

Chair's Report to January 2026

Visits- To date, NINE u3as have been visited, some of them more than once.

Four of them are being supported regularly.

Arrangements have been made to visit three more early in 2026.

It has been very pleasing to welcome delegates from some of these u3as attending London Region events for the first time in a while. I have made it clear that even if a Chair or a member of the Committee cannot attend, we would be happy to see anyone representing that u3a so long as they understand the role of a delegate. I shall be hoping to visit even more u3as in the coming year.

AGM 2025 and Chairs Network Day 2026

The AGM was well-attended and all those present were fully engaged in the items on the Agenda. We are working hard on the format of the next face to face meeting to make it even more successful. Details of the day will be sent out soon.

Delegates meetings on Zoom

These will now be on a variety of days of the week so that more people can attend. The content of next year has already been planned and looks extremely relevant, interesting and engaging. January 16th Delegates meeting, entitled "Retiring with Attitude" is a topic that has been very successful in promoting the u3a and encourages new members to join. It will feature the writer of the course, a teacher of the course and a course participant and offer opportunities to discuss and ask questions of them and your colleagues. Sign up now!

Val Girling

Treasurer's Report- John Bent

**London Region of
u3as**
Income and
Expenditure
01.09.25 to 31.12.25

Income

Events Net of Paypal fees	£7,027.80
Wellness Day	£0.00
CAF Grant	£0.00
Grant Dagenham u3a	£0.00
Zoom Licence LRT TAT Bgt	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.00
AI Prepd attendees	
Income Total	<hr/> £7,027.80

Less

Expenditure

Walks & Visits	£5,348.98
Wellness Day	£0.00
AGM	£456.30
Delegates & chairs Meetings	£0.00
AI Prepyts	
Zoom Licence & Wufoo	£110.97
Bank Charges	£0.00
Misc (Equipt)	<hr/> £42.71

**London Region of
u3as**
Income and
Expenditure
01.09.24 to 31.08.25

Income

Events Net of Paypal fees	£19,109.23
Wellness Day	£1,312.00
CAF Grant	£500.00
Grant Dagenham u3a	£750.00
Zoom Licence LRT TAT Bgt	£719.88
Bank Interest	£40.59
Income Total	<hr/> £22,431.70

Less

Expenditure

Walks & Visits	£15,471.20
Wellness Day	£1,053.65
AGM	£469.20
Delegates & chairs Meetings	£1,370.90
Genl Exs	
Zoom Licence	£1,176.03
Bank Charges	£60.00
Misc (Equipt)	<hr/> £0.00

Expenditure Total	£5,958.96
Surplus/-Deficit 23/24	£1,068.84
Surplus B/fwd	<u>£12,678.89</u>
Net Surplus / -Deficit	<u>£13,747.73</u>

Expenditure Total	£19,600.98
Surplus/-Deficit 23/24	£2,830.72
Surplus B/fwd	<u>£9,848.17</u>
Net Surplus / -Deficit	<u>£12,678.89</u>

Balance Sheet
at 31.12.25

Assets

Bank	£12,211.72
Paypal	£1,224.51

Debtors

Prepaid Cost	Chairs Mtg.	£369.60
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Creditors

Wufoo C Ware	-£58.00
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Net Assets	<u>£13,747.83</u>
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£0.10

Balance Sheet
at 31.08.25

Assets

Bank	£13,771.68
Paypal	£1,265.19

Debtors

Debtors	Chairs Mt6 27.2.26	£369.60
Prepaid	AGM 17.10.25	£168.00

Creditors

Prepaid Autumn Walks	-£2,895.48
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Net Assets	<u>£12,678.99</u>
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£0.10

Web manager's report- Derek Harwood

- Maintaining LRU3A website as required.
- Held Web Managers PSG Meeting in November. Subjects covered inc: SiteWorks – Oversights; Sign Up forms; Open discussions - 0300 telephone numbers; Google Workspace;
- Treasurers PSG in October cancelled (I was away) but some email traffic instead
- 5th IT Skills Training programme delivered over November/ December with AbilityNet for all London u3as
- Managing the LRU3A Zoom accounts

Events Team Report- Rikki Wallman

Online talks continue for January, February and March 2026 and will then cease due to the extensive opportunity on offer for online sessions organised by the National Office. Many thanks to Catherine Ware who has been organising these online talks since 2020

The Wallace Collection study day has been postponed till autumn 2026 due to change of the personnel dealing with such visits. Thanks to Philippa Bassett for organising this and the Brandenburg Concert. This latter event was attended by 130 members and was fully booked within days from the launch.

