



BUCKHURST HILL u3a ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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BUCKHURST HILL U3A – CHAIR'S REPORT 2025

10th ANNIVERSARY 2015–2025

Writing this as the end of my tenure as Chair approaches, I am pleased to be able to report that the last twelve months have been very successful if somewhat testing for Buckhurst Hill u3a. This review gives me the opportunity to look back and highlight our successes.

With just 3 weeks' notice from Buckhurst Hill Parish Council last December, we were advised that Roding Valley Hall would be closing in early January for approximately 8 weeks to do the repairs needed. After trying multiple other venues with no luck for our proposed (we thought) short break, we were fortunate enough to be offered a slot on a Wednesday morning from 9.30–11.30 at a hall in Chigwell. After careful deliberation we chose to take a chance and book Grange Farm Hall and see if anyone would turn up.

For our first meeting at Grange Farm, we experienced an exceedingly cold, and misty morning and we had an encouraging 39 attendees. We have continued to hold our monthly meetings at Grange Farm and are now seeing regular attendances of up to 53.

We are exceedingly grateful to Trevor Johnson, Chairman of the Grange Farm Centre Trust, for allowing us to use the hall and helping us out in our time of need.

5 months later, we still do not have a date to return to RVH.

Membership

Our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March and, at the end of March this year, the membership stood at 324 compared with a total of 307 at the same time the previous year. During the year we gained 58 new members, but for a variety of reasons 41 members did not renew. The good news is that we now have the highest membership in our 10-year existence.

New members are always welcome as they can bring fresh ideas but, at the same time, we are happy if our current membership is maintained. It has never been our desire to grow significantly as we believe that being a smaller group enables our members to participate in a wider range of activities without the need for too many waiting lists and for us to remain friendly and sociable.

Finances

Our finances are expertly managed by our Treasurer, Kevin Lucas. Accompanying this report is a copy of the audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 which show a surplus for the year of £611 compared with a surplus last year of £1083.

Kevin will report in detail on these figures at the AGM. My thanks to Kevin for all his hard work, especially considering we at Buckhurst Hill u3a have participated in more outings and events than ever before which in itself caused him more than a few headaches!! (probably mostly my fault).

Activities

Our monthly meetings, interest groups, outings and social events are what make us such a successful u3a but none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the small number of members who give up so much of their time to make these things happen.

The monthly meetings are an integral part of any u3a group, and we aim to provide a wide variety of interesting speakers. We cannot always cater to everyone's taste but the regular attendance each month would suggest that our Speaker Secretary, Ruth Read has done an excellent job, along with guidance from Ann Denwood, our previous Speaker Secretary. My thanks to them both.

I know that Ruth has booked a full and varied programme for us until the end of 2025.

The subject matter of our talks included: The Art of London, Epping Forest, John F Kennedy, Georgi Markov – the Poison Umbrella Murder, Alfred Hitchcock. Interspersed with our talks we enjoyed Summer and Christmas afternoon teas,

We currently have 36 Interest Groups, including over 9 new groups and I must take this opportunity to thank all our Group Leaders for their considerable efforts. Running an Interest Group can be a demanding and occasionally thankless task but generally, the positive feedback from members, does make it very worthwhile as Interest Groups are such an important part of u3a life.

We have seen a few new groups take shape during the year some of which have been shared with other local u3a's. Sharing groups can make a new idea viable and we are always looking for new ideas and people to facilitate them.

We have now staged 3 fully sold-out quiz afternoons, sharing them with Roding Valley and Wanstead and Woodford u3as, and are having a final one at the end of May before taking a break until the autumn.

I must thank Fiona Lucas, our Group Coordinator, for producing the Events Calendar each month and for her hard work supporting Groups that may have needed some assistance during the year as well as helping the new Groups get properly established.

During this year we have been able to arrange a full programme of visits including the Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the Chelsea Pensioners, Physic Garden Christmas Fair, visits to various livery companies, Arundel Castle Tulip Festival and many other places, as well as numerous West End theatre visits.

Meanwhile, Mary Nathan has been busy arranging our Macmillan coffee morning, local "theatre", Court visits and other entertainments.

In addition to the outings, we also enjoyed a Music evening in November and various Afternoon Teas.

All of these outings and events were well supported and enjoyed by all who attended. My thanks to Mary and our very hard-working Committee for their unstinting work, and we are already busy organising outings and events for next year.

For the first time, we are arranging a short holiday which is "The Highlights of Normandy". This is being run by Riviera Travel, and we have 18 members participating in this.

