

## **Hadleigh u3a Chairman's Report September 2025 by Rowan Cain - Chairman**

It has been, again, a good year for Hadleigh u3a. We were able to hold our fee at the same level as last year, thanks to excellent management of our income and the support of members. Our numbers remain over 200 and yet, as I constantly reiterate, we must move forward. While we reach out to the community in all the various ways we can, through the website, advertising etc, we still need new members and more group activities. We need **you** to encourage others to look at joining Hadleigh u3a and all the opportunities it offers.

The summer party is a highlight of the year and, thanks to the efforts of the committee and the food donations of members, a good time was had by all. Entertainment was provided by the multi talented Jane Hogger who once again captivated her audience with a range of songs, ably assisted by her husband.

Thanks to Jill we were able to book our Christmas lunch once again at Hintlesham Hall for a very reasonable price. Christmas is always a special time for our members as we celebrate with a social gathering plus excellent food and drink, setting the mood for this festive occasion.

As ever, particular thanks go to all those without whose help Hadleigh u3a could not function. The Events Committee is chaired by Jill and it is due to their efforts that we run so many trips and other events. Jill deserves special praise as does Tim, who organises the speakers. I would thank the rest of the committee: Louise Daniels, Jill Skipper, Liz Ferguson, Peter Gower, Angie Wild, and Pat Simonet, while also acknowledging those who help at meetings, serving teas and coffees. Also, Philip Fraser-Betts, who ensures the technology runs smoothly. Thank you all very much indeed, you are invaluable.

Speaking of our committees, I would like to acknowledge our debt to Peter Gower for taking up the essential role of treasurer after the retirement of Jean Jeram. Without a treasurer, we simply could not function.

It is over a year ago that we booked the tickets for the trip to Norwich Theatre in October to see 'War Horse'. What always seemed ages away is now upon us. We had to act quickly to reserve tickets and as I pointed out last year, this is just one good example of the opportunities being a member of the u3a brings.

We have a great range of trips, speakers and group activities over the next year. It is important to remember that the committee consists entirely of volunteers, people who give up their time to run the u3a for the benefit of its members. We have not yet had to cancel a trip but it creates difficulty when members do not commit until the last moment, often after a reminder from Jill. We are lucky that our coach company is so obliging, but please, it would help enormously if an earlier commitment were given.