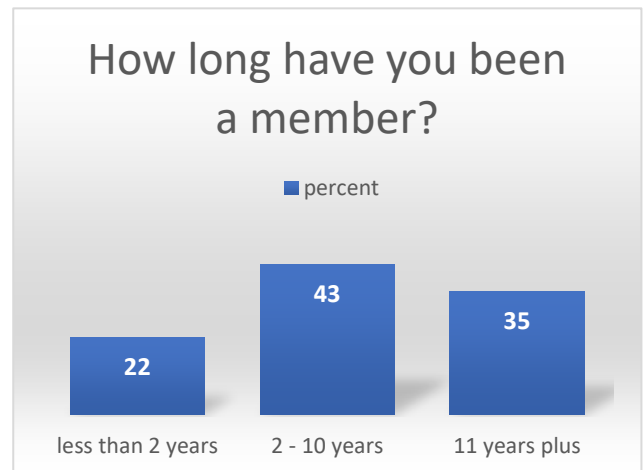
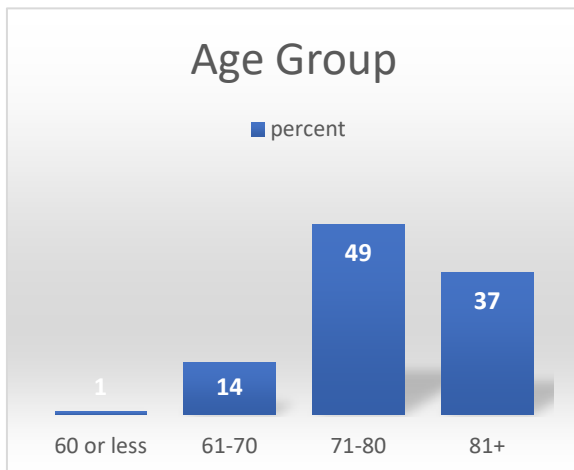


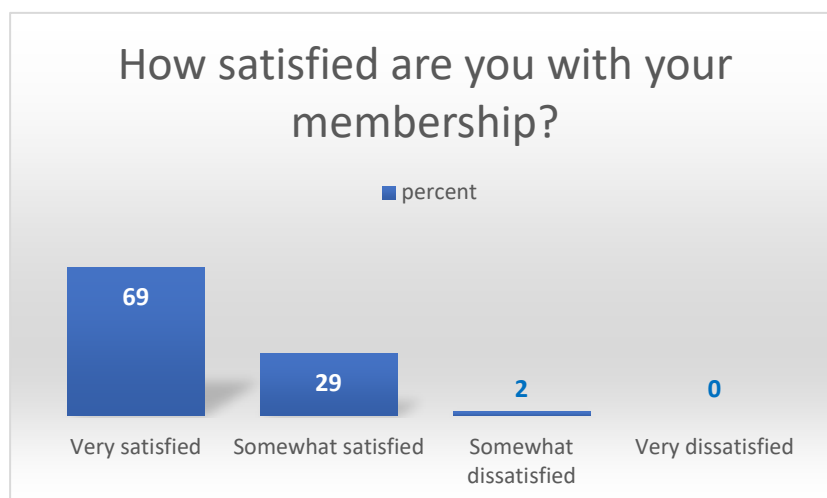
# Horsham u3a- 2026 Survey Results

To enable the committee to hear the views of its members, all were invited to participate in a survey. Of the 495 people who viewed it, 274 started the survey with 186 completing to the end, resulting in a 37% response of the whole membership.

