

Draft.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2pm on Thursday 16th April 2026 in the Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

1. Welcome.

Brian Day welcomed the approximately 90 members present, and gave the necessary safety instructions, then handed over to Patrick Mills (Chair) to begin the AGM.

2. Apologies:

Wendy Morrison-Jones, Lesley Holman, Janet Smith.

3. Minutes of the 2025 AGM for approval.

Online vote: 260 approved. 3 against. (they voted thus because they did not attend the 2025 AGM)

Paper vote: there were no paper votes received

The minutes were therefore approved (see also post-meeting note).

4. Chair's Annual report 2026 (Patrick Mills):

The Yate and Sodbury District u3a grew strongly again this year, with an 8% increase in membership: 2,007 members compared with 1,861 at the beginning of the year. There are now 115 activity groups, which is a 12% increase, supported by 150 volunteer group leaders, up 6% since last year.

The Yate and Sodbury District u3a is now one of the largest in the South West region of the UK. Some ask if it is too big. An important aim of the committee is to tackle head-on all potential problems relating to the size of membership. To this end, the priorities this year for the 14-strong committee have consistently been: firstly, performing their assigned duties as listed on the Exec page of the website; secondly, setting up new groups; and thirdly, publicising the u3a in the local area to those no longer in full-time employment.

We believe that the substantial increase in groups this year goes some way towards reducing the number of groups which are full. The group coordinators have a well-oiled process for setting up new groups, so please let them know if you would like to set up a new activity group or duplicate an existing one.

The u3a emphasises its self-help model, in which all members contribute actively so that there is no difference between teachers and learners in any group. All activity groups are self-funding, and the u3a receives no external funding from the government. The finances of the u3a are in good shape, as reported by the treasurer. An increase in annual membership fee to £10 came into effect on 1 April 2025.

The revamped website, using the SiteWorks structure, has proved an invaluable tool for publicising the activities of groups and encouraging new members to join. In addition to the website, there is the Facebook page, the online Noticeboard (which is sent by email to all

members several times a month), and the Quarterly Newsletter, supported by contributions from group leaders and brought together by the volunteer newsletter editor.

We held a successful forum in June for all group leaders and, in addition, held the annual u3a Open Day in October, evidenced by a surge in new members joining. An interesting programme of town hall meetings for all u3a members was provided monthly, each followed by a New Members Forum at which new and prospective members had the opportunity to meet committee members and discuss opportunities offered by u3a activity groups. We look forward to the grand 20-year celebration being skilfully organised by a special team for 6 June 2026.

I welcome those members who have put themselves forward for election to the Executive Committee this year. They have each visited the committee as observers, sampling the workings and enthusiasm of this public-spirited team. I hope that u3a members present today will also consider volunteering their skills during the coming year, perhaps as a group leader or by joining our friendly committee.

There were no questions, but Patrick asked everyone present to join with him in thanking the 150 GLs for volunteering their time and skills to support the u3a.

He then asked for a similar round of applause to thank the Executive Committee who quietly get things done and are doing a wonderful job.

Patrick then said, I am stepping down at this AGM after three enjoyable years as Chair and wish the new committee all the best when they meet in May.

5. Financial Summary for period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 (John Wilkinson).

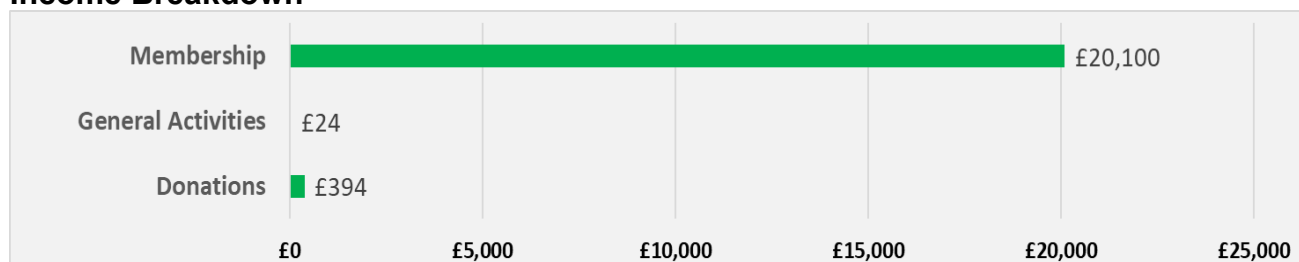
Income & Expenditure

Brought forward from FY23/24:	£18,532.13
Income FY25/26*:	£20,517.99
Expenses FY25/26:	£20,093.17
Carried forward to FY26/27:	£18,956.95

