AGM 5 NOVEMBER 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we come to the end of 2026 I am pleased to tell you that your u3a continues to thrive – with more new members, and every month more members attending the talks.

Maybe this is because at the monthly meetings we are very lucky to have very good refreshments, run by Lorraine Dewey, who makes the delicious homemade biscuits served by our volunteer group, as well as some excellent speakers to entertain us all.

We have three new groups starting – a Singleton's Sunday lunch group, a Tea and Conversation group, both intended to get our single members together. We also have a second Photography Group.

In the past few months we have been able to publicise our u3a at two different town fayres in Gillingham to introduce the u3a to a varied selection of local residents. A coffee morning was also held in Shaftesbury Town Hall.

I have been very fortunate to have been supported by a very good Committee this year and give them my thanks.

- Helen Warley, our Vice Chair and Meeter and Greeter
- Secretary Barbara Watkinson who does a sterling job
- We couldn't be without our Treasurer Peter Hurst
- Jennifer Day has taken on the role of Groups Co-ordinator from Barbara Hurst who is leaving the Committee. We will miss Barbara very much, as not only did she run the Groups, and publicity, she is also the In Touch editor. We are grateful that thankfully she is happy to continue to produce this enjoyable publication.
- Peter Grange is retiring from the Committee. He has been Membership Secretary for 5 years and was responsible for setting up our website and taking on the Beacon system. Our grateful thanks go out to him.
- We warmly welcome Steve and Judy Veness to the committee. They have jointly taken on the mantle of Membership Secretary
- Robin Collins is now running our website and taking on Beacon as well as running two photography groups.
- And Ann Taylor has kindly taken over as our Publicity Officer.

We now have 33 groups and the Committee's thanks go out to all our volunteers - Group Co-ordinators, the Really Useful Group and Hall Stewards.

I look forward to another successful year for your u3a.

LIBBY HAGUE-HOLMES **October 2026**