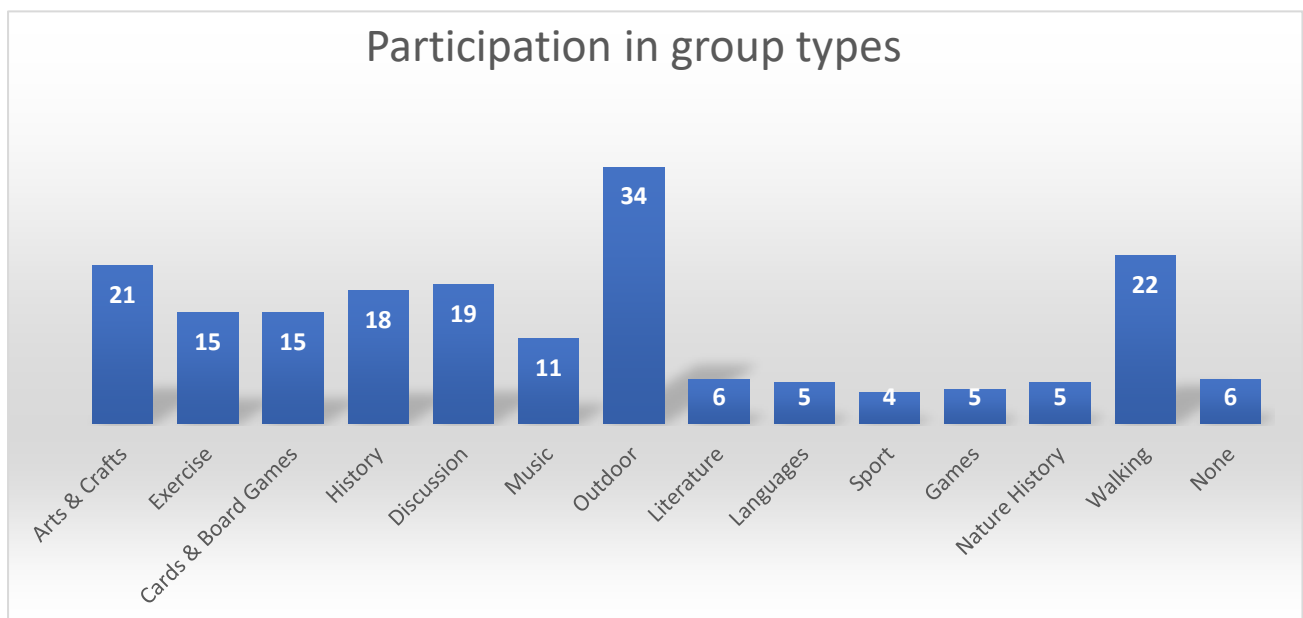
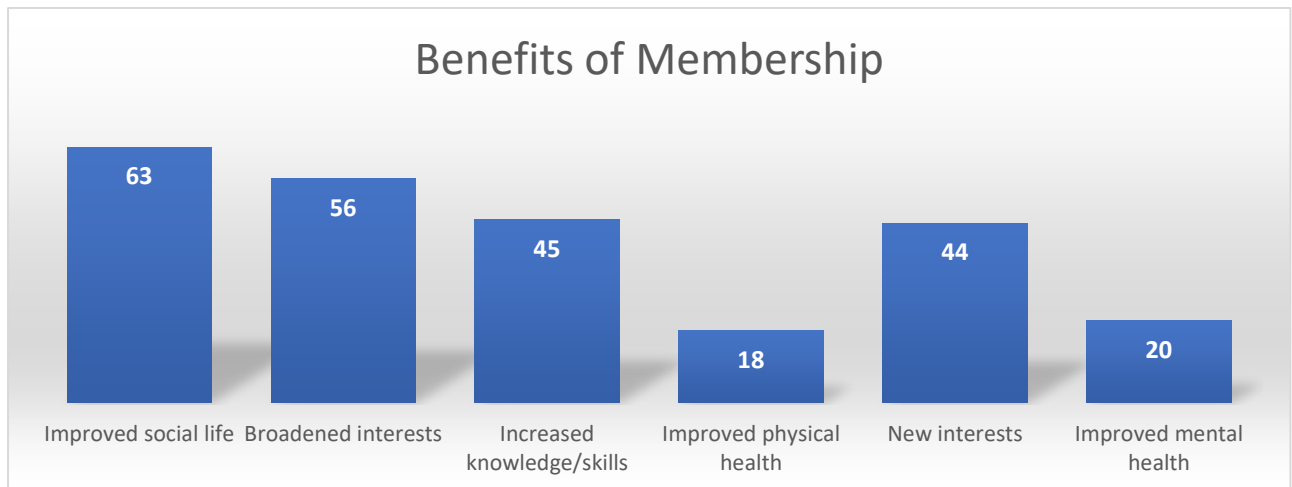


The demographics show that people are joining at a later age, this could be due to a number of factors. People retiring later, caring duties which leave less time for other activities, a wide choice of things to do in the Horsham area.

The length of time members continue to participate shows we have a good balance of new people joining while retaining others for considerable amounts of time. Given the satisfaction rates below and our retention levels at renewal, people are enjoying what is on offer.



