



Minutes of Hunstanton u3a Members Meeting Monday 21 September 2026

Chair, Hilary Farrel welcomed 69 members and 16 visitors.

Hilary reminded the room that next month's meeting will be the AGM. There are three resignations from the committee. There are two nominations for vacancies (Vice-Chair, Publicity Officer) and we still seek a new Groups Coordinator. She thanked David LeMoir for his work to develop the now-substantial Magazine. There was a notice from Jill Davison that there are spaces on the trip to Kew Gardens on 14th October. Hilary accepted the role as Chair as a temporary answer to branch needs and will retire in 2027. However, she would be pleased to leave in advance if anyone would like to take over mid-term.

Secretary Virginia Young thanked members for a quick response to the vote for the Board of the Third Age Trust. There are three candidates, and our vote went to Jill McLaughlin. At St Nicholas church, Dersingham, she saw that the flower arranging group had made three contrasting exhibits for the alphabet-theme flower festival. The 'Garden' entry featured wellies, a tortoise and tools. 'Ice' sparkled with diamonds among the white flowers and foliage and 'Orange' was a sophisticated architectural piece.

Treasurer's report as at 18 September 2026.

At the close of business on Friday, our total bank balance was £11,091. The balance is high as, by Friday, we had received £2,680 of subscriptions for 2026/27 from 208 members; £2,498 by bank transfer, our preferred method – thank you to those who pay this way.

Amanda Sutherland

Amanda delivered a vibrant presentation to match her fascinating (no pun intended) life. A talent for the creative use of materials was evident in childhood and she even started a business when a schoolgirl. The natural progression was to the London college of fashion and design, and this pivotal location led to high profile connections and career opportunities. The fashion and entertainment industries melded to offer a series of film and television ventures, and there is little doubt we have all seen her costumes.



The next step was to establish an independent fashion brand featuring both formal wear and accessories, some of the latter repurposed from unexpected sources. Melted-down milk cartons for example! A shrewd business woman, Amanda was quick to embrace online shopping and she enjoys worldwide sales. She brought a rack of eye-catching hats, neckwear and jewellery that drew a crowd of customers at the end of her presentation.

This is but a snatch of Amanda's creative journey, delivered with zest, and so well-received that Speaker Secretary Ann McKimm re-booked her on the spot. We will meet her again in 2027.

The meeting closed at 3.12 pm and refreshments followed.

The next meeting will be the AGM at 2pm on Monday 19 October at the Community Centre. After business matters are complete there will be refreshments and a quiz.