



AGM Special Edition May 2025 Annual Report

Chairman's Report

It has been another busy time for our Milford on Sea u3a with lots of groups and activities running throughout the whole year. This has been the first year of my tenure as your Chairman and I cannot believe how quickly it has flown by. Our membership has increased steadily with lots of new and established interest groups to keep us all busy. I hope by now that you have become familiar with our website, which changes with the seasons and activities to look out for. Our annual membership price stayed the same this year and we hope that you Members feel that you get good value for money. Our membership covers so much – the hire of the halls, our payments to the Third Age Trust, the cost of our speakers at the monthly meetings and subsidising social events, not to mention the tea and biscuits at the end of meetings!

Our u3a group appears to run seamlessly - but that is because I have a great Committee behind me to help me make good decisions on your behalf. Sometimes we are like swans – swimming gracefully but behind the scenes, paddling furiously!

Our Committee consists of myself as Chairman and Lynn Peck as Vice Chair. Lynn also doubles up as the Groups Support Team Leader which is a huge job in itself. Hanlie Croeser takes care of our accounts and runs this important section very efficiently. Tom Gateley is our Membership Secretary and he plays a vital role in keeping our records up to date and welcoming new members. Liz Christian is a very helpful member of our Committee and is ready to lend a hand on many occasions. I am sure you will have seen Ewan McGregor on the Tech desk, helping us in the meetings with microphones etc in his role as Tech Support. A bit behind the scenes but certainly no less important, is our Speaker Secretary, Gill Scovell, who finds our great monthly speakers. Also Angela Bunting, Angela's enthusiasm for the computer side of our group has enabled us to have a well presented and maintained website and she has helped us with Beacon, which has been a valuable aid to us all. Last but

certainly not least is Maria Thompson, who has been our Committee Secretary for a whole year. She has been invaluable as our secretary, producing documents we didn't know we needed, agendas, minutes and keeping our records in check. She also has some great ideas and makes brilliant tea – which a lot of our members have sampled at our meetings.

Thank you Team, you have made my first year as Chairman a happy and productive one. If you would like to come and join us on the Committee, you will find a big welcome.

Chris Benson who has been a stalwart of our Committee for many years is stepping down from his current role of Vice Chair. We hope he will still play a supporting role with the Committee, giving us his cheerful wisdom and sense of fun. Thank you Chris.

Happy Summer everyone,

Hilary Harris
Chairman

John Sewell



John pictured with Sonia at our Milford on Sea u3a 10th Anniversary celebrations in 2023.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of John Sewell. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a kind, thoughtful and knowledgeable gentlemen, who made an enormous contribution to Milford on Sea u3a.

John was a founder member of our u3a and served as Chair and Vice Chair between 2015 and 2018. He was Newsletter Editor from the beginning of our u3a and



continued for 8 years, producing an amazing 52 Newsletters. John believed that the Newsletter is a major way to engage members and he ensured that we were well informed and entertained for all those years. He also managed to fit in running the Art Appreciation 1 and General Art Groups.

John and Sonia moved back to Bedfordshire to be close to their family in 2021. In recognition of their contributions, they were made Lifetime Honorary Members. Our u3a would not be the organisation it is without them.

The funeral is on May 20th at 3pm and is being live streamed so friends in Milford can watch. Website: [/watch.obitus.com](https://watch.obitus.com) username: xuyi5410 password: 521651

Annual General Meeting

All members are invited to the AGM on Tuesday, 3 June 2025 at 2pm at The Bridge. The AGM will be followed by the Guest Speaker and a cream tea, and probably something bubbly to go with it!



MoS u3a AGM Agenda

3 June 2025 at 2pm at The Bridge, Sea Rd

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM on 4 June 2024 (on the website or on request)
3. Chair's Report (see Newsletter)
4. Treasurer's Report (see Newsletter and link on website)
5. Membership Fee 2026/27. Recommendation of the Committee. See Treasurer's Report
6. Approval of the appointment of an examiner of the accounts. See Treasurer's report
7. Election of Officers and Committee members
8. Consideration of any notified motions
9. Date of next AGM – 2 June 2026

[Click here](#) for a proxy form if you cannot attend the meeting and would like someone to vote on your behalf.

