

President's Report AGM 2026

I watched them drown. Saw them wither, abandoned by Southern Water. A few died of Fear. Resurrection came in the Spring. You can learn a lot about Life just by sitting in your garden.

The past year has been revelatory and rewarding. One way or another I met with the Chairs and Officers of over 30 Societies in these past twelve months. Most memberships have stabilized whilst those that refuse to adapt slip-slide away. A precious few, like Winchester, blossom towards their full potential.

I enjoyed several one-to-ones and a whole day with the CEO, Ian Arnold. Another with Jeremy Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and a further day with the new Finance Director, Trevor Walters.

And then there was the inimitable Dr Katherine Templar Lewis, the young neuroscientist who has proven and actually measured the physiological and mental benefits of being in the presence of Art.

So much to digest and incubate.

What to do with this tangled jungle of information?

Incubate.

Encapsulate.

Share my conclusions.

Which is exactly what I will do in a special short presentation at the AGM.

Submitted by Charles Harris

20th May 2026

