

LEIGH & DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



20 JUNE 2025 at Leigh Miners Welfare Institute @ 1:00pm

1. WELCOME and APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES 2024

Keith Anderton, Chair of Leigh & District u3a, opened the Annual General Meeting at 1:10pm. A quorum was achieved with 53 members attending and 78 members who had already cast their votes online, by email or by post. Keith introduced each committee member to the members attending. He also asked that members attending should not vote again if they had already voted online, by email or by post. On presenting the AGM Minutes 2024 for approval, no objections were received, allowing a true record.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF CHAIR

Keith announced that this is the 12th year of the Leigh & District u3a AGM meeting, and his second as Chair.

He said that over the last year the Committee and Group Facilitators have again been working hard to build up our membership numbers, and add to the different groups we offer to our members. At the end of our last membership year the member numbers were 466, and our active groups numbers were 30 with 2 groups taking a break over the summer period.

In the last year we have started four new groups, Gardening / Walking / Cryptic Crosswords and Opera Appreciation but have unfortunately also lost four, in Dickens Social History / Shakespeare / Egyptology and Tai Chi.

We are still using four venues for our group meetings with one change; they are now The Leigh Miners, The Leigh Family Welfare Centre, Kingsleigh Community Centre and the Holiday Inn at Leigh Sports Village.

Keith said that, as always, we welcome ideas for new groups, and will give any help we can to set them up, but please remember they must also come with a facilitator to lead them.

Keith gave his thanks to all of our Group Facilitators for all of their hard work and effort they put in, to keep their groups open and interesting. As we know some of our Groups are large in numbers and some not so large, but we should remember that it is the number of different and diverse groups we have to offer, that attract people to become members of our u3a. Keith said that he couldn't think of another organisation that offers its membership such a wide range of activities to attend should they choose to.

He said where else can you go to play music / sing / line dance / learn about social history / learn about plays / books and even how to write them! Listen to guest speakers covering a variety of subjects / learn another language / technology / exercise / different crafts, and when you have done all that you can learn how to relax / go out for lunch, and if that's not enough you can join Jenny Allen on one of her great days out. And all this for a membership fee that we are keeping the same as last year's £18, this has been achieved by some restructuring and hard work by Sue Fowler our Treasurer.

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Keith said that we still haven't found a Publicity Officer to carry on the excellent work that Maree Houghton did in that role. He thanked Kathy Hopper for stepping in to make sure our Facebook page was still operating, and letting the outside world know what we were doing.

Finally, Keith finished his Chair's Report by giving a big thank you to all of the members of the Committee for their continuing hard work in their roles, and to the membership for their support. He also gave a very big thank you to the committee members that have left this year or are about to leave their roles, for their hard work / time & efforts while on the Committee. Maree Houghton as Publicity Officer / Janet Lythgoe as Membership Secretary / Christine Hart as Deputy Chair and Iain East in the Secretary's role. He also made clear that Iain and Janet are only standing down from the Membership Secretary and Secretary roles. Janet continues to serve on the Committee as a member, and Iain will continue on the Committee as the IT Manager.

3. TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Sue Fowler presented the Treasurer's Annual Report by initially stating that every member should have received a copy of the accounts and examiner's report for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Sue then turned to the financial report for 2024/2025, stating that total income was £38,821.24 and total expenditure was £33,305.67.

Sue stated that our main source of income is still membership subscriptions, a total of £8,536 up on last year by £1,050.

Group payments for room hire, including our Friday social door money, collected over the 12 month's period was £13,242.50. The outgoing payments to our 4 venues - The Miners. FWC, Kingsleigh Methodist Church and Compassion in Action - including refreshments and speaker fees was £14,144.91 showing a shortfall £902.41, approximately £75 per month. This shortage is over the amount on last year by £25 per month.

Other sources of income came from grants received of £1,590. We also received Gift Aid of £917.64 - an increase of £115.72 on last years.

On the expenditure side, £3,255.41 was paid to the TAT for membership fees, magazine delivery and licenses and PayPal fees plus various expenses for equipment, merchandise, accountants fee, stationery, printing and other small expenses incurred over the year making a total of £1,697.49.

This brings us to our Social Fund, we took £14,450 for the events and paid out £14,157.86, which gave a surplus of £292.14 to carry forward to this current year.

After all the other listed expenditure, we ended the year with a surplus total of £5,515.57 bringing our accumulated surplus to £21,008.43.

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This gives us a good start to the coming year. A few months ago, we agreed a revised fee with The Miners which has, up to now, been to our advantage. Hopefully, this will continue for the rest of the year.

With this in mind, the larger groups subsidise the smaller ones. It doesn't matter how small a group is, it is still of interest to the members of that group and therefore we can hopefully provide for everyone's tastes.

Sue invited questions but there were none.

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

Keith Anderton, Chair, requested the Approval of Accounts, which were endorsed unanimously by members and had been available to all membership prior to AGM.

5. APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Keith Anderton, Chair, requested the Approval of the Trustee's Report, which was unanimously endorsed by members and had been available to all membership prior to AGM.

6. RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MR ADRIAN BOOTH ACMA CGMA

The members unanimously approved the appointment of Mr Adrian Booth ACMA CGMA as Independent Examiner for 2025/2026 financial year.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Five committee member nominations were received and approved:

Alan Murphy – Secretary – approved unanimously
Yvonne Mills – Membership Secretary – approved unanimously
Iain East – IT Manager – approved unanimously
Janet Lythgoe – Committee member – approved unanimously
Sue Fowler – re-election as Treasurer – approved unanimously

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Keith mentioned a couple of additional things. Firstly, he said how the committee find it quite disappointing with the number of members voting. Of over 450 members only about 130 voted, meaning at least 300 members just didn't bother. Keith also said that there have been occasions during the year when committee members, group leaders or other members have received abuse, either verbally or in writing (e.g. emails). He said that this simply isn't acceptable and pointed out that there is a Members Code of Conduct (available on our web site) which must be observed.

Keith closed the AGM at approximately 1:30pm