* Gift Aid to be claimed (Est.: £2,740)

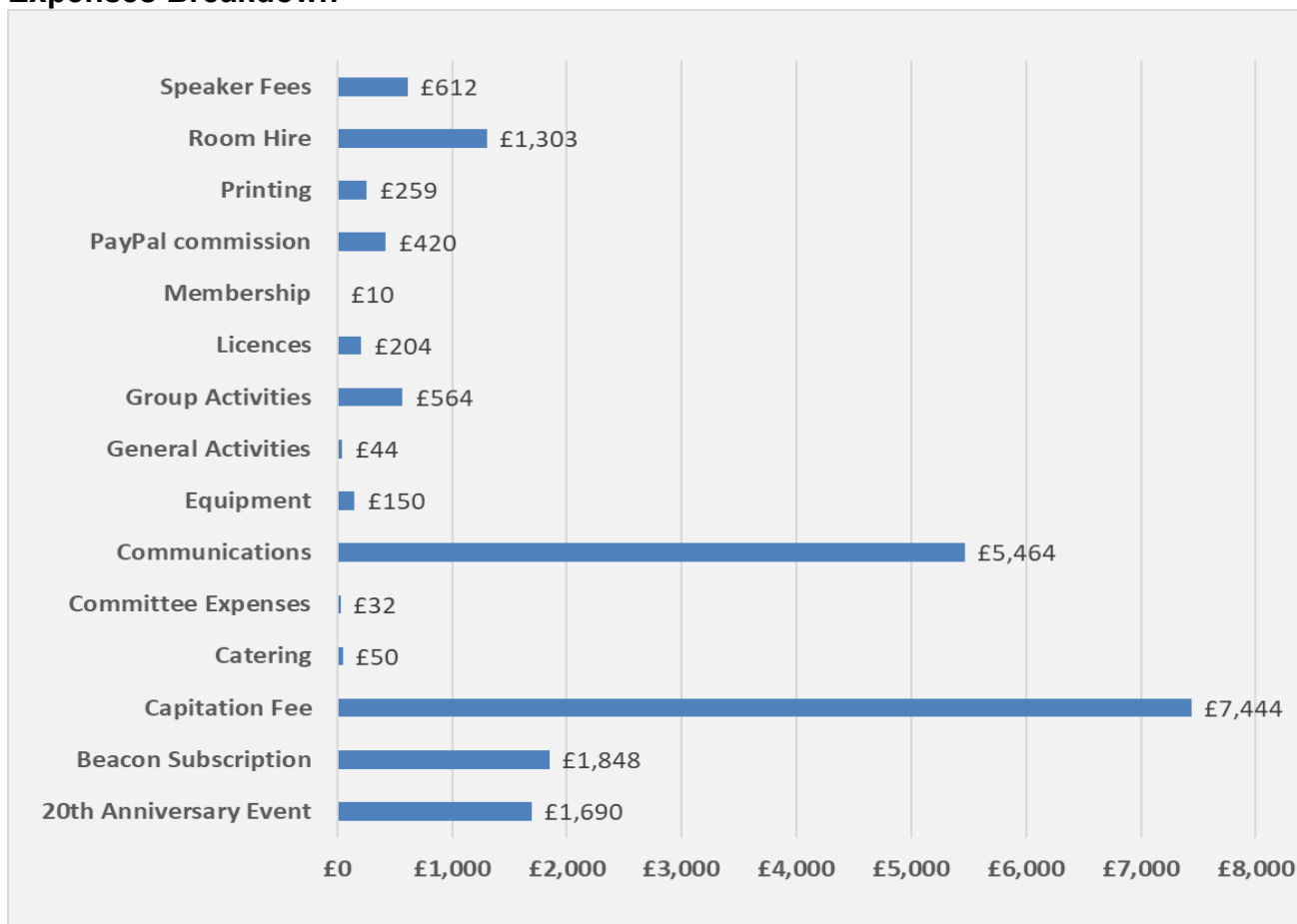
- Excess of expenditure over income = £424.82 (exc. Gift Aid; ~ £3,165 with Gift Aid).
- Sizable balance carried forward to cover the main annual expenses which arise early in the financial year (TAT membership, TAT magazines & Beacon subscription).
- Accounts audit completed 18/03/2026.

