

Trustees Report for 2025 – 2026

Charity no: 1165425

Presented to 12th AGM on 28th October 2026

All u3as offer people no longer in full-time employment an opportunity for lifelong learning, friendship and fun. In Palmers Green and Southgate u3a our aim is to encourage and enable members to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experiences by meeting in interest groups, at monthly meetings and to enjoy themselves at regular social events.

Current Membership stands around 620 and increasing weekly. We are very proud that so many of you stayed loyal over the last few years and around a hundred new members have joined us since last year. They have been able to learn about all the wonderful groups and events we have to offer by attending the Welcome Tea parties which have taken place every three months or so.

The new style of interest group introduced, called BiteSize, continues to prove popular. Interest groups are offered in a four session cluster, which is reviewed at the end of the four sessions. Most of them continue beyond this and become regular groups advertised on the website. These have proved very successful and will continue to be offered as an alternative and to supplement the usual sort of activity. **Currently we have about 65 interest groups active but I remind you that if there are any interests that you would like to see offered so please contact the Group Coordinator who will support you to make it happen.**

As a result of the continued effort to raise the quality of our speakers, the monthly meetings have seen an increasing number of members attending. **We continue to search out speakers who hopefully appeal to you all, whatever your interests, and our Speaker's Secretary is always open to hearing about recommendations from you.**

Communication with members continues to be via monthly bulletins; contributions to the bulletin come mostly from the executive committee and convenors. This is a vital way to communicate with our members and you are encouraged to open all the links and read to the end, to make sure you don't miss all our exciting opportunities!

The Magazine editorial team has worked hard yet again this year to showcase our artists and writers and has provided us, this year, with some fascinating insights into some of our most esteemed members. The interviews have been conducted by our reporter who has done an excellent job this year. In the coming year we hope to be featuring more about what goes on in interest groups so please consider writing about something particularly interesting your group has done recently. We also give our thanks to the Magazine Distribution Team which helps your magazine get to you.

Social events, where members are encouraged to bring along non-members, were introduced for the first time in March 2022 and have become a regular feature on the calendar.

The Outreach Team (created to increase membership) successfully run an event every month consisting of Welcome Teas, dances and quizzes in addition to two FREE events:

the Summer Garden Party in August and the Christmas Tea Party in early December. We have had three quizzes, a Bollywood Dance and a Latin American Dance this year so far. These events have all been incredibly well-supported and fully booked and have successfully increased our membership. Please continue to support us; come along and tell your friends. I would also like to thank the members of the Outreach Team for their hard work arranging the social events this year and Heroes for supporting them.

A strength of our u3a has been its outings and trips. These are all going ahead thanks to the dedication of the small band who research, plan, organise and lead these trips and holidays. The holiday trip to the North Yorkshire was very successful and enjoyed by all who went. In addition there have been several other Freedom Pass and coach outings which have proved very popular. The Travel Team continues to work extremely hard to arrange these outings for you and a Travel Bulletin is sent out monthly. Thank you all for all your hard work.

Finally, as Chair of the Executive, I would like to extend a warm thank you to the Executive Committee for their stalwart work this year.

Our Treasurer stepped down a few months ago and we were very fortunate that our previous Treasurer has temporarily filled the gap. However, we urgently need a new Treasurer, especially as we cannot legally function as a charity.

Everyone else on our Committee is standing for re-election and we welcome a new member who hopes to join us (to be voted in at the AGM) to support membership administration.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank all of you for remaining part of our u3a. Let us hope that the next year will be a happy and hopeful year, filled with new interests, new people and plenty of laughter.

Val Girling