

## **DRAFT MINUTES 2026 AGM**

### **16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ARNOLD u3a**

1.30pm Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Arnold Methodist Church, 54 Front Street, Arnold NG5 7EL

### **AGENDA**

The Meeting opened at

The Chair, Hazel Ward welcomed those present and announced the Quorum was achieved.

1. Members in attendance as recorded by Membership Secretary Cathy Van Baalen  
Apologies received from Neil Hunt, Jean Cussons, Wendy Randell, Ann Lumb, John Day, Julie Day  
Pauline Langham, David Gregson, Brenda Draper
2. **Approve as correct the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2025 The Minutes of the 2025 AGM were circulated previously.**

Proposed by Rosie Allen    Seconded by Maxine Rose that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

For 145    Against 0    Abstain 0

### **3. Chair's Report**

The Chair, Hazel Ward presented her Report

...and so ends my middle year as your Chair. Often middle things are known for being nondescript or nonexciting but that's not so for this year, when Arnold u3a has gone from strength to strength.

I am proud that we are a key u3a, working with the Third Age Trust staff to promote the u3a movement across the whole country.

Our groups, activities and meetings are the lifeblood of our u3a and they continue to be interesting, exciting and informative. They give us all the opportunity to have fun and to make and maintain friendships. My sincere thanks go to all who make everything we do such a success. Without the help of so many of you, who constantly volunteer your time and your efforts, my job would be impossible.

All members of our committee continue to make my job easier and my thanks go to each of you. I am pleased to have welcomed three more volunteers to our committee during this very exciting year.

Whenever someone takes on the role of the Chair of any organisation, it can be viewed as a chore; but that's not the case for me in this role. I love helping people and thoroughly enjoy my time spent with each and every one of you.

Thank you.

#### **4. Annual Treasurers Report of Arnold u3a Nov 1st 2024 to 31st Oct 2025**

**Accounts circulated previously Spare copies available today.**

At the start of our financial year, we held £18044 in our combined general and membership accounts. During the year we received a small increase in membership income, and a very generous donation from a holiday booked with Riviera travel from Helen and Chris Butler. Gift Aid for 24 – 25 was applied for after the end of our financial year, this totalled £1160.

Expenditure in this year increased as a new treasures laptop was needed. There were expenses involved in the 15th birthday celebration held in Sept. We also adjusted the Beacon cost so it includes part of the costs for this year paid for in the last financial year.

At the end of the year, we held £17810. With gift aid for 24- 25 added we have a total of £18970 therefore the committee has agreed to keep membership fees at £15 for full members and £11 for associate.

Our interest groups began the year with £9258 held in its bank account. By the end, £9387 was held for the future payment of tickets, outings and rent.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Chris for continuing to support me this year. Her time, patience and instruction have been invaluable in learning the role of treasurer. I am also very grateful that Barbara has now joined me to share this important role, we are both appreciating sharing the load and being able to support each other. I would also like to thank Diane Storey of Sherwood u3a for taking the time to examine our accounts.

Acceptance of the Treasurers Report was proposed by Tina Palingedge and seconded by Sue Hillery

For 145 Against 0 Abstain 0 Carried Unanimously.

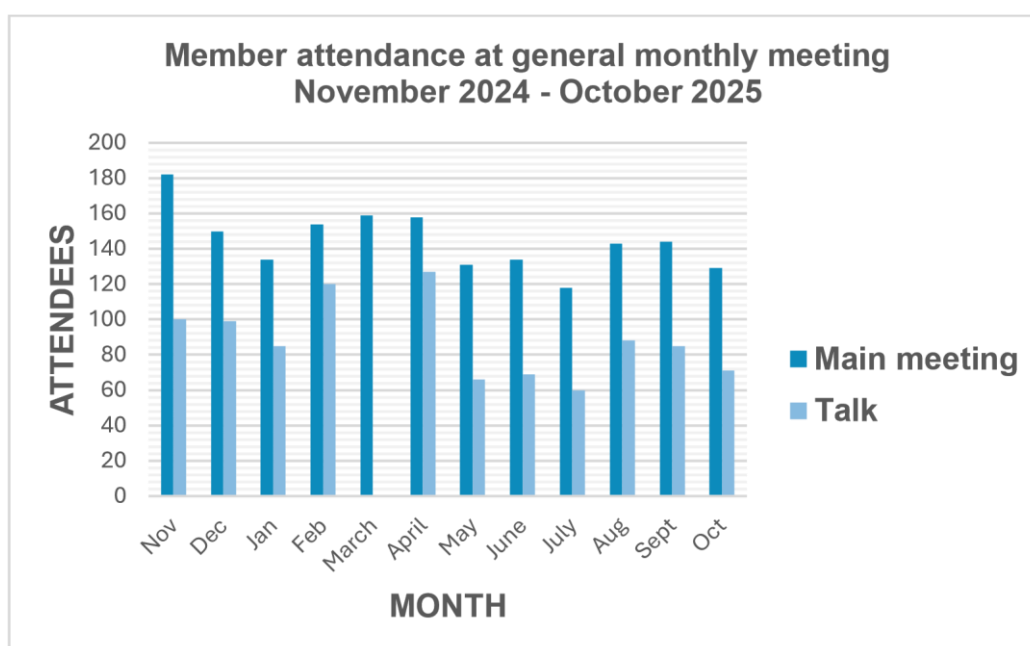
#### **5. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner**

The Committee has decided that the appointment of an Independent Examiner be left to the discretion of the Committee at a future date.

