



Draft minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Dulwich & District u3a (for approval at 2026 AGM)

Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 2.15 pm at the Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane, SE24 9HU

The meeting was attended by 54 members, including the following trustees: Neil Abrahams (Vice Chair), Christine Hensby (Secretary), Keith Ball (Treasurer), Karen Chessell, Danny Friedman, Caroline Knapp, Sheila Northover, Helen Robertson, and Finola Stack

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Neil Abrahams welcomed members to the meeting explaining that the Chair, Tim Pagan, was on a holiday trip which had been planned some time ago and that as Vice-Chair he would chair the meeting..

Apologies for absence were received from the following Trustees and members: Tim Pagan (Chair), Julia Bairstow, Anne Sharpley, Gerard Dickinson, Di Deudney, Sarah Gasquoine, Niesje de Boer, and Catriona Sutherland.

2. Approval of minutes of the last AGM held on 21 May 2024

The 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

At this point Neil Abrahams invited Ruby Douek of the Subcommittee for Inclusivity and Diversity to make an announcement requesting volunteers to distribute leaflets

3. Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2025, presented by the Vice Chair

Neil Abrahams presented the Annual Report on behalf of the Trustees, which had been made available to members in advance, and reported that Dulwich & District u3a continues to thrive with 870 members, 100 groups and more than 80 convenors. The organisation's financial position remained strong, and the Trustees had decided to maintain subscription at £10 for another year.

He reported that Finola Stack had been co-opted to the committee and Danny Friedman and Keith Ball had been appointed Membership Secretary and

Treasurer respectively in 2024.

Dulwich & District u3a had had a very productive year, which included:

- Updating our Finance policy
- Initiating a website review
- Conducting a member survey, which received 300 responses
- Developing an action plan in response to the findings of the membership survey.
- Updating our register of assets.
- Implementing the u3a brand guidelines across most of our materials and media.
- SCID continuing work on inclusivity and diversity
- Producing a 10th Anniversary brochure and an updated Interest Group Directory

There had also been several events during the year:

- A 10th anniversary summer party at Bell House
- A festive quiz at St Barnabas
- A festive lunch at Sydenham Hill Golf Club
- A programme of monthly talks
- A workshop held in collaboration with Bell House.

The Vice Chair extended his thanks to members and convenors without whom our u3a would not exist; to Trustees, the newsletter and publishing teams, to Diana McInnes for the management of Rosebery Lodge, to David Beamish for his work maintaining the website, to Richard Elliott for organising communications via Mailchimp, to Jenny Thomas for her long service leading the catering team, and to Sandra Tait and Sue Fabian for taking over the leadership of the catering team. A vote of thanks was carried unanimously.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025/26 accounts

Alistair Milliken had acted as Independent Examiner for the 2024/25 accounting year, for which he had signed off the draft accounts. The Vice Chair asked the meeting to approve his appointment as Independent Examiner for 2025/26 and he was duly appointed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts

Keith Ball presented his report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which had been made available to members in advance. He began by correcting the terminology in his report and that Income and Expenditure should read Receipts and Payments. He reported that there was a planned deficit to use the excess funds in the bank account, explaining that it was policy to maintain sufficient funds to cover one year's expenditure only. Additionally, he reported

that a plan had been created whereby groups received grants to cover purchase of specific items, not running costs, which would enhance or expand that group's activities. Over £1,500 has been provided to date.

Subscriptions had been held at £10 pa although it was likely they would increase in 2026. It was noted that the costs of distribution have increased, and more reliance would be placed on email communications in the future.

Liz Day questioned the high cost of printing and distribution, and the Vice Chair explained that this was partly due to the publication of the 10th Anniversary Brochure. One member queried the need to produce a printed version of the Groups Directory given the information was available on the website. It was noted that not all members could access the website, and many members welcomed a hard copy. Suggestions were made regarding alternative methods of distribution, such as via convenors and to friends and neighbours. The Vice Chair explained that the former could not guarantee that all members would receive a copy and the latter was not possible because of the personal nature of some of the information contained in the directory, which also prohibited putting the directory on the website. Caroline Knapp added that information about groups was also available on the Dulwich & District u3a website. It was noted that Helen Robertson had volunteered to envelope and address the directory this year, and that this would reduce the distribution cost.

The Accounts were adopted unanimously.

6. **Election of Officers and new Trustees**

The following nominations had been received and had been made available to members in advance:

Chair: Tim Pagan, proposed by Sue Conroy, seconded by Patricia Boddy

Secretary: Christine Hensby, proposed by Richard Elliott, seconded by Katy Shaw

Treasurer: Keith Ball, proposed by Susan Clark, seconded by Cynthia Anderson

Trustee for re-election: Helen Robertson, proposed by Gwynneth Pedler, seconded by Margaret Pedler

New Trustee: Finola Stack, proposed by Alison Swabey, seconded by Tricia Parry

All candidates were unanimously elected.

7. **Any other business**

Liz Day raised several concerns and suggestions:

- She suggested that the Committee consider inviting the London representative on the new u3a Council to visit Dulwich & District u3a.
- She was concerned that there would be no summer garden party this year. It had been an annual event and one of the few in the Dulwich & District calendar that enabled members to socialise with the wider membership, She suggested setting up a subcommittee now to plan the 2026 summer party.
- She suggested that the current £10 membership subscription was too low and that it should be raised to £20 so that Dulwich & District u3a could contribute to Bell House for the use of its facilities and 'pay our way' and also subsidise the high cost of the Festive lunch.

The Vice Chair clarified that Dulwich & District u3a had contributed to Bell House for the use of their facilities and contributed to the cost of the festive lunch. He outlined the reasons behind the Committee's decision not to hold a garden party in 2025, which included a shortage of volunteers, accessibility and health and safety concerns, and issues experienced with previous bookings. He hoped that these difficulties would be overcome by next year and that we could re-commence the garden party there.

The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and invited them to stay for the guest speaker.

The meeting ended at 2.50 pm