

SOAR VALLEY u3a
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 29th July 2025
2.00pm at Normanton on Soar Village Hall

The Chairman, Ian Lloyd, introduced himself and opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to it and pointing out fire exits with Ian Holah and Gill Howdle as fire stewards for the afternoon.

1. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were available on the notice board.
2. **Matters arising:** None
3. **Chairman's Report (Ian Lloyd):** Following Marilyn Wood's decision to step down as Membership Secretary, Derek Hollis has been co-opted to the committee and has agreed to take on the membership role with handover on 1st September. Ian told the meeting that he had investigated the option of u3a Matters online, but it was only a trial and TAT have decided to offer an abridged version on the website with a continued subscription for the full paper version.
4. **Secretary's Report (Mike Sharpe):** Nothing to report
5. **Treasurer's Report (Gill Howdle):** Currently £6914 which includes £1630 payments for the Hull trip, giving a nett cleared balance of £5284. Gill reminded members that if any groups need anything by way of "one off" support, they should ask and if members pay tax and can gift aid, please do so.
6. **Membership Report:** 380 members, an increase of 2 since the May meeting.
7. **Group Co-ordinator's Report (Paul Fileman):** The new Bridge and Chess Groups are up and running and the Canasta Group has its first meeting on 12th August. The German Group is due to meet during the second week in September. A play reading group is trying to get started but needs a group leader/contact. Please contact Paul if you are interested. Table Tennis 2 is meeting on Monday 4th August. The Croquet Group needs more members. Three other possible new groups are Antiques and Collectibles, Pickleball and Spanish. Please talk to Paul for more information on any of the above.
8. **Outings Team (Alison Lloyd):** The last trip to Wroxeter Roman City was really wet but very interesting and all agreed that Shrewsbury needs revisiting in the future. The next trip is to Hull and The Deep on 11th September with 43 booked. 10 spaces are still available if anyone wishes to go. Our new outings group has met and we have three sheets of A4 full of suggestions. We are looking at 3 full days and half days and should have some plans by the end of the year. Alison told the meeting that she had leaflets from Loughborough University about tests to do with the frail and elderly if anyone was interested in taking part.
9. **Social Team (Ruth Grantham):** Ruth appealed for a volunteer to take charge of the tea and coffee at the general meeting on 30th September as she is away. Towards the end of October we are hoping to have afternoon tea/coffee and biscuits with a quiz. More information to come.
10. **Any Other Business:** None

The Chairman welcomed the speaker for the afternoon, Mike Burton, talking about the River Trent.

A vote of thanks was given and refreshments were served.