

u3a Romsey Archway

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



ART



BIRD WATCHING



WALKING



PHOTOGRAPHY



GUITARS



CYCLING



DINING OUT



TABLE TENNIS



BADMINTON



PETANQUE



WINE APPRECIATION



BOOK CLUBS

JUST SOME OF THE THINGS WE GET UP TO

JUST SOME OF THE THINGS WE GET UP TO

Chairmans Message



This past year has been a positive one for our U3A. We have seen encouraging growth in membership and an expansion in the number of interest groups available, which is fantastic news. It's these groups that continue to attract new members and keep our community vibrant and engaged.

Our financial position remains solid, allowing us to offer a reduced subscription rate of £9 for the upcoming year. I believe this represents excellent value for the range of activities and the welcoming social environment that our U3A provides.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our volunteers, helpers, and group leaders, whose dedication is the foundation of our success.

With growth and success, however, come new challenges. Our most significant ongoing concern is securing volunteers at all levels, particularly within the committee.

As an organization entirely run by volunteers, our continued success depends on members stepping forward to support our U3A. It's true that as we grow, it becomes increasingly difficult to encourage people to take on these roles.

Looking ahead, if we are unable to recruit enough volunteers, there is a real risk that we may not be able to continue operating. This is an annual challenge, and we must address it proactively.

One potential solution is to explore bringing together the two U3As currently operating in Romsey. As outlined in the AGM papers, there is a resolution for members to authorise the committee to enter discussions on the feasibility of an amalgamation with Romsey and District U3A. This does not commit us to coming together but simply allows for informed dialogue with Romsey and District with the knowledge and support of our membership, which I believe is crucial.

I encourage you to support this proposal at the AGM.

Despite our efforts, no one has come forward to take on the role of Chair. In accordance with my commitment at a recent speaker meeting, we have implemented Plan B. Plan B was for me to remain as Chair for another year! If anyone is interested in taking on this role in the future, I would be happy to mentor and gradually transition responsibilities.

Overall, I am confident that, subject to resolving the volunteer issues, that we are well-positioned for a bright future, and I still believe our U3A is in a strong place moving forward.

Dave Green

Chair

Your Committee

The committee this year has been made up of the following Trustees:-

- Dave Green — Chair
- John Roe — Deputy Chair and Governance
- Andrew Nicol — Treasurer
- Heather Trim — Secretary
- Heather Trim — Membership Secretary
- Janet Robinson — Events Coordinator
- Richard Crowder—Website

Non Trustee Committee

Margaret Bealing — Groups Coordinator

Marion Slattery — Groups Coordinator

David Wealeans — Speaker Coordinator

Support Member

Ed Slattery – Beacon Administrator

My thanks go to all of them for the help and support they have given helping to run and develop our u3a this year.

Membership

It has been a joy to watch our community thrive this year. We began our year in April with 475 members and have since grown to 532, a testimony to the engaging and welcoming environment we've built together. This 12% growth is highlighted by the 81 new faces who have joined us; a warm welcome! Our members and the groups they belong to truly are the heart of our u3a and our best ambassadors. If you find inspiration in what we do, we encourage you to share that passion with

friends so they, too, can discover the rewards of our u3a.

Groups

Over the past year, your Groups Coordinators have been:

Marion Slattery (responsible for Groups A–H),

Margaret Bealing (responsible for Groups I–Z).

New Groups Formed in 2025–2026

- Walking Tuesday Two Milers Group
- Guitar Absolute Beginners 2
- Petanque 2
- Photography in Focus
- Walking 4–6 Miles (Friday)
- Woodwind
- Live Classical Music
- Birdwatching 2 Osprey
- Bus Pass Explorers

Groups Closed in 2025–2026

- Songwriting

As you can see from the list above we've seen a healthy increase in the number of groups this year, which is fantastic progress. However, we're always keen for more! If you have ideas or enthusiasm for starting a new group, we'd love to hear from you.

A reminder: the committee can offer a £50 grant to help any new group with initial set-up costs.

Our thanks go to all the group leaders and helpers for their commitment—not only in organising group activities, but also in supporting New Member coffee mornings and sharing news and stories for the newsletter and

website. Your efforts are invaluable in keeping our community active and engaging.

Speaker Meetings

Over the past year, we were pleased to hold twelve speaker meetings, with an average attendance of 68 members per session. There is ample room for more participants, and we warmly encourage everyone to come along and join us.

The talks covered a diverse and engaging array of subjects, from the challenge of a solo walk across Africa, to the fascinating story of the secret saboteurs of the Second World War, and an exploration of the myths and legends surrounding The Beatles. There is truly something to capture everyone's interest.

We would be delighted to welcome even more members to future meetings. Not only do these talks offer stimulating content, but they also provide an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new members of the club.

The introduction of café-style seating has been very well received. It is encouraging to see members arriving early, enjoying coffee and conversation before the talks begin.

We are also pleased to announce that David Wealeans has generously agreed to serve as our new Speaker Secretary. We extend our sincere thanks to David for taking on this important role.

If you are aware of any engaging speakers who might be of interest to our members, please do contact a committee member with your suggestions. We are always eager to hear fresh ideas.

Our Book Swap stall continues to be a favourite feature at our meetings. As a gentle reminder, please do swap a book when you take one. Our

thanks go to Richard and Lucy Crowders for their ongoing efforts in organising the stall each month.

Social Events

We have continued to run a number of events this year that have included:-

- June – Walking tour of old Portsmouth
- August – New members coffee morning
- August – Picnic in Memorial Park.
- October – Skittles evening
- November – Autumn Quiz
- December – Christmas party and carols at Speakers meeting.
- March – Solent Sky museum

The new members coffee morning was a success with high attendance and positive feedback. Thanks to everyone who contributed, including Group Leaders who introduced their groups.

