

Secretary Report AGM 2026

At the last AGM we adopted our new Constitution and elected Helga and Karen to the Committee. Since then, we have co-opted Colin, Vikki and Ray.

Our new Committee members have quickly become key role-holders. Karen has taken on the role of Groups Coordinator from Linda, and we currently have 66 groups registered on our website. Helga has stepped up to organise our very popular outings and is delighted that Colin has offered his support to help share the workload.

Vikki has recently assumed the role of Membership Secretary, allowing John E to focus on managing the Beacon administration. With our membership standing at 700, both roles represent a significant commitment.

Ray is our newest recruit, and his previous professional experience is proving invaluable as we navigate the necessary bureaucracy, which we strive to keep both relevant and up to date. He has kindly offered to review all the mandatory policies now required and will ensure they remain appropriate to Saxon Shore. However, we still have some work to do on the Meeting Checklists required by our u3a Insurance.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to some Committee members. John W had to step down mid-year to focus on other life events and Filomena needs time to concentrate on family matters. Glenda is standing down after six years as Treasurer, but fortunately Steve has volunteered to take on this role. Linda, a founder member, was reassured when Karen expressed interest in taking on the Groups role, but Linda's history and knowledge will be greatly missed. As always, we very much hope to continue seeing them around – just without their name badges.

For those members able to attend our monthly meetings, we have enjoyed a series of very interesting speakers, thanks to Wendy and all her hard work, helped along by our new projector screen which was purchased in September.

We have also held two fabulous social events: our Cream Tea and our Christmas Event. Feeding more than 150 people with tea and scones, or tea and mince pies, is no small task, and this is only possible thanks to the dedication of Joanna and her volunteers. We were also delighted to be entertained by two of our own u3a groups, *The Ukulele Group* and *Totally Folked Up* – who added enormously to the enjoyment of these occasions.

Finally, I am pleased to report that David Cheetham has put his name forward for nomination as Chair. While this position would ordinarily be filled from within the existing Committee, all current Committee members already hold defined roles and responsibilities, for which we are extremely grateful. David joined us at a recent Committee meeting, and his considerable knowledge and experience will, I am sure, make him a welcome and valuable addition to the Committee.