The next question asked which benefits they had experienced with the membership by selecting all that applied. We know that social interaction is very important in retirement and especially if you find yourself alone after many years; 63 percentage have valued that. A good result on continued learning and wellbeing.



As we have a wide range of interest groups it was difficult to categorise them all. With Outdoor having thirteen groups, this was going to be the highest. Surprisingly six percent are not members of any groups. These are some of the reasons given.

- Only recently become a member,
- Clashes with other activities or groups are full
- Group folded as leader resigned
- My group was closed due to lack of members
- Don't drive so unable to get to some venues
- On a waiting list

We then asked for suggestions for groups that are not currently available.

- Arts & Crafts
  - Embroidery, crochet & knitting for charity
  - Scrapbooking, card making
  - More variety
- Outdoor
  - Visits to London
  - More adventurous Going Places
  - Church Groups
- Exercise
  - Cycling
  - Curling
  - Exercise for oldies
  - Slow walking
  - Dancing
  - Qi Gong
  - Aquarobics
- Other
  - Poetry
  - General History
  - Singing
  - Music appreciation
  - Wine appreciation
  - Gardening tips and plants
  - Current Affairs
  - Wellbeing
  - Computer & phone skills
  - Role playing

There are some very interesting choices here. Included on the list were calls for additional groups for subjects that are currently full.

We do have a person who has kindly stepped forward to set up a general history group.

A singing group is being looked into, but ideally it needs someone with a music background.

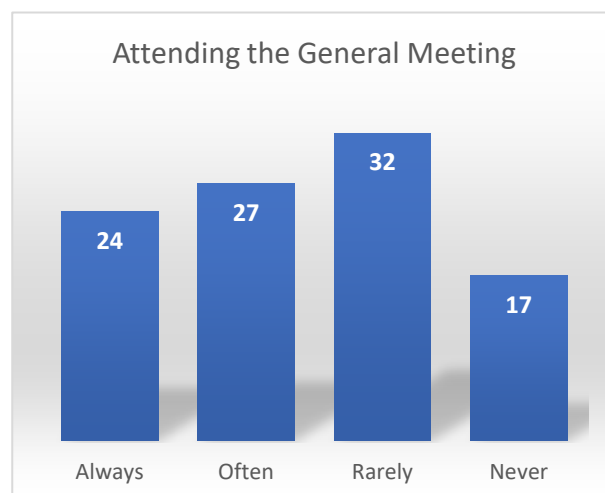
As with everything connected with the u3a it has been run by volunteers, so unless we are able to recruit more Group leaders, unfortunately nothing will change. Part of the survey asked if anyone was willing to do this, we only received two responses.

We all really appreciate those who currently run groups. They will confirm that it really is not as daunting as you may imagine. Help is always available

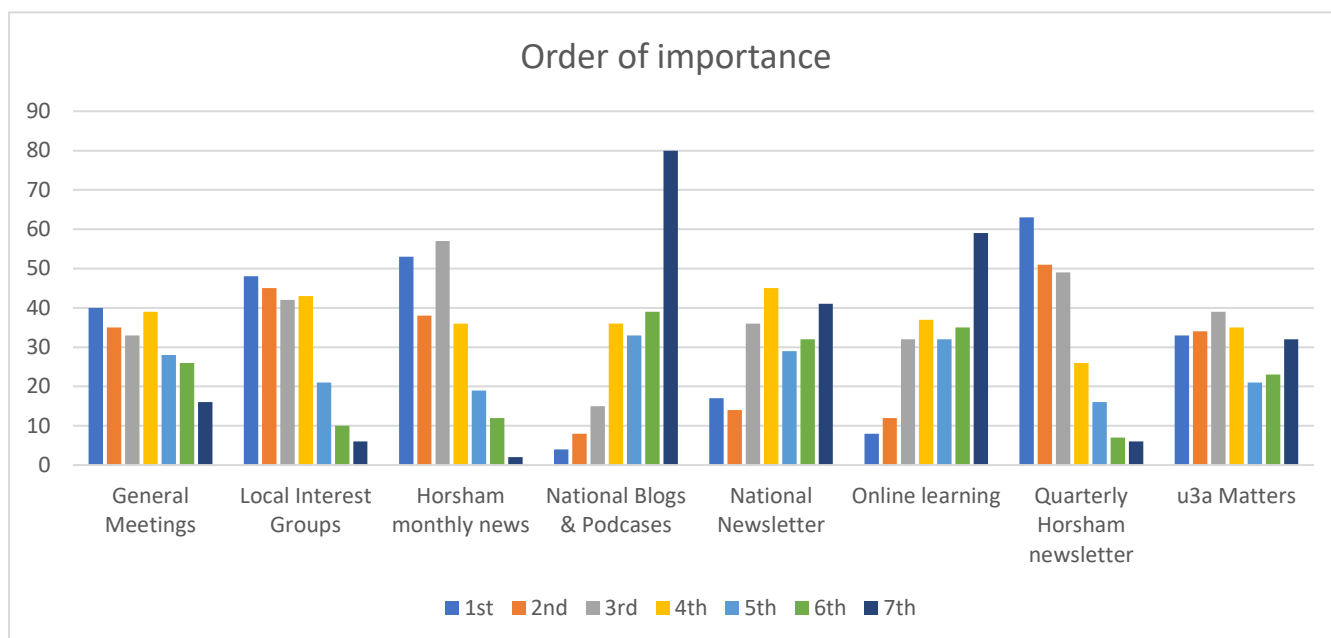
Of those who attend the general meetings, feedback on the speakers was good. The book stall and jigsaws were popular too.

