



**Minutes of Hunstanton u3a Members Meeting
2pm Monday 16 February 2026**

1. Chair

Hilary welcomed 87 members, with 2 apologies. She recited the standard health and safety procedures.

2. Secretary's Report

- The February update from CEO Iain Cassidy and the East of England updates were forwarded on email.
- This branch has votes on the next regional representatives, We are entitled to two. There has been no additional candidate(s) to join our current representative Ian Matthews. Note: by the time of writing I was notified of two candidates.

3. Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer is on holiday and Ian Holland reported on branch finances.

- The bank account total is £10,604.
- There are no bills of substance until the Easter capitation and website licence are due.

Secretary's remarks: Pat Eckersall's holiday is highly deserved because inefficient operations of both HMRC and the bank have been inordinately demanding of her time and attention.

4. Speaker

Sean Garret, general manager of Cromer Pier, shared his love of the pier and the seaside through stories of its successful survival through the challenges posed by changing fashion in entertainment, interruption and destruction of attendance patterns by the pandemic and enormous continuous maintenance costs. The pier benefits from the expertise of Openwide Coastal, who manage Bournemouth pier too, with international entertainment connections. The pier became financially independent in 2019. It boasts of being the only traditional 'End of the Pier' show in the world and, apart from a short break in winter, there are shows throughout the year. In addition to the traditional variety shows at Christmas and summertime there are other events such as sunset evenings, Folk, Heritage Day, Vintage Days plus Operatic and Drama performances. After leaving Butlins Bradley Walsh performed his first summer season in Cromer, and has been a staunch supporter ever since. Darren Day followed that route too. Refreshments are an important source of income, and meals, drinks and snack menus are regularly changed. There will be new ice cream treats this year!

5. Thanks

Hilary thanked Sean warmly for his enthusiastic account of the Norfolk coastal gem.

Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.45pm. Refreshments followed. The next members meeting will be at 2pm on Monday 16 March at the Hunstanton Community Centre.