



Street & Glastonbury

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 7th May 2026 at 10.30am

In the Main Hall, Glastonbury Town Hall

A list of the 71 members who attended is attached.

- 1. Apologies:** Wendy Fouracres, Steve Cousins, Janice White, Joy Morgan, Jane King, Gill Donkin, Wendy Howiantz
- 2. Minutes of Previous AGM on 8th May 2025** had been posted on the website and were agreed to be correct. Proposed by Martin Kennard, seconded by Danny Leeman, and signed by David Newick.
- 3. Chairman's Report** by David Newick.

Welcome everyone, thank you for joining our 2026 AGM.

Last year I attended as a regular member and was concerned about the u3a closing. I enjoyed being part of 5 activity groups, and it made me think about standing as Vice Chair, even though I had never done anything quite like it before. I had a lot of support without any pressure, and a year later I am now in the Chair role and enjoying it thoroughly. Beware, in 2 years' time when I will be grooming or blackmailing someone to take over when my 3 years is up!

Our committee is a great team to be part of, with a mix of experience, and a good number of ex-committee members ready to help and offer sound advice. We also have 2 very helpful Southwest regional reps, part of the national organisation.

We have a co-opted member, John Dando, leader of the Jazz/Sinatra group, who joined because he wanted to help as required, and he has no named role, but he has just masterminded a brilliant jazz concert, and he will continue to help the committee "without portfolio".

We say Thank You today to Linda Wilson (currently Publicity, Vice Chair, previously Group -Co-ordinator,), leaving the committee after 5 years. She has kindly offered to continue managing Facebook if her successor is not familiar with it. We wish her well, it is not goodbye, and she will continue to manage the gardens group.

We say Thank You today also to John Roberts, our Membership Secretary for the last 3 years, who is also leaving the committee, He has been training his successor Mark Lewis since March, and we wish John well, it is not goodbye as he will still be active leading the Tuesday Table Tennis.

Group Leaders are the heart of our organisation, and we plan to have a Thank You event specifically for them. We need members who love particular activities to come forward and help create new groups or simply support existing Group Leaders in whatever way they can. I am hoping to restart the family history group in September - if you are interested, please let me know! We are moving away from the sometimes military term "volunteer" to "helping, assisting, being a useful person"!

This year we have increased our links with the local community, e.g. jazz concert in St Ben's, external speakers, Radio Somerset, St Johns Ambulance, Street Council, Salvation Army, etc. Further afield we have rejoined the Avalon network, linking with 6 other nearby u3as, the benefits being shared knowledge and experience, shared walking routes, speaker lists, etc.

On the S&G website you can now join national online interest groups with low membership fees and as many groups as you like for free, e.g. BSL, Family History, music appreciation.

In summary, we are looking to expand your u3a possibilities and perhaps give you a chance to give back a little of your time to help keep our wonderful S&G u3a active and rewarding. I look forward to seeing many of you on the Abbotsbury Coach Trip. Keep having Fun In Your Retirement.

4. Financial Report: David Newick read out the report written by Gill Donkin.

We have had a very successful year with the new members on the committee moving us forward in a very strong position.

We Still have a healthy £3897.45 in the HSBC current and £15,586.48 in the CCLA account.

I have had the 24/25 accounts verified by another treasurer of another u3a Group, he followed u3a guidelines in doing this for me. Even though officially we do not need to be independently verified as our income is not over £25000.

At the start of this year I felt we were being questioned in our ability to run the u3a correctly. I think we have become a strong committee and sought help and advice from the wider u3a family.

Next year 26/27 will be my last year as Treasurer, as that will be the end of 6 years in this role. I have thoroughly enjoyed the task and getting to know so many people. So if anyone enjoys spreadsheets and figures please let the committee know. Full training can be given.

I have prepared a forecast of income & expenditure for the next year and have included the previous 3 years of figures for reference. So you can see the position we stand moving forward.

We have 2 options for next year which I have printed in blue ...

Option 1 –£10 annual membership, and group fees of £1/ £2/ £3 per week paid at the start of each term, or at each meeting. With the exception of Walking, Cycling & Birdwatching groups (and a few more TBD at the next Committee meeting in June) as they are very much weather dependent or involve separate fees.

Option 2 –£10 annual membership, and all groups pay £1 per week group fees.

Personally, I feel reverting back to Option 1 is more viable long term and we still may be able to have payment holidays for group fees in the future.

Martin Kennard proposed approval, and Sue Cloake seconded. The members voted to approve. Some errors had been noticed in the accounts for which David apologised. Julie Hillman who had studied them reassured the meeting that the errors were relatively minor. A corrected version will be put on the website. Andy Pickford said the accounts should have been posted earlier, and also the proposed options for group fees. David agreed and said we will put them on earlier next year. **

5. Proposed Membership and Group Fees: Two options were suggested, both with annual membership of £10. Option 1(recommended by the committee) would have allowed the outdoor groups and a few others to be exempt from fees, and group fees would vary from £1 to £3 as previously, but after much discussion Option 2, with no groups exempt, was proposed by Andy Pickford, seconded by Rosemary Bradley. A vote was held and Option 2 was approved by a large majority. Group fees for all would be £1 per meeting, i.e. £6 for fortnightly meetings in a 12 week term.

6. Group Liaison's Report: David Chapman reported we have 32 group leaders, and he thanked them for their hard work. The Ukulele Band and the Whist group are looking for new leaders. He encouraged members to consider leading a group.

**7. Election of Officers: Chair (David Newick) Secretary (Jenny Lewis)
Vice Chair (Vacant) Treasurer (Gill Donkin)**

No nominations were received for Vice Chair. John Dando proposed and Julie Hillman seconded the election of the other Officers named. The members voted to approve.

**8. Committee Members standing for Election:
Group Co-ordinator (Sue Cloake)***

Membership Secretary (Mark Lewis)

Publicity (Vacant)

Co-Opted Member (John Dando)

Philippa Chapman offered to become Publicity Coordinator, was proposed by Linda Wilson and seconded by Sue Cloake. Cynthia Rayes proposed and Mat Ridley seconded these elections and the members voted to approve.

9. Committee Members standing for Re-election :

Website Manager (David Chapman)

Newsletter Editor (Ursula Dunne)

Events Organiser (Chris Craig)

Jennifer Zimmer proposed and Elaine Robertson seconded these elections and the members voted to approve.

10. Any Other Business : Coach Trip to Abbotsbury June 12th: Chris Craig described the arrangements for this trip, which has quickly sold out. If more people want to come, and can arrange transport he will get them discounted tickets for the two attractions, the Tropical Gardens and the Swannery.

11. Closing Remarks: David Newick thanked everyone for coming and assured them we will put this year's accounts and minutes on the website earlier next year. The meeting closed at 11.40 am.

***Post-Meeting Note 1 8th May 2026**

Sue Cloake requested the Chair to rescind her membership of the committee.

Hence the Group Co-ordinator role continues to be vacant.

****Post-Meeting Note 2 8th May 2026**

The signoff of accounts for 2024-2025 was not fully approved due to some numerical errors, and after correction it may require re-examination and a Special General Meeting. David Newick to check with the SW regional rep to ensure we follow the correct legal process.