

Dulwich and District u3a: Trustees' annual report for year ended 31 March 2026.

As far as our Committee is concerned, Christine Hensby, our Secretary for the last three years, will stand down from this role at the AGM, as she has completed her term. Christine will, however, stay on the Committee as Newsletter Editor. Anne Sharpley is retiring after her six-year term. Julia Bairstow and Karen Chessell have resigned from the Committee. I would like to thank them all for their dedication and contributions to the work of our Committee. Keith Ball is standing for re-election as Treasurer. Continuing as Trustees are Caroline Knapp (Interest Group Coordinator), Helen Robertson (Interest Group Coordinator), Sheila Northover (Events Coordinator), Finola Stack (Safeguarding Officer), Danny Friedman (Membership), and Neil Abrahams who is standing for election as Chair.

During 2025/26, our monthly members meetings have been very well attended. We enjoyed a Festive Quiz in Dulwich Village and a Festive Lunch at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club in December.

In the autumn we ran a second joint workshop with volunteers at Bell House on the topic of 'Artificial Intelligence', which proved a real success. Another joint workshop on the subject of 'Making the most of your home' will take place in October. We have improved our website under Phase 1 of the relaunch project. In Phase 2, in the next few months we will set up online application and membership renewal as well as introducing a volunteering page. I would like to thank all the members of our Website Review Subcommittee who have worked so hard on rewriting and redesigning our website and improved it immensely. We launched our digital newsletter in April 2025, which has allowed us to maintain consistency of design and layout and provided easier access for members.

For in-person meetings, Rosebery Lodge continues to be a valuable facility, and we are grateful to Southwark Council for allowing us to use it and to Diana McInnes for overseeing access to it.

At the end of March 2026, our membership stood at over 900, which is up by 50 on last year. We also have nearly 100 interest groups and over 90 convenors.

We have updated and improved policies on Health and Safety, Data Protection, Privacy and Legitimate Interest. We have a new policy on Email and Password Protection and on Editorial Policy for our Newsletter. We have also drafted role descriptions for most of the Committee roles.

We continue to be a thriving organisation. Efforts to increase the diversity of our membership are continuing, but understandably word of mouth seems to be the most usual source of new members. Our financial position remains strong; however, we anticipate more expenditure next year, so the Trustees have decided to restore the standard level of subscription to £15 for 2026/27. The concessionary rate for those on a low income will be £5. This continues to represent great value for money.

Finally, my three years as Chair is now at an end and I am standing down from the Committee. Dulwich and District u3a is a great organisation and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair!

Tim Pagan
Chair
24 April 2026