Currently we're planning to provide the following events this year:-

- Quiz in April / May
- Local history of Romsey walking tour

We welcome any suggestions for trips that may be of interest to our members. Please feel free to contact us with your ideas.

Website etc!

In March 2024, Romsey Archway u3a moved to the SiteWorks web platform, this has greatly enhanced our web presence. Over the past 12 months our pages have been viewed approximately 20,000 times. SiteWorks has proved to be robust and easy to edit. Over time we would like our group leaders to start to take ownership and edit their individual group pages, obviously with support and training.

Richard Crowder is still currently responsible within the SiteWorks Team for Change and Knowledge Management of the software, we should thank the developers, including Ed Slattery from Romsey Archway, the test team and the system administrators who ensured that the ongoing releases have been bug free.

As with any website, our site is resource hungry, so Richard, is always looking for material from Groups and Members to ensure the site is updated and relevant. - the more content the better.

Currently we have two Facebook resources, a private group for which members have to register to use and a public facing page. I would encourage members to register for the private pages (currently we have 204 members), as this provides a quick and easy route to circulate meetings and news updates.

Additional thanks to Ed Slattery who has just recently taken on the role as our Beacon Administrator and Assistant Web Manager to help ease the workload on Richard Crowder.

Finance Report

A Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer, Andrew Nicol, and subsequently examined by Janet Binns, as an independent reviewer, is presented below.

At the end of the year the total amount held at the bank was £9026, which was a significant increase on the sum of £7849 held at the end of the previous Financial Year. This increase was partly due to an increase in the funding held by Archway u3a on behalf of Groups (up by £400) and a lower than anticipated expenditure on Speaker events this year (excess of £300). At the Year End, the General Fund had increased by £950 to £8049.

The "General Fund" is the reserve that the u3a holds to cover our liabilities, such as the excess required in the event of an insurance claim. For Romsey Archway u3a, the Trustees have set a target of £5000 for the reserve fund. In order to reduce the amount of the reserves towards the target, the decision was made to reduce the membership fees for the 2026/27 membership year by £2 per member to £9 for full membership.

The main sources of income are the annual membership subscriptions plus gift aid, claimed on some of the subscriptions from the previous year – a total of £6024. Income is also received from members paying for Group activities, but that money belongs to the associated group, not the general fund.

The largest expenditure items were the Central Charges, which totalled £3067. This included the Capitation fees, paid to the Third Age Trust to provide a number of core services, including liability insurance of various types, the Third Age Magazine, the CLA licence (covering copyright licencing), and the Beacon software used by many u3as, including Archway, to track financial and membership status. The capitation fee and the Beacon charge are based on number of members, and as our membership has increased, so this cost increases.

Expenditure by Romsey Archway u3a on our u3a activities totalled £2192, and was mainly due to the monthly Speaker meetings and venue hire. Also, there were coffee mornings for new members. A small amount was spent on administrative activities, such as advertising and office stationery.

Group activities are required to be self-funding, and to hold sufficient funds at the bank against any anticipated invoices, usually room hire. The amount, or float, held by each Group can vary with time. At the end of the 2024/25 Financial Year the Groups held £1495 between them. At

the end of the 2025/26 Financial Year the sum held was £1907.

In summary the accounts show that Romsey Archway u3a finances are in a good state. A reduced membership fee for 2026/27 is expected to lower the Reserves towards the target level.

Andrew Nicol, 10 March 2026

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Start Year	2025/26			2024/25		
	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Balance brought forward			£ 7,859.79			£ 8,014.55
Membership fees	5288.00			4857.00		
Gift Aid	722.78			559.74		
Donations	13.90			28.00		
Capitation		1636.00			1356.00	
Magazine		827.36			664.32	
Beacon		485.00			413.00	
SiteWorks		50.00				
CLA Licence		69.37			67.21	
Speakers		1072.02			1371.00	
Venue Hire		755.46			408.70	
Advertising & Marketing		164.87			155.88	
Stationary		106.67			88.55	
Art Group	631.00	543.48		258.00	692.88	
Badminton Group	730.42	724.95		410.47	498.75	
Family History	340.00	245.00		62.32	215.00	
Guitar Abs. Beginners 2	782.00	682.50		94.50	0.00	
Guitar Improvers Wed am	1010.00	1025.37		864.00	790.00	
Guitar Inter. Mon am	921.00	952.70		1030.00	1202.55	
Guitar Strummers Wed pm	700.00	709.50		714.00	669.00	
History	190.00	171.00		160.00	236.00	
Knitters & Stitches	115.00	187.00		290.00	160.00	
Natural History	74.00	57.00		36.00	36.00	
Photography	0.00	0.00		30.00	30.00	
Table Tennis 1	1765.75	1644.00		1443.00	1618.18	
Theatre Group	0.00	0.00		299.50	299.50	
Wine Appreciation 1	320.00	423.48		81.00	276.00	
Wine Appreciation 2	240.00	66.12				
Woodwind Players	124.90	99.75				
Social Events	1401.00	1546.66		2168.00	2307.67	
Interest from Bank	51.71					
Membership prepayments	61.00	70.90		15.90		
TVBC Rolling Deposit	300.00	300.00		300.00	300.00	
Total Income	£15,782.46			£13,701.43		
Total Expenditure		£14,616.16			£13,856.19	
Balance to carry forward			£9,026.09			£7,859.79

Useful Contacts

There is a lot of useful information about u3a that can be found on the National U3A Website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Our Romsey Archway U3A Website is

<https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk>

You can contact us at

<https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/contact/>

Please join our Romsey Archway Facebook at – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/443593039767427>