Our main line of communication with members is our monthly Newsletter which has articles and information about our Interest Groups as well as forthcoming events. Members also submit interesting articles, and outings reports, these and all other contributions are greatly appreciated.

The credit for the success of our Newsletter must go to our Newsletter Editor, Christine Slade, who masterminds the production and distribution each month, and who, in addition to this role, is also our Membership Secretary, and Hall Hire Secretary. My sincere thanks to Christine for all her hard work.

We are also continuing using new methods of communications with our members ie our Facebook page, and thanks to David Dooks for taking on the task of setting this up and continuing to run it for us.

Our website recently underwent major changes, and it is quite outstanding. If you haven't had a chance to look at it, please do so when you can, the changes are amazing. Our thanks must go to Fiona and Kevin Lucas who spend many hours keeping it updated. Indeed, other local u3as are seeking their help in setting up their own sites.

The Committee

The Committee is the backbone of the organisation, and I must thank all of the Committee members for their support, commitment, and the time they give so willingly to ensure Buckhurst Hill u3a succeeds. Without all the time and effort from our Committee members, we would not be able to function.

At the AGM all Committee members have to stand down and I must thank all those who have agreed to stand for re-election.

Owing to the u3a 6-year Committee service rule and other reasons, sadly, some of our members, including Margaret Bint, Ann Denwood as well as myself, have to stand down and cannot be re-elected. Sue Bird, our previous treasurer, had to stand down last year, but has kept in touch with Committee matters and was also instrumental in helping me with our Musical Evening.

I am delighted to announce that David Dooks has agreed to be our new Chairman if elected at the AGM. This will ensure continuity for us going forward, and I'm sure that I am leaving you in his very capable hands.

I hope you have enjoyed as much as I have our somewhat extensive events and activities programme during my tenure as Chairman and thank you for the opportunity of promoting and growing our u3a. I have been very proud to be your chairman.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those members who help each month with the setting up of the hall and help with refreshments. Every bit of assistance is appreciated.

The Future

Formed in 2015, our u3a is this year celebrating our 10th Anniversary, and whilst I am confident that the next twelve months will see Buckhurst Hill u3a go from strength to strength, it really does rely on you, the members, to continue embracing the u3a ethos of 'run by the members for the members'.

Your u3a needs you!

Finally, I must reiterate my thanks to the Group Leaders and the Committee for everything they do, and also to the membership whose enthusiasm and support make the whole thing worthwhile.

TEAM

Together Everyone Achieves More

Hilary Wrightman
Chairman
Buckhurst Hill u3a
2024/2025

Buckhurst Hill U3A

Accounts

Year to 31st March 2025

all figures £

		2024 / 2025	2023 / 2024
Income			
	Membership subscriptions	6,010.00	5,515
	Travel commission	332.82	-
		6,342.82	5,515
Expenditure			
	Hall Hire	(474.00)	(432)
	Third Age Trust Costs	(2,180.84)	(1,892)
	Administration expenses	(810.97)	(1,355)
	Interest Group support	(297.99)	(8)
	Speakers	(970.00)	(942)
	Equipment purchases	(20.99)	(391)
	Refreshments	(101.85)	(45)
		(4,856.64)	(5,065)
Net income		1,486.18	450
Social Account	Note 3	(875.67)	633
Total net income		610.51	1,083
Branch funds			
	Opening balance	5,280.40	4,197
	Surplus for the period	610.51	1,083
	Balance carried forward	5,890.91	5,280
Represented by:			
	Bank balance	13,298.67	13,885
	Cheques & cash to be banked	745.20	411
	Amounts receivable / paid in advance	151.06	18
	Amounts payable / received in advance	(8,304.02)	(9,034)
		5,890.91	5,280

Hilary Wrightman (Chair)

Date

8/5/2025

Kevin Lucas (Treasurer)

Date

8/5/2025

Examiners report: I have examined these accounts and found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given to me

Graham Hurrell ACMA

Date

8/5/2025

Buckhurst Hill U3A*all figures £***Accounts****Year to 31st March 2025****2024 / 2025****2023 / 2024****Note 1: Third Age Trust Costs**

Capitation costs

(1,224.00)

(1,096)

Third Age Magazine

(956.84)

(796)

(2,180.84)**(1,892)****Note 2: Administration expenses**

Stationery

(146.09)

(171)

Stamps

(377.66)

(885)

Printer Ink

(29.00)

(110)

Postage supplement

423.00

470

Membership Cards

(44.40)

(40)

Publicity material

-

(49)

E-mail costs

(439.20)

(324)

Sundries

(197.62)

(246)

(810.97)**(1,355)****Note 3: Social Account**