These are the members who have been nominated for the Committee:



Hilary Harris,
Chairman



Lynn Peck,
Vice-Chairman



Maria Thompson
Secretary



Hanlie Croeser
Treasurer



Tom Gateley
Membership Secretary



Liz Christian
Committee Member



Ewan McGregor
Committee Member

Although we have a very good committee for the year ahead, we can have up to 12 Trustees, so if you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

[Click here](#) to download a nomination form.

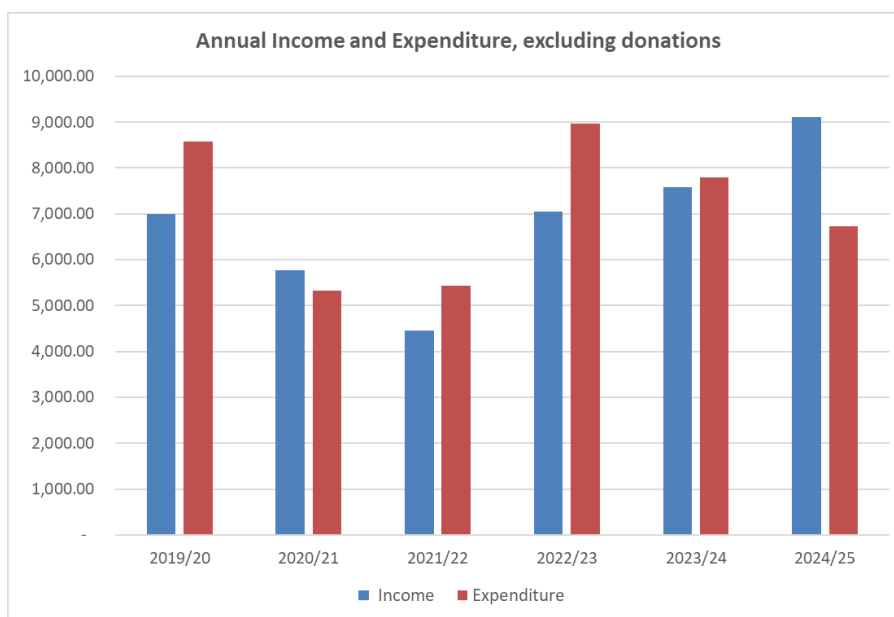


Treasurer's Report: year ended 31 March 2025

[Click here](#) for the financial statements on our website.

Our accounts have been approved by the Trustees and examined by our independent accounts examiner, Keith Adams. He is stepping down from this role after several years, and I am sure all our members will join me in thanking him for his time and expertise in reviewing our accounts. His contribution has been greatly appreciated. Several members stepped forward to take over the role of the accounts examiner. After consideration, the Committee proposes the appointment of Roger Garlick (one of our members) to act as our accounts examiner for the 2025/26 financial year. He is a retired Chartered Accountant and has a lot of experience working with the accounts of local clubs and associations. Members will have the opportunity to vote on this appointment under item 6 of the AGM agenda.

I am pleased to report that we continue to have healthy finances. Over the past 2 years, we managed to reduce our annual expenditure, while our revenue increased due to the growth in our membership numbers, as shown in the following chart.