Usually during the winter months we don't organise walks due to the weather and dark evenings. We experimented this year with 2 Christmas lights walks 16th Dec 25 and 3rd Jan 26. These were so popular the guide offered to do an extra date, which was filled from the waiting list- experiment worked.

We have not, however, been dormant. 13 sessions are now being publicised for Women's History month in March 2026. Many thanks to Mike Marriot for his contact and communication with the guides and to Patricia Gregory for her diligence and patience in producing the flyers and programme.

Plans are in progress for walks and gallery visits during April, May, June and early July. Save the Date information will be sent to chairs/delegates at least 6 weeks ahead of the launch date. This should mean that all u3as have the opportunity to publicise the sessions in their newsletters and at their monthly meeting, irrespective of which part of the month their newsletter is published. So please do cascade the information to your members so they are not disappointed. All details can always be found here [Events - London Region of u3as Network](#)

The surplus from all the Events is sufficient to pay for the tools we use- Wufoo, Mailchimp and zoom and to facilitate two face-to-face events during the year. It is not just about the finances but about the social and learning aspect of all the events. During 2025 the events were booked by over 500 unique members, some of whom booked for many sessions.

Do you have any experience of organising a study day, like the Music day and the AI day in 2025. We have a couple of venues who we are in contact with but need someone to put a programme together. Any volunteers????

Communications- Rikki Wallman

The trialling of the paid Mailchimp (or mass merge mailing platform) has been slower than anticipated due to unforeseen health circumstances. However, migration has started to move the names of chairs/delegates and the templates for all communications, into the paid account and to utilise its functions to a great extent than previously.

Training is on going for others to use Wufoo in setting up registration forms and reports.

Mailchimp training is also being carried out with zoom sessions on a regular basis. So, there is hope that communications can, going forward in 2026 be a shared role.

Report of the London Region Council Representatives (CRs)

What have the London CRs been up to?

Chris Bulford is involved with a sub-group of Council reps from other regions, working to put together an agreed strategy with plans, resources & targets for Publicity, Marketing and Brand Awareness. Liz Drury who was Head of the Comms team based in the London Office left just before Christmas. Soon her successor will be appointed and therefore it is essential that CRs are ready to develop a business plan. Currently there is a worrying shortage of PR Advisers (member volunteers) in the regions, and we know from our own situation in London, that we have been unable to recruit since Rodney Fox moved away.

Jenny is involved with a different sub-group of CRs who are working to get the original Standing Orders active. We are asking for regular briefings from the office departments so CRs can better understand procedures and protocols, and importantly know who is the appropriate staff member to consult for advice and guidance. It might sound obvious but the working relationship between the Council, the Staff and the Board members has to be clearly documented.

Sue Russell (Council Chair) asked Jenny to assist her with an article for u3a matters. Jenny has written some basic questions so members who knew little or nothing about the Council, could easily get up to speed. Sue & Jenny both thought it hit the nail on the head! But it wasn't well received, so we'll see if that gets published.

There is work going on to write new, better, user-friendly role descriptors. We made the point strongly that they should be written by members who have held those positions, rather than office staff. This is vital because recruitment of volunteers is a high priority.

We've both visited a number of London Region u3as in the period and this will continue. We want to be as supportive and helpful as possible and meet many members and committee members. We welcome invitations to visit you for a special celebration, to join a committee meeting, to help with an issue of some sort or to help navigate specialist advice from staff members.

For both our u3as, we are always delighted when a representative from another u3a visits – it is so worthwhile sharing ideas and friendship.

Happy New Year from Chris Bulford & Jenny Wilson