

Minutes of Ringmer u3a AGM

Held in Ringmer Village Hall at 14:00 on Wednesday 20th May 2026

Chair: Sarah Boot-Handford

Treasurer: Sylvia Coleman

Minutes: taken by Ken Boot-Handford

There were 41 members in attendance

Apologies for absence

There were 13 apologies for absence

2025 Minutes

The Chair apologised that these were not available and said they would be put on the Ringmer u3a website when available. There were no matters arising.

Combined Chair, Trustees and Interest Groups Report

The report is attached and will be placed on the website.

Treasurers Report and Financial Proposals

The report and statement of income and expenditure are attached and will be placed on the website.

The Treasurer asked for a vote of thanks for Sue Tibbenham for checking the financial report and asked that Sue be appointed again as Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2026-27. Proposed by Peter Smith, seconded by Julia Huck. Passed.

The Treasurer proposed leaving the membership subscription at £10 for a full member (£6 for joining after 1st January 2027) and £5 for associate members. She asked for the Treasurer's report to be accepted. Proposed by Julia Huck, seconded by Jo Miller. Passed.

The Treasurer noted that a new treasurer is needed as she has been doing this role as long as the rules allow and she encouraged members to volunteer.

Election of Executive Committee members

The Chair reported that all the existing executive committee members were standing for re-election. They are: Sarah Boot-Handford, Martin Whitlock, Sylvia Coleman, Jo Miller, Keith Moore, Susann Pedley, Mark Hosken, Peter Smith and Ken Boot-Handford. Proposed by Kathryn Carter, seconded by Julia Middleton. Passed.

Any Other Business

None

The Chair closed the meeting at 14:15

The AGM was followed by a talk with question and answer session with Lauren Puttock-Brown from Mayo Wynne Baxtor solicitors about Power of Attorney.

Chair, Trustees and Interest Groups report

If you will permit me, I am going to include the Interest Groups Report here. The current state to Ringmer u3a is that we have 143 members made up as follows:

77 Individual

59 Joint

5 Associate

2 Associate joint.

We have 18 active Groups and 18 different convenors – we must note that some groups have more than one convenor, and some convenors take responsibility for more than one group.

Mean size of the groups is 15 members – the largest is Family History with 47 Members, C&HT and Photography each have more than 30 members. The three news discussion groups have a total of 18 and the two gardening groups total 33.

We held a successful Open Day last August – resulted in creation of our newest group - Jazz Appreciation. We also held our Convenors Coffee Morning in February; this has become an established annual event and we will be doing it again next year.

I would like to thank all the convenors who run the groups on a month by month basis and also the Committee Members who look after the overall picture. I have to say here that some of the Committee are at the end of their allowed terms in office, so we will be looking for new committee members next year. Please do consider standing and please talk to any committee member to express your interest.

Treasurer's Report

I would like to thank Sue Tibbenham, our Independent Examiner of Accounts, for checking and agreeing the Statement of Accounts for the year April 2025 – March 2026, which I submit to the AGM. A signed copy is on file.

The Statement sets out details of Ringmer u3a's expenditure and income during 2025/2026. As of 31 March 2026, the closing balance stands at £2,709.06, Which is adequate to meet the invoices expected before the next round of membership fees.

Diaries

Diaries this year made a small loss. This was caused by shipping cost and VAT. The difference is only a small amount and can be met out of the money in the bank. We don't aim to make a profit from the diaries. It would be a great help, if members could stipulate, if they would like a dairy, and pay, at the time of renewing their membership. We can then submit a bulk order which will reduce the overall cost to Ringmer u3a.

Account and Banking

Lloyds Bank has changed the account from the previous named Treasurers Account to Community Account. There is no longer a bank in Lewes, so banking is difficult. Cash can still be paid into the account at the Post Office, but cheques will have to be posted. From 1st November 2025 we are now charged for banking. The first £100 of the payments types per month is free but after £100 a charge is made. Also, a monthly charge of £4.25/month for the account maintenance. The full implications of the charges will not be known until July, August and September when we collect membership. Despite this, it has been decided not to increase the membership subscription for this year. Membership will stay the same. for 2026/2027, £10.00 full member; Associate membership (member of another u3a) is £5.00 and part year (joining after 1st of January) is £6.00.

Groups

Groups continue to keep their own accounts passing the money on to the treasurer every three months. The village hall and Goldsborough Hall invoices are paid monthly, on receipt.

CLA (Copyright License)

There has been a slight rise in the purchase of a copyright license but its important groups are covered when downloading/copying information.

Finally, I would like to propose that Sue Tibbenham is elected as our Independent Examiner of Accounts for the year April 2026 to March 2027.

A copy of this report, along with a statement of Income and Expenditure, will be available on Ringmer u3a website.

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure Statement April 2025 - March 2026			Income and Expenditure Statement 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025		
Category	In	Out	Category	In	Out
Third Age Trust Affiliation Fees (Annual Return)		£548.00	Third Age Trust Affiliation Fees (Annual Return)		£576.00
Third Age Trust TAM Direct Mail		£340.00	Third Age Trust TAM Direct Mail		£326.80
Third Age Trust Beacon Licence		£147.00	Third Age Trust Beacon Licence		£152.00
Third Age Trust CLA Licence		£69.37	CLA License		£67.21
Computer System		£50.00	Membership Ringmer u3a	£1,408.61	
Village Hall		£430.45	TAM		£8.01
Cheque Sylvia Coleman Gift for Examiner of Accounts		£20.00	Payment to RVHMC		£560.00
Membership	£1,440.61		Ringmer Parochial - Astronomy group		£133.00
Membership refund		£6.00	Payment to the Scouts		£431.00
Ringmer Scouts		£365.00	Income from Groups	£1,027.40	
Display Banner		£103.59	Expenses Voucher Gifts Sue Tibbenham		£25.00
Diaries	£50.00	£62.70	Diaries	£49.36	£54.82
Money Received from Groups	£849.60		Cheque Convenors Get together		£94.20
Account Service Charge		£16.31	Cheque Petty Cash		£10.00
Miscellaneous		£140.40			
Petty Cash	£6.00				£2,438.04
Total Income	£2,346.21		Total Income	£2,485.37	
			Balance carried over	£2,614.34	
Carried over from 2024-2025	£2,661.67		Total	£5,099.71	
Total	£5,007.88		Less Total Expenditure		
Less expenditure		£2,298.82	Total in Bank as of 31st March 2025	£2,661.67	
Money in Bank as of 31st March 2026	£2,709.06				