However, as the number of people who do attend is low across the whole membership, we were interested to hear the reasons why.

The majority reason was due to not being available on the day, clashes with other commitments.

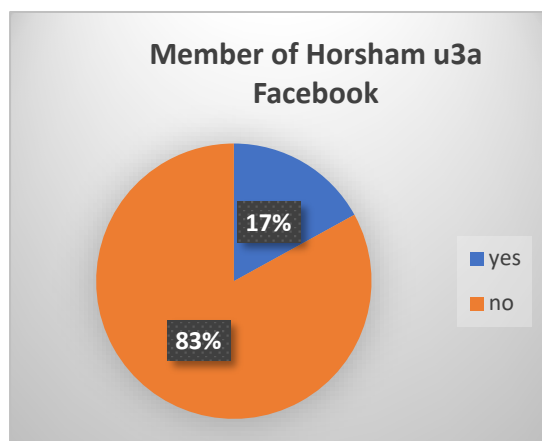


Other comments include being selective on the subject of the speakers and only attend when it is of interest to them. Several people said they could not cope with large crowds and the noise levels. Regarding the venue, comments included; lack of seating, hard to hear and visual aids not the best. Sadly, some found it a bit daunting as new members and not always finding people very friendly.



Next, we asked members to consider all their membership includes and which were the most important to them.

The quarterly newsletter was ranked the most important with the National Blogs being the least. Our monthly newsletter seems popular too, keeping you updated with happenings although our data shows less than 50% of emails sent are actual opened. Whilst numbers for online learning were nowhere near as large as for local groups, one reason given for joining Horsham was purely to gain access to online Bridge. Another valued the more in-depth look at topics through online offerings.



The percentage of members who are engaged with our Facebook page was very low. We currently have 123 members of which 43 are not members of Horsham u3a.

Many of our interest groups post articles on Facebook along with pictures of their activities. Well worth a look.

Don't forget you can join the national u3a Facebook page or other local branches too.

Next members were asked if they had suggestions for any changes. Mostly there was praise for the hard work and organisation already happening. Some ideas:

- A purely socialising event, possibly at Christmas time
- Easier renewals process possibly online
- Interest groups to have promotion tables at general meetings
- Occasional coffee mornings just for chatting and getting to know others
- Help people who need lifts
- Group swaps, to visit another group outside their usual group's interests
- A greater willingness for people to get involved

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Lastly, we asked for any feedback and suggestions, here are some examples:

- More classes to join
- I'm less than a year in and having a great experience, thank you!
- Thank you to the hard-working committee and group leaders
- Better sound system at general meetings
- U3a is such a good concept
- Very enjoyable, educational
- Walking groups and Going Places has helped getting to know the area
- For Horsham u3a to continue to evolve, members must be prepared to become group leaders and committee members
- I have made lots of good friends over the years

**Thank you** to everyone who took part in this survey.

We appreciate your participation. This process to be very beneficial to planning the future of Horsham U3A and we intend to make it an annual event. Of course, you don't have to wait until then. Whilst we can't accommodate everything, the committee are always open to your ideas.