

MINUTES OF RAYLEIGH u3a 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Mill Hall, Rayleigh on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 2pm

1. Welcome:

Our Chairman, Ray Lowe, opened the meeting and thanked the members for attending.
(135 present, Quorate at 82 Members).

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Stuart Evans, Carol Pendrigh, Ken Grace, Elaine Woodcock, Janet Warner.

3. Approval of the Minutes for AGM 2024:

A copy of the minutes for the 2024 AGM had been previously made available to our members by email, mail, newsletter or on our website. The Chairman asked if any amendments were needed. There were none. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Liz Hawthorn and seconded by Ann Jolly. The proposal was carried by a majority show of hands, no objections.

4. Chairman's Report: Ray Lowe:

Many of us join the u3a as we enter the period in life after full time employment has ceased and may find ourselves with more time to learn new skills, try different activities and with a desire to meet new people and make new friends.

The u3a is based on the principles of mutual aid and self-help learning and each of us can contribute in our own unique way to run groups, arrange our monthly meetings, or support our committee to provide our members with the information they need to get the most from their u3a membership.

The committee have have been very proactive in appealing to members to come forward to join the committee this year and it is very pleasing that several members have attended committee meetings. Two members were co-opted during the year who are now standing for election. Nominations have been made for key committee roles, including that of Chair which, as Ray Lowe is stepping down at this AGM, is timely. There are also more committee members coming forward which allows us to move forward confidently for another year.

Our membership remains strong and we are offering more activities, trips, talks and groups for members to take part in.

On behalf of the members Ray thanked the Committee for the hard work they do which allows us all to take part in a thriving u3a. They are all volunteers who give their time and expertise for the benefit of us all.

Debbie Bamber is our Membership Secretary and as such manages the new memberships, annual renewals and the scanning system to record who attends the monthly meetings.

Amanda Lowe is our New Members and Volunteer Co-ordinator and ensures that our new members are made to feel welcome. She and Debbie are supported by their excellent team of

volunteers who meet and greet members, scan the membership cards and give out cards to new Members. Thanks to Sue Lamont, Diane Langdon, Linda Osborne, Ann Surety, Alison Yarham, Wendy Edwards, Sue Suri, Jane Godfrey, Jenny Perry, Mary Jepson and Lesley Athey.

Our Groups Co-ordinator is Paul Reeve. Paul helps members, new and existing, with finding groups to join and has been instrumental in starting up several new groups this year. You do not need to be an expert in any subject to start up a group – just interested and enthusiastic. Please speak to Paul if you have any ideas for a new group.

Please send any items of interest to Debbie Bamber for inclusion in our Newsletter, especially photographs, as our members are always interested to see what is going on in our u3a. Thanks to Terry Gouldsmith who posts out our paper newsletters to those members without computer access and to Paul Reeve who has been hand delivering our newsletter thus saving the postage. Please come forward if you would be interested in becoming our newsletter editor.

Thanks to Stuart Evans, our Speaker Secretary who arranges the speakers for our main Monthly Members Meetings and to our Educational Events Co-ordinator, Juli Fowles, who has put together some very interesting Talks for All and Educational Events which are selling well.

There are also many other Volunteers who undertake vital roles who must be mentioned.

Thanks to Laurie Yarham and Ray Osborne who set up and run our sound and visual equipment and Jim Whitehouse who steps into the task if Laurie and Ray are unavailable. Jim supports the technical team and the committee with his knowledge and expertise and ensures our sound systems are kept up to date. Thanks also to Derek Pitchers who transports the equipment to and from the hall each month. Thanks to Ray Osborne who undertakes the PAT testing of our electrical equipment.

Thanks to Les, Carol and Stella who run our very popular bookstall. Thanks to Val Whitehouse who designs our posters and tickets and together with husband Jim, runs our Quiz Nights and several groups. Thanks to all our group leaders without whom we would not have so many varied and interesting groups to join.

Our thanks go to each one of our members who give their time to making our u3a work so well, those who are always ready to help man tables, do refreshments and whatever else is needed.

Finally, there are two important people to thank without whom our u3a would not have run so smoothly and efficiently over the past year. Jill Cann our Treasurer and Jane Reeve our secretary.

Ray wished wish all our members another year of interesting and entertaining activities with Rayleigh u3a.

Presentation and Thanks to Jill Cann

Jill Cann is stepping down from the Treasurer role this year. A presentation of flowers was made to Jill as thanks for her hard work over the last three years as Treasurer.

Presentation and Thanks to Ray Lowe

Ray is steps down from four years as Chairman at this AGM. Ray was thanked by Jane Reeve on behalf of the committee and members for his dedication to Rayleigh u3a and willingness to step into the Chairman role when asked. Ray does so much behind the scenes that many of our

members may not be aware of, including being a group leader and stepping in to transport and store equipment when needed. All he does has been much appreciated. A small gift was presented to Ray by Jane Reeve.

5. Approval of the Trustees Annual Report for 2024

The Committee have completed and approved a Trustees Annual Report as required by the Charity Commission for our last accounting year – January 2024 to December 2024. It has been circulated to members for approval.

The Trustees Annual Report for 2024 was approved by a majority show of hands with no objections.

6. Treasurer's Report – Jill Cann:

This has been another busy year due to the many events that have taken place. The Committee has worked extremely hard and we have had entertaining Speakers and interesting and informative Talks.

Members subscriptions are our income. We have also received £949 from Gift Aid which why we ask anyone who is eligible to complete a Gift Aid form.

Jill thanked Jim Whitehouse, our Independent Accounts Examiner, for signing off the accounts for our financial year January to December 2024 and his willingness to support our u3a. A small gift was presented to Jim. Jill also thanked Debbie Bamber for her continued support.

We are obliged by the u3a Trust to hold sufficient funds to cover our expenses for six months should our u3a have to close. This can be for different reasons but particularly if we are unable to form a committee. We also need to have sufficient funds to keep our equipment in good order and have recently updated our Sound System at a cost of nearly £2,000.

We would ask all members to support our events because, if they run at a loss, it may be necessary to increase our subscription fee.

Jill has recently opened a Savings Account and invested £6,000 in it, since opening the account we have accrued £29.56, over a year interest will be approximately £150. This all counts towards keeping our Membership fee as low as possible.

Debbie Bamber was proposer for approval of the accounts and Kevin Bailey seconded this.

The proposal was carried by a majority show of hands, no objections.

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2024:

Jim Whitehouse has expressed his willingness to undertake the examination of the accounts for 2024. He was proposed by Jane Reeve and seconded by Laurie Yarham.

This was unanimously approved by a show of hands, with no objections. Therefore, Jim Whitehouse has been appointed as our Examiner of Accounts for 2024.

8. Election of Officers & Committee Members

At this AGM we have advertised vacancies for Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee Members. Nomination forms were made available to all members via, website, email, newsletter and at Monthly Meetings.

Chairman

Ray Lowe steps down as Chairman at this AGM. The Secretary has received one nomination for Ray Osborne to become the Chairman. Ray has confirmed he is happy to accept this nomination.

A short profile was read out in support of Rays' nomination and approval was given by a unanimous show of hands – no objections.

Vice Chairman

We have been without a Vice Chairman for some years. The Secretary has received one nomination for Debbie Bamber to become the Vice Chairman. Debbie has confirmed she is happy to accept this nomination, and approval was given by a unanimous show of hands – no objections.

Treasurer

Jill Cann steps down from the Treasurer role at this AGM. The Secretary has received one nomination for Anita Waite to become the Treasurer. Anita has confirmed she is happy to accept this nomination.

A short profile was read out in support of Anitas' nomination and approval was given by a unanimous show of hands – no objections.

Committee Members

The Secretary has received three nominations for Committee Members:-

Ann Jolly, who was co-opted during the last committee year, Kevin Bailey and Liz Hawthorn all of whom have confirmed they are happy to accept their nominations.

A short profile was read out in support of each nominee and approval was given by a unanimous show of hands – no objections

Secretary

There were no nominations received for the role of Secretary. The committee therefore asked Jane Reeve to stand for one more year, as is allowed under our constitution. Jane has accepted this but made a plea for someone to come forward during this year with a view to take over at the next AGM when Jane will have to step down.

9. Any other Business:

There was no other business.

10. Closure of the AGM Meeting for 2025:

The formal part of the meeting was closed at 2:30 pm, and our speaker followed.