



Littlehampton u3a Annual General Meeting – 3rd June 2025

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE IN 2026-27

RATIONALE

A motion is proposed by the Committee to increase the annual membership fee for the membership year beginning 1st March 2026, as follows:

- Individual Membership – from £10 per annum to £12 per annum
- Associate Membership – from £6 per annum to £8 per annum

Rationale for Proposed Increase

1. The membership fee has remained at £10 per person for many years apart from a reduction to £9 in 2020 (due to the COVID lockdown) which was then returned to £10 the following year. SEE CORRECTION BELOW
2. The Cost-of-Living Index has risen dramatically over the past few years giving rise to an increase in our operating costs
3. The Third Age Trust require us to pay a £4 Capitation Fee per member, plus a fee of £1 per member for the use of Beacon. Additionally, we incur a cost from PayPal of 1.4% plus 20p per transaction (a total of 34p per £10 membership transaction). These combined costs leave us with less than £5 out of an Individual Member's original £10 membership fee.
4. We pay an annual subscription fee of £4 for each member who subscribes to the 'u3a Matters' magazine, and there are currently 154 subscribing members. Many other u3as cover this cost by making an additional charge for the magazine, but we absorb this cost in the membership fee.
5. We subsidise our Annual Christmas Party in order to keep the costs to a minimum for the attendees.
6. We are now running regular events for our members (Coffee Mornings, Speaker Meetings, coach trips, Group Leaders' 'Thank You' events etc) which are either subsidised or provided at cost price.
7. Our available funds are decreasing by approximately £1000 year on year due to these increased activities.

8. Our income is derived predominantly from membership fees and Gift Aid payments, with additional income from occasional grant payments and donations.
9. The proposed increase in fees would generate approximately £1200 per annum additional income for Littlehampton u3a.

CORRECTION to point 1.

In the subscription year 2019/20 the fee was reduced from £10 to £9 because we were holding an acceptable balance. This was the year before COVID

In 2021/22 there was a membership fee holiday because of COVID

The fee was then held at £9 until it was increased in 2023/24 to £10

So, in summary, the fees have been :

2018/19 - £10

2019/20 - £9

2020/21 - £9

2021/22 - £0

2022/23 - £9

2023/24 - £10

2024/25 - £10

2025/26 - £10