Income Breakdown



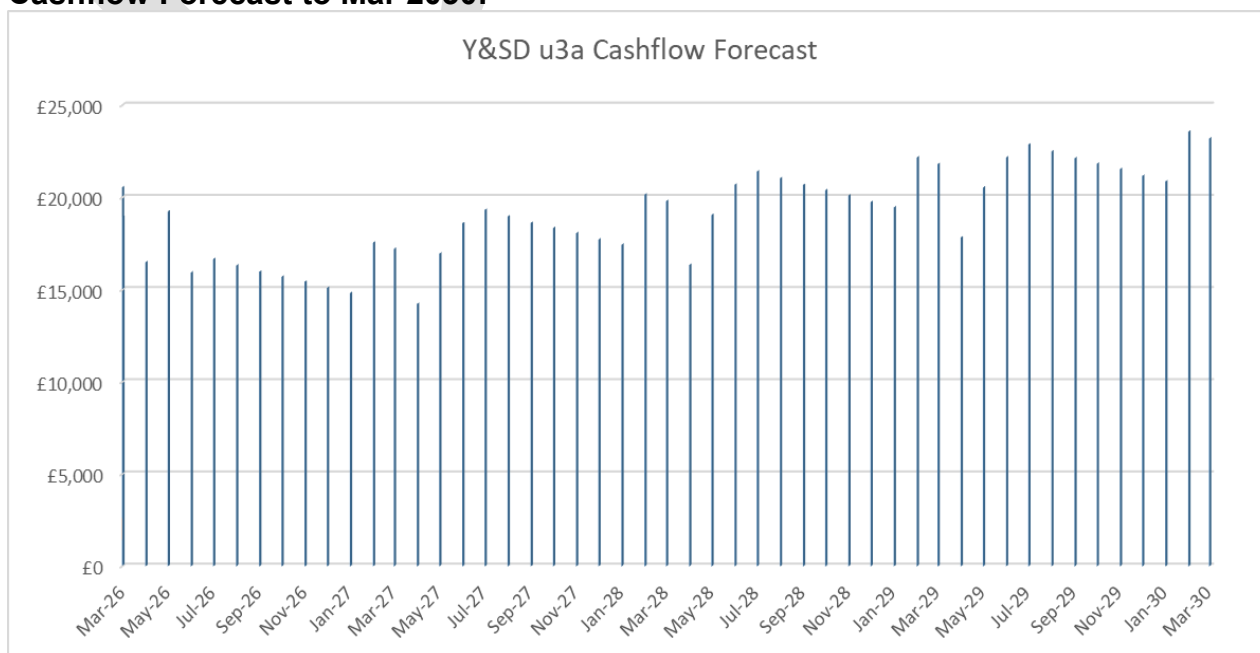
General activities = refund (for badge holders)

Expenses Breakdown



- Licences = Third Age Trust 'Siteworks', Microsoft Office & Copyright Licensing Agency.
- Group Activities = Group start up grants + apportionment of donation received to Creative Writing Groups).
- General Activities = Payment for badge holders for Committee Members.
- Communications = U3a Matters Magazines.
- Equipment = Projector.
- Committee Expenses = General activities = refund (for badge holders).

Cashflow Forecast to Mar 2030:



Finances are in a sound position for the foreseeable future.

6. Nominations to Executive Committee 2026/2027

First name	Surname
Rod	Dewey
Craig	Hodges
Lesley	Holman
Ian	Merriman
Vasu	Patel
Catherine	Riley
Janet	Smith
Julie	Spooner
John	Wilkinson
Paula	Young

Online vote: 263 approved the nominations. 0 against.

Paper vote: there were no paper votes received

The number of votes received were sufficient to meet the quorum requirements in the Constitution. The nominations were therefore approved (see also post-meeting note).

7. Questions and comments from the floor.

There were no questions.

8. Any Other Business.

No other business was raised.

The AGM closed at 2.17 pm

There followed a talk on "Bristol Zoo remembered" by Dave Cheesley.

Post-Meeting Note:

The Executive Committee apologises that opportunities were not provided during the AGM to vote on approving the previous minutes and on nominations to the committee. However, as voting is only allowed for any attendees who had not already voted on-line or by post, the numbers would have been insufficient to alter the result.

The processes for arranging the AGM will be annotated to ensure this regretful oversight does not happen again, and that the voting population will be fully represented in future.