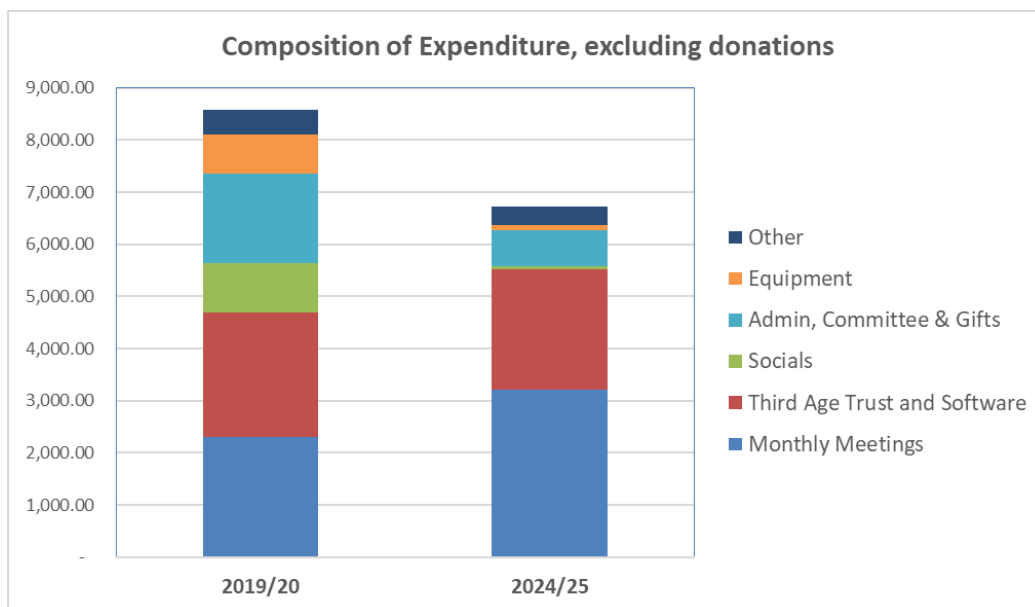


For the year as a whole, our income amounted to £9,677, while our expenditure totalled £7,297, leaving us with a surplus for the year of £2,380, following deficits in the previous three years. Our cash balance at the end of the financial year was a healthy £10,445, which is equivalent to more than our annual expenditure.

Our income for the year included a donation of £572 from Riviera Travel. As highlighted in previous newsletters and on our u3a website, Riviera Travel will donate up to 10% of the cost of a holiday by one of our members to the u3a. As our u3a's finances are in a very healthy state, the Committee consulted the Third Age

Trust about donating this money to another charity. We were advised that the u3a can only make a donation to another charity if that charity has the same or very similar charitable objectives to the u3a. Following research, the Committee decided to donate the full amount of the donation received from Riviera Travel to the Wellbeing Centre at Oakhaven Hospice, which provides education and activities that are very much in line to those provided by our u3a groups. The Committee has also updated its own policy regarding “Supporting other Charities” to enable us to donate money that we receive as donations to charities with objectives similar to the u3a.

Excluding the donation to Oakhaven Wellness Centre, 48% of our expenditure was on monthly meetings, including the hall hire costs, speakers’ fees and refreshments. This compares to only 27% five years ago. Our payments to the Third Age Trust and software costs represent another 34% of our overall expenditure, up from 28% in 2019/20. There was a substantial drop in administrative costs and expenditure on socials and equipment, as shown in the graph below.



Regarding groups, our policy is for groups to be self-financing, though the Committee may approve small subsidies where needed. Groups with balances over £100 should spend the money for the benefit of that group within the same financial year, or reduce the group’s fees.

The Committee proposes to keep the membership fee unchanged at £17 per member in 2026/27 (item 5 of the AGM Agenda). Given our healthy financial position, the Committee plans to spend more on socials, workshops and activities available to all our members.

