Ricky u3a
Review
Nov 2026

GROUPS BOOMING, MEMBERSHIP INCREASING & HEALTHY FINANCES

Our AGM this year was made all the more enjoyable by Ricky u3a's Play Reading Group's brilliant performance of "*Murder at the u3a*" after the formalities! Many thanks to producer Cynthia Al-Obaidi and her thespians, as well as Jeff Morris for his management of the audio.



The AGM confirmed that Ricky u3a is in a very healthy shape and striding forward on several fronts.

After greeting 100+ members attending, the Chair reported on an active and successful year in which March's **Open Day** was pivotal. Group leaders had again put on an exceptional display which attracted more than 200 members and guests. This excellent teamwork resulted in 70 new joiners, growing our membership to over 450.

Participation in existing groups had increased significantly. Several new groups have been formed, including Pilates, Film Club, Spanish for Improvers, an additional session of Table Tennis, Walking Tennis, together with regeneration of Garden Inspirations and Theatre groups in which there was much interest.

The **Really Useful Group** of volunteers was also formed. Led by Alan Read, it provides assistance as needed at u3a events or group meetings.

Outings this year included: Gardening Inspirations' visits to Kew Gardens, RHS Wisley (twice) and Cambridge University Botanic Gardens; Imperial War Museum Duxford's "Battle of Britain" air display; theatre visits to "Kinky Boots", "Moulin Rouge" and "Sisters' Act" at Watersmeet. Several of the groups also organise their own outings.

The Chair responded to a question from the floor regarding holidays, mentioning that it was on the Committee's agenda to explore in the new year.

The accounts show a healthy surplus for the year and meet the financial requirements of the Charity Commission. The income has been boosted by outings, Gift Aid and contributions for hall hire made by the larger groups.

A motion was passed to keep the annual member subscription at £30.

GROUPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO HALL COSTS

The Chair confirmed that **ALL** groups that use Our Lady's Church large or small halls should contribute £1 per person directly towards its hire from the new year. It does not apply to the monthly meeting.

The Chair and audience thanked Susan Ray for her many years of excellent management of catering arrangements.

The Chair also thanked Claire Guenebeaud for executing the role of Membership Secretary with such diligence. She is now standing down.

The members approved the appointment of those nominated as officers for the 2026/27 year. The title of Vice President had been adopted for the first time as recognition of the wonderful dedication over the entire lifetime of Ricky u3a by Jean Paddick and of the respect in which she is held. Jean will be proposed for President at our next AGM when Maurice Delaporte has indicated that he will step down.

It is particularly encouraging to welcome three new members to the Committee: Ross Thomson, Alan Read and Jeremy Seabrook. They will add new ideas and energy.

Please check out our website regularly (**www.rickyu3a.org.uk**). It is the prime source of information on all Ru3a future events and group activities.

We intend this **Ricky Review** to be a short, bi-monthly means for the Committee to communicate to members.

Your u3a is in great shape and looking forward together to another action-filled year.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Lunch at Moor Park Mansion, Wed 09 Dec.

SOLD OUT - Complimentary apéritif, sumptuous meal, excellent company and festive cheer.

Ru3a FILM CLUB, Fri 11 Dec.

The Holiday: two lovetorn women, Amanda (*Cameron Diaz*) who lives in California and Iris (*Kate Winslet*) who lives in Surrey, swap homes to avoid Christmas heartache.



Ru3a Monthly Meeting, Thu 14 Jan, by *Paul Barwick*.

Salisbury Novichok poisonings: the story of Sergei Skripal, his daughter Yulia, and the innocent victims.

www.rickyu3a.org.uk
for all the latest events, news and group info