#### **6. Membership Secretary Cathy Van Baalen's Report**

Membership numbers for the year 2024 -25 totaled 485 slightly down from the previous year. Membership breakdown consisted of 450 individual members and 35 associate members. A decrease in individual members but a slight rise in associate members from the previous year. At the commencement of the current year, membership renewal numbers dropped to 425 a loss of 60 (12%) members which was the same as in the previous year. The loss of members is due to a variety of reasons: change in circumstances, moved area, health reasons, grandparent duties, "isn't for me". However, over the year the recruitment of new members offsets the loss. We recruited 54 new members, slightly less than the previous year. Since 1 November we have had 31 new members join the branch. The majority of members join at the Tuesday monthly meeting or through the New Members meeting at Sprinters run by Terry Pears and Pat Jackson.

|                             | 2022-2023  | 2023-2024  | 2024-2025  | Current    |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total Number Members</b> | <b>498</b> | <b>489</b> | <b>485</b> | <b>456</b> |
|                             |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Individual</b>           | 465        | 464        | 450        | 419        |
| <b>Associate</b>            | 33         | 25         | 35         | 38         |
|                             |            |            |            |            |
| <b>New Members</b>          | 62         | 61         | 54         | 31         |



General attendance at the Main monthly meeting is high. The average attendance is 145 members. The month with the highest attendance was November where we had 180 – with membership renewal contributing to this. Attendance at the post meeting talk is good with an average number of attendees over the year being 88. The April talk “One Moment in Time” given by the Mary Rose Trust saw 127 members stay. This was followed by Nottingham Theatre talk which had an attendance of – 120. The July talk - Song from the Shows - had the least attendance - 60 members.

All in all, despite a small decline in overall membership numbers, Arnold u3a continues to have a strong base of members with the monthly meetings and talks continuing to be well supported.

Chair thanked Cathy

## **7. Interest Groups Coordinator Sue Matthews Report (Read by Hazel Ward in Sue's Absence.)**

We currently run over 60 groups; some are seasonal such as croquet, some short but sweet like the annual Spanish holiday, some physical like the various walks programmes, some cerebral, some artistic, some simply relaxing. The range and variety of our groups is staggering. I can confidentially say they are all enjoyable and embody our raison d'être, to "live, learn and laugh". This year the Book Group has been so successful that a second group has been set up. The Mindfulness Group was an immediate hit, the Weekend lunch group has now been running a year and Gardening Group continues under new leadership. The 2 Classical music groups merged and unfortunately the subsidised tickets for visits to Playhouse productions has not been available this year. I'd like to give a special mention to the Singing for Fun Group which has just celebrated its second year. I've recently joined it myself and can report that it is thriving and we do, indeed, have fun. Especially if you are a fan of the Beatles, Everley Bros, Buddy Holly, Simon and Garfunkel, 60s bands etc, come along.

Now listen up straight after the AGM business for a potential new group; it's literature based.

Chair thanked Sue for writing her report.

## **8. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Gwen Whitehouse has been nominated for the Honorary Role of Business Secretary in accordance with the Constitution.

Proposed by Pauline Langham Seconded by Alwyn Jones

For 145 Against 0 Abstain 0 Carried Unanimously

There were no other nominations for Honorary Positions

Barbara Eustace has been nominated as a Committee Member/Joint Treasurer

Proposed by Jennifer Seaton and Seconded by Mike Wareham

For 145 Against 0 Abstain 0 Carried Unanimously

Heather Roberts has been nominated as a Committee Member

Proposed by Pat Witherspoon and Seconded by Lesley Wainwright

For 145 Against 0 Abstain 0 Carried Unanimously

Kevin Fallon has been nominated as a Committee Member

Proposed by Lu Nord and Seconded by Barbara Prescott

For 145 Against 0 Abstain 0 Carried Unanimously

**The Committee for the year 2026/27 will be:**

### **HONORARY OFFICERS**

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Hazel Ward | Chair |
|------------|-------|

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Viv Purkiss | Vice Chair |
|-------------|------------|

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Glynis Hunt     | Treasurer          |
| Gwen Whitehouse | Business Secretary |

### **MEMBERS**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Cathy Van Baalen | Membership Secretary |
| Kevin Fallon     | Publicity            |
| Sue Matthews     | Groups Coordinator   |
| Tina Palingedge  | Health and Safety    |
| John Heeson      | Website Liaison      |
| Barbara Eustace  | Joint Treasurer      |
| Heather Roberts  | Speaker Finder       |

### **8. Outgoing Officers and Committee Members**

Hazel acknowledged the ongoing support given to Glynis Hunt our present Treasurer by Chris Gardner since leaving that position.

Presentation and call for a round of applause for Chris Gardner - Photo

Hazel outlined the achievements and read a poem praising the dedication of Pete Hewitt who is leaving his position on the Committee this year.

Presentation and call for a round of applause for Pete Hewitt - Photo

### **9. Resolutions or Motions received by the Committee**

None have been received.

**10.** Chair announced the new selected local charity for the year. It is Nottinghamshire Hospice. Leaflets about this charity after this meeting and information at future meetings.

### **Close of Meeting**

The Meeting closed at 13.54