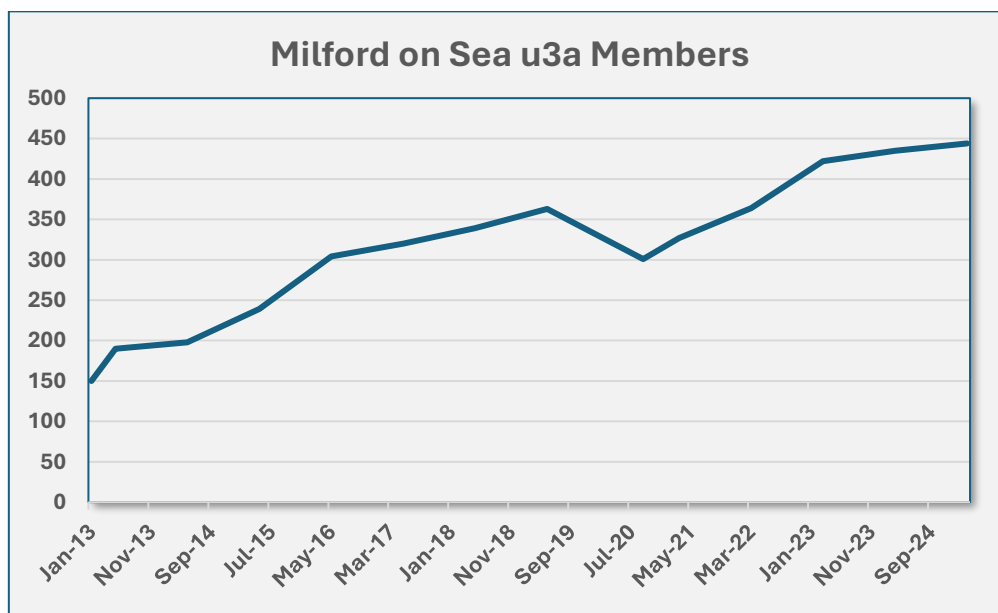
Hanlie Croeser, Treasurer



Membership Report 2024-25

Our Membership continues to thrive, increasing slightly year on year.

Membership in 2022/3 was 422. In 2023/4 it was 435, and in 2024/5, it was 443.



The 2025/6 Membership currently (end of April) stands at 297, already at 67% of the final 2024/5 level.

Those Members who have not yet renewed (or told me that they are resigning) have recently received a reminder. Any Member who does not renew by the end of May will no longer be able to attend any Groups or meetings.

If you wish to renew your membership, you can do so by following this link:

<https://milfordonsea.u3asite.uk/2-membership-renewal/>

Tom Gateley, Membership Secretary

Groups Support Team Report

Thank you to all the Group Contacts for organising and running such fantastic groups for the last year. Don't forget, there is no need to do everything alone. We'd be happy for you to share the role of Group Contact with others in the group and you can also share the organising of meetings round the group members. Please do come and have a chat with me, Hilary or Liz if you'd like to know more. We are also



always on the look out for new Group Contacts to start organising new groups - do get in touch if you can help.

There will be regular updates throughout the year of where we have spare places in Groups to ensure we are maximising the opportunities for everyone. These will be listed out three or four times a year with up-to-date information from the Group Contacts. There will also be another Groups Open Day around mid October (date to be confirmed) where you will get the opportunity to meet the Group Contacts and join a new group if there is space!

We are always on the look-out for new group suggestions so please do let us know.

Many thanks for another great year in the u3a!

Lynn, Hilary & Liz

Monthly Meeting Speakers

Tuesday 3 June 2025 - Kevin Patience

Roll-Royce and The Silver Lady

The Silver Lady or Spirit of Ecstasy mascot has been associated with Rolls-Royce motor cars since the early days. This is the tragic love story of a couple, Lord Montague of Beaulieu and Eleanor Thornton, who was the model for the winged figure that has adorned thousands of Rolls-Royce radiators.

We have enjoyed talks by Kevin Patience before. He was a commercial diver and ship salvage specialist in the Middle East for many years, and now has intriguing tales to tell on a number of subjects. Kevin has a keen interest in Rolls-Royce vehicles.

Tuesday 1 July 2025 - Andy Skinner

A History of Southampton in Buildings

Explore the history of the town by finding out about a number of important buildings in the town today and what they tell us about Southampton's past.

Andy Skinner is a Learning and Engagement Officer at Southampton City Council with a passion for sharing information from the past. He has come to Milford to talk to us before, with fascinating presentations.

Dates for your Diary

Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday
of each month
at the Bridge,
Milford
Community
Centre
Followed by
tea and chat

AGM 3 June
1 July
5 August
2 September
7 October
4 November
2 December



Visit our website: Milford on Sea u3a

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