

Annual General Meeting Minutes
20th April 2026 @ 2pm – Rowlands Castle Parish Hall Links Lane

Welcome

Kevin Connell, chair, opened the meeting.

Present Kevin Connell, Charlie Shawcross, Ania Shawcross, Jacqui Greethurst, Valerie Mitchell, Sue Leonard, Carol Thomas, June Halford. 47 members were present [list available].

Apologies have been received from committee members unable to attend.

Minutes of the previous AGM 2025

These were agreed as no comments received.

Chairman's report

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman had circulated his report to all prior to the meeting.

June Halford is retiring from committee after 13 years. The chair gave thanks and presented her with a gift.

Charlie Shawcross announced that Kevin Connell is retiring as Chair after 14 years. Thanks were expressed and he was presented with a gift.

Treasurer's report

Appendix 2– Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had circulated the Balance Sheet and her report to all prior to the meeting. These were accepted with no questions.

Jacqui presented her annual report, explaining that she took over from Sandra Hodgetts now retired and whom she thanked. She thanked Mark Dancey and Martha Dombey for all their help in auditing the accounts.

Election of Committee

The following were elected unanimously:

Chair - Charlie Shawcross

Treasurer - Jacqui Greethurst

Secretary - Ania Shawcross

Other members

Membership Secretary - Valerie Mitchell

Speaker Coordinator - Rosemary Ridge

Groups Coordinator - Cathy Hems

Webmaster and Beacon Administrator - Prue Amber

Marketing and Publicity - Roger Ironmonger

Meetings Secretary - Carol Thomas

Christmas Party - Sue Leonard

Kevin Connell

Dee Tindle

Shirley Varnish

Proposed motions None

Business concluded at 2.15pm

Appendix 1

u3a Chairman's Report 2026

The Rowlands Castle u3a has, as usual, enjoyed a wide variety of talks and events this year. We recently had "The P&O story from Steve Herra" and "The Man Who Wore a Wig" from Rodney Duggua, the story of his 51 years in local government.

We are always working on expanding the number of Groups we run. However it is difficult to find members willing to organize a group. The organizer does not have to lead the group just get the members together. We are hoping more members come forward this year so that we can expand the number of groups. We have been able to introduce Pickle Ball this year which has proved very popular. If there is a group you would like to see tell the Groups coordinator, Cathy Hems and she will establish how much interest there is.

We have replaced the annual trip with a series of trips. We had an outing at the Sculpture Park, Churt Farnham. The Sculpture Park has more than 350 sculptors displaying over 850 sculptures throughout the year making this the largest sculpture exhibition in the UK. There is a cross section of Abstract Sculpture, Sculpture, Figurative Sculpture, Garden Sculpture, Indoor Sculpture and Kinetic Sculpture. We also had a visit to the Pallant Gallery and one is planned for Goodwood next month.

Numbers have held up well and it is pleasing that we have 170 members currently signed on, our highest number since our foundation.

We had a very successful Christmas party in the village hall and many thanks to Val Mitchell for hosting an equally successful summer party in her garden. We now have a monthly coffee club at the Castle with added cake where members can come along and chat and prospective members can come along and find out about the u3a. There are always committee members on hand to answer questions.

As well as local events Rowlands Castle u3a is part of the Hampshire South Central Network and members are occasionally invited to activities across the region. We send committee representatives to meetings about speakers, u3a organization and web management where experiences are shared for the benefit of all. We enter a team in the SCN quiz and are still the reigning champions after our win at Gosport.

The website is managed by Prue Amner. Details of all our activities can be found there.

[Rowlands Castle u3a - University of the 3rd age, learn, laugh, live.](#)



As in 2025 we will have a stand at the Village Fair where non-members will be able to ask questions about our activities and hopefully sign up. Current members are welcome to join us and share any thoughts and concerns you may have.

After 13 years as u3a chairman and with ever increasing personal commitments, I am standing down and Charlie Shawcross has kindly offered to stand as my replacement. Thanks to Cathy Hems for volunteering to take over his Group coordinator role. I am happy however to remain on the committee. June Halford has served 13 years on the committee and has decided to stand down. I am very grateful for the wonderful support she has given me over the years organising food for our parties, serving teas at meetings, organising the summer fair presence and serving on

the publicity sub-committee. We will miss her.

Sandra Hodgetts has been our treasurer since our inception in 2013 but has been forced to stand down due to ill health. Huge thanks to her for all she has done. We are very grateful to Jacqui Greethurst for taking over this difficult to fill roll.

Kevin Connell Chairman April 2026

Appendix 2 – u3a Treasurer’s Report

I would like to thank Mark Dancey, who ensured the accounts were accurate on 31st August 2025 ready for the handover to the new treasurer and thanks to Martha Dombey who has acted as Independent Examiner for the accounts for 1st September 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The total money held by RCU3A is currently £2484.24. We were pleased to be able to continue with the Christmas and summer parties as well as all the other activities which are enjoyed by so many members.

This leaves us a healthy working balance and therefore the base membership fee has remained at £23. The associate membership fee is £19 and the membership fee for people who join in October and later in the year is £13.50. All of your membership fee is spent on supporting our U3A and therefore we are entitled to claim Gift Aid. As long as you pay enough tax to cover any gift aid contributions you make, you do not have to tell the taxman separately. This helps add a reasonable sum to our funds so we will be able to expand our services. If you haven’t ticked the box in the past because you thought it was a difficult procedure please let Val know and we can backdate your gift aid to last year and the year before.

A few financial procedures have been changed but none of these affect members drastically - there may be a change in some payment methods for groups. We would like to encourage everyone to pay by bank transfer, if they can, as this makes accounting and accountability much better. In order to comply with U3A insurance all groups that use halls or who pay outside agencies must ensure their funds go through the U3A accounts.

I am sure we would all like to thank Sandra for all the hard work she has put in over the entire life of RCU3A and send her our best wishes.

I thank Prue, Val and Kevin for helping me with various aspects of the treasurer role and to the committee for their support.

I have copies of the financial statements for anyone who wishes to see them. I am pleased to talk to anyone at the end of the meeting if there are any questions or you can contact me on rcu3atreasurer@gmail.com.

Jacqui Greethurst u3a Treasurer 2026