

Chair's Report 2026

As I report on my first year as Chair of Cheshunt u3a I am pleased to say we continue by any measure to be successful and a valuable organisation for older people within the local community. This is in no small part due to the efforts of the committee, currently 15 strong, a mix of old hands and new blood, each of whom contributes to the efficient running of our u3a. Having a full committee is in contrast to some other u3as in the area who struggle to fill committee positions, and it is especially pleasing to see that, as long-serving people have stepped down, new members have come forward to take up the challenge. Special mention to Christine Luff who has stepped down after many years as Secretary and also to Steve Sell who handed over the reins after his three years as Chair. The role of Secretary is especially time-consuming and I am grateful to Heather Douglas for stepping into that role and proving to be efficient and proactive.

Our membership continues to grow and is now above 800, with many people joining through recommendations from friends. Our new vice-chair, Jo Ware, has put a lot of effort into making up a welcome pack for new members and we have also made an effort to enhance the welcome to new members at the monthly meeting. These initiatives are designed not only to provide an introduction to the u3a but also to make new members aware that this is a self-help organisation, and if they have any skills or interests they could share in a new group, to please volunteer. The message to members is we need givers as well as takers.

Thanks also go to Andy Smith who has taken over as membership secretary and used his IT skills to improve our systems. For the coming year we are moving to credit-card style membership cards which are reusable and will ultimately save us money as well as the effort of printing and laminating cards on a yearly basis.

Given the demographic of the u3a it is a sad fact that some of our members do pass on during the year and this year we have lost some good friends from our ranks. I will here make special mention of Jean Wardrop who passed away in 2025. One of our founding members, Jean served on the committee for many years as RUGS

coordinator, ensuring there were always meeters and greeters at the door and hot water in the urn. She is remembered with affection for all her efforts.

Although we have seen some groups close during the year, we have also been successful in starting a number of new groups. Interest groups are the lifeblood of the u3a and without group leaders we would not be the organisation we are, so a sincere thank you goes to all of our group leaders for the time and effort they put in to make things happen. It is also positive to see new faces stepping forward as group leaders. Thanks go to Frank Sluter our Groups coordinator for all his efforts in supporting the group leaders.

Our monthly meetings at the Laura Trott Centre go from strength to strength with attendances now regularly exceeding 300. Sue Allum does a great job as speaker secretary ensuring we have a varied speaker programme which both entertains and informs.

We have also established further ties with local community organisations, offering dance lessons with Michele at her local studio and activities at the Herts Young Mariners Base to utilise their facilities when not required for local schools. Several of our groups make use of the community room in Tesco Brookfield, which is provided free of charge, for their meetings. We are appreciative of the support given by Lynn Yourhed, Tesco Community Champion, for the use of this facility and for also providing regular prizes at our monthly raffle.

So, in conclusion, our u3a is currently in a healthy state but the message as always is that it is by the members, for the members and will only continue to flourish if people step forward as committee members, group leaders or as volunteers at monthly meetings and to support group leaders.

Stewart Walter

Treasurer's Annual Report at 31st October 2025

This report is to be read in conjunction with the Accounts which were available at the registration desk and which should be read when you've a spare moment or two and then brought along to next month's meeting when we will have our AGM. If you have any questions relating to the accounts, please send them to our Secretary – Heather Douglas - at least two weeks before the AGM which is on 23rd April 2026.

On the reverse of the front page is the Trustees' Report, which lists the Committee (Trustees) who were elected by you at the last AGM on 24th April 2025. There was one change to the Committee during the accounting year, when Isabel Martin resigned on 12th June and Margaret Partridge replaced her as Assistant Secretary on the same date.

Following on from the 'Notes to the Accounts' page is the full set of accounts showing the general running of Cheshunt u3a and group activities during the year. You will see our Membership Fees have generated slightly more income than last year at £12,585.00, while the monthly sales of Books, Puzzles, Raffles, Refreshments, Gratuity, Donation etc., plus an enormous amount of almost £167,811.00 generated by you - the members - to the many Group activities, have boosted our Total Receipts to £182,742.00.

The payments - listed below the receipts – have stayed at a very similar amount to last year at £14,241.00, but together with an increased Group payments figure of £162,698.00 brought our Total Expenditure to £176,939.00. However, we finished the year with an excess of receipts over payments of £5,803.00.

The next sheet shows a list of Sundry Expenses, amounting to £2,958.00 while the following one shows details of the Individual Groups who pay money in and out of the bank and details their balances at the year end. All Receipts and Payments are reported by me to the Committee on a monthly basis at every Committee Meeting.

The final sheet is from our new Independent Examiner – Christine Folland – who replaced Christine Hewkin, who sadly died last December. I should like to thank her for stepping into the role this year.

Rob Scott

Treasurer