

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Rayleigh Grange u3a held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at the Rayleigh Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh.

Members Present. As per the member signing in sheet

The Chairman, Edward Byford, opened the meeting and thanked all for attending in spite of the intense heat

1. Apologies for absence.

Jeanie Lamb, Ken Bates, Glyn Overy, Ann Clark-Overy, Brenda Anderson, Vilma Wilson.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated to all members and was published on the RGu3a website were accepted

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

4. Report of the Management Committee

Report from the Management Committee

The Chairman: Edward Byford

It has been a privilege to be Chairman of RGu3a, I have learnt so much over the past year about people, especially the dedication our committee and group leaders who generously give of their time to enrich the lives of our members.

Thank You

I would also like to thank members who make our tea, coffee at our monthly meetings and those who help set up the hall with chairs and tables.

I must not forget too members who organise the books and puzzles for sales

For my part I have chaired all RGu3a monthly meetings and all committee meetings apart from when I was on Holiday (9th June 2026)

I have sort to broaden my knowledge of the activities of national and local u3as by attending Chairs Forum 'Zoom' meetings, Essex Network Conference on May 26th 2026 in Danbury

I have also taken part in some Beacon (u3a's national computer system)

training to give me an overview of the complexity and the many ways the systems assists the management of Membership and Interest Group activities, which includes finance

It is with some sadness that I have to announce that committee members

Donna and Steve Lowe will not be seeking re-election

Donna has been our speaker organiser for our monthly meetings the past 5 years. She has done a marvellous job with giving us such variation in topics.

Donna is one of the most efficient people I know, she has speakers booked until the end of 2027 – that's just fantastic.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to present Donna this small gift as a token of our appreciation from RGu3a

Please don't forget to view the updated Rayleigh Grange u3a Policies

1, PEEP – Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (Peep) Statement

2, Evacuation Procedure Policy

3, Invacuation & Lockdown Policy and Procedure

I do hope the RGu3a continues to go from 'strength to strength'

5. To Receive the Treasurer's Report, the Accounts and the Independent Auditors Report

The report and accounts had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and a copy is attached to the minutes. The treasurer, Dave Westall, gave an explanation of the accounts, he explained that although the RGu3a is profitable the profits are subsidised by the group and social activities, hence the need to increase the subscription in the 2027/28 year.

Dave also went on say about his concern that he would be required to step down in 2028 and there had not been any volunteer for the position of treasurer since he had taken up the position. He very clearly stated the position of RGu3a if no-one came forward. Ideas were put to the members of how this could be overcome and the benefits to members. A panel of 6 to 10 members with short briefings which would show improved understanding of finance, learning new excel skills, keeping RGu3a alive, encourage others to be involved. He also said he was quite happy to act as a mentor and/or as deputy treasurer.

6. To Receive Reports of the Group Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary, and Social Secretary.

Carol Bright, Group Co-ordinator, explained how u3a had come about and how the UK had adopted it and made it unique, there are now more than 1000 local groups with over 400,000 members. RGu3a started with 38 members and 12 interest groups and now has over 330 members and 60 interest groups . Carol highlighted some areas of interest that are under represented such as languages, science, technology and the environment. She thanked the group leaders for all the hard work, dedication and creativity.

Susan Neil, Membership Secretary, said the RGu3a now has 335 members which seems to be fairly constant. We lost very few members at the last renewal, mainly due to older members feeling they could not take an active part. She said that we get a steady stream of applicant during the year and never have to advertise. Most of our members now have an email address, only 9 without and a larger number are now paying subs on line. RGu3a is in a healthy stable position. She thanked the members for making RGu3a the lovely u3a that it is

Jackie Dillnutt, Social Secretary, explained the social events that are open to all members that have taken place in the past year. A wide range varying from wine tasting to a panto and large concerts, some attended by a small number to the concerts attended by sufficient to require two coaches. The New Years Day concert was very successful. The holidays are always successful and turkey and tinsel was enjoyed by all. She highlighted a number of events already in the pipeline and booked up for the following year. Jackie thanked Lynda Rooke for all her help and support during the year.

7. Election of the Executive Committee

Election of Chairman

Proposed by D Colson and seconded by S Colson that Edward Byford be elected as Chairman for the following year. The motion was carried

Election of Treasurer

Proposed by Darren Blair and seconded by Gillian Lilliker that David Westall be elected as treasurer for the following year. The motion was carried

Election of Secretary

Proposed by Heather Butcher and seconded by David Butcher that Barbara Oliver be elected as secretary for the following year. The motion was carried.

8 Election of Additional Management Committee Members

The following nominations were received for election

In alphabetical order

Ken Bates	Proposed by Mary Connaghan	Seconded by Sonya Moorman
Carol Bright	Proposed by Ann Clark-Overy	Seconded by Joan Hanscomb
Jackie Dillnutt	Proposed by D Colson	Seconded by J Colson
Jane Gee	Proposed by Ann Clark-Overy	Seconded by Caroline Bell
Bill Keeys	Proposed by Pamela Keeys	Seconded by Joanne Chutch
Glyn Overy	Proposed by Ann Clark-Overy	Seconded by Joan Hanscomb
Ann Rawlinson	Proposed by G Pearce	Seconded by Jackie Quinlan
Stephen Rix	Proposed by Linda Boar	Seconded by David Boar
Susan Neil	Proposed by Edna Webb	Seconded by Susan Wilson
Vilma Wilson	Proposed by Jane Gee	Seconded by Vanessa Milligan

All the above were elected by the members present. Making a management committee of thirteen.

9.To Vote

A. The re-appointment of Butlers Financial to carry out an independent review of the accounts of RGu3a. The motion was carried by the members present

B The proposal by the Treasurer that the subscriptions for the year 2027/28 be increased to £17.00 for an individual member and £33.00 for two members living at same address. The motion was carried by the members present

10 To Debate Any Motions Submitted Previously

There were no new motions submitted by the closing date

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th July 2027 at The Rayleigh Grange Community Centre.

After the AGM the members were entertained by the RGu3a band and singer ably led by Steve Lowe