nostalgic with some exhibits of TV's, radios, household items from our past. The two old buses (see photo) were working on the day.

Seventeen of us had a very cold trip to the Bombay Sapphire Museum in November but enjoyed the day. The history of Laverstoke Mill was fascinating. The paper for UK and later Indian bank notes was made in this site.

Talks have ranged from Lepers, local heroes, the Watercress Line, Netley abbey and gunpowder.

A quick mention of Lesley who talked about the Lepers in Winchester. Over 40 attended and the talk was excellent.

Amberley Museum



Herta Ayrton was the topic for Joanne who was an amazing speaker and brought the subject alive. Herta was a local born Victorian Scientist in a man's world and that brought frustrations to possible inventions.

A mention of our team of helpers, putting out chairs, taking money, making teas and coffees and washing up.

Finally, all our members who come whatever the weather.

THANK YOU

Patricia King

Bombay Sapphire visit



Walking Group

We organise guided walks every Monday and Tuesday, weather permitting. Each walk is around 4 to 6 miles and is located in the countryside within 10 to 15 miles of Horndean. Finish time is normally by 12.30pm and we round the morning off with a visit to a local pub or cafe.



Walk Group members enjoying a break at the East Meon Trout Fishery.

Needlecraft Group

We are a group of 15 members, all ladies, but of course, men are welcome! We meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 2pm at Beregrove Care Home.

In the last year, as a team project, we have made Syringe driver bags for the hospitals., and some ladies make prem-baby hats and cardigans for the hospitals, and other Charities

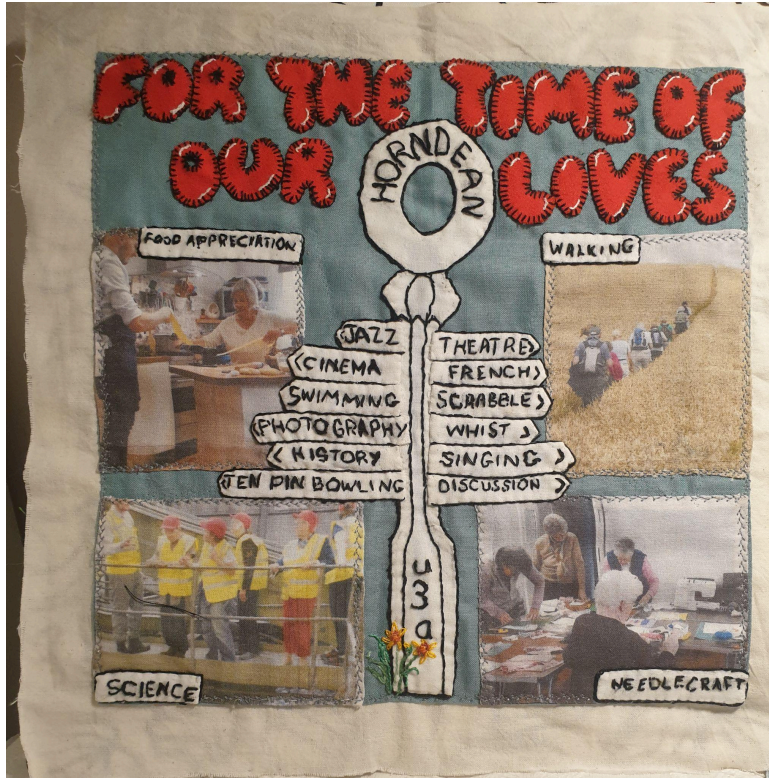
We don't do the quilts for Linus now, because we have sadly lost 4 of our 'expert in patchwork' members.

Most of us take along our own projects, which includes Embroidery, Bead work, Toy making, Knitting and Crochet.

There is always a wealth of expertise and advice available, also a cuppa and biscuits. Come along and join us, or you're welcome to visit, to see if it's something you might like to join in with! Or maybe you have a skill you would like to share?

Some of the residents join us on occasions, with their Crochet or Knitting for a chat .(The pictured quilt was an entry in a National u3a Competition in 2018)

Sue Dobson- Convenor



Card and Board Games

The Card and Board Games Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each calendar month at Bere Grove Care Home.

The usual games available to play each week include Backgammon, Canasta, Cribbage, Five Crowns, Gin Rummy, Mancala, Mexican Trains, Rummicub, Scrabble, Sequence, Triominoes, Upwords and Yahtzee. We also have a number of other games available including five different versions of Trivial Pursuit and of course we are open to suggestions for any other games you would like to teach us.

Following the sad and unexpected passing of our Convenor Lyn Owen, the group has continued. I have stepped in as interim convenor until someone else would like

to take up the mantle.

If you would like to join us, please contact me, you will be most welcome to join us irrespective of your previous experience of the games we offer. We are a friendly group and welcome new members with open arms!

Avril Adams-Baxter, Card and Board Games Convenor

French

Our u3a continues to have a strong interest in the French language.

Jane Wighton who ran the French Level 1 to 2 group for several years, stepped down in March 2026 and Ruth Elvery is now Co ordinator for the group. This group is well established thanks to Jane's hard work and other group leaders over many years, continuing under the guidance of Ruth. The aim of the group is to progress the level at which they work with each other to help with shared conversation. The group has 8 members.

Meanwhile Diana Foden set up a new group in January 2026 for French Beginners. Diana admitted to being somewhat nervous about setting up a new group but once the first meeting was arranged, the group experienced a lot of interest and is now established with 6 members. This number seems ideal for the purposes of discussion. There are however several other of our members who would still be interested in joining a group and it may be that a third French Group is set up in the future. So, watch this space.

Ongoing thanks to both Ruth and Diana for running these groups which run every Friday afternoon (except the first Friday of the month).

Suzy Gardiner

GARDEN GROUP

The garden group is thriving with over 50 members. We meet up for garden visits, to see members gardens & also enjoy coffee & cake, exchange plants, seeds & advice on plants etc.

We now have a WhatsApp group for members to share 'all things gardening' with each other, advertise garden events, share lifts for garden visits, share photos of gardens visited.

Every year for fun we have a growing competition. This year in May we met at Chrissies Garden, and all collected a small potted fuchsia cutting. In September we will get together again to see whose has thrived the best & won the prize & have their name on the shield.

Some of the visits include Gardener's world spring fair at Beaulieu, Hannah Pechner sculpture park, Gilberts Dalia nursery & at the end of March a few of us went to an open garden 'Down Place'. set in the landscape of the south downs with spectacular views. Their large wild-flower meadow set on the slope down the valley complete with newborn lambs. It was beautiful.

We also liaise with Denmead & Hayling Horticultural Societies & have the option to join in their events, talks and visits. Next week some of us are going with Haying Society on short coach holiday to see the gardens of North Wales.

Future plans are a visit to Nicky's & to Jasper & Georges gardens & the end of July we have arranged a group visit to Philip Jacksons Sculpture Garden.

Committee

The following members have volunteered for the Committee next year. There is one candidate for each available position so a vote “en bloc” can be taken.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Nicky Pendleton	Marilyn Brady	Jean Cooper
Vice Chairman	Anne Herbert	Jean Cooper	Sue Dobson
Secretary	Maggy Chesters	Anne Herbert	Sandra Manktelow
Treasurer	Patricia King	Sandra Manktelow	Sue Dobson
Committee	Suzy Gardiner	Anne Noble	Andy Forbes
Committee	Kathee Pitt	Graham Cockburn	Kathy Jarvis
Committee	Karen Bowles	Julie Tipping	Marilyn Todd
Committee	Chrissie Middleton	Kathy Jarvis	Anne Herbert
Committee	Bernadette Grima	Martin Roadknight	Athol King

Committee	Diane Simpson	Kathy Jarvis	Len Lovis

Our constitution allows for a committee of up to 12, so we have room for more if anyone decides in the next year that they might be interested. In the meantime we have sufficient to carry our U3A forward and I am grateful to those who have volunteered.

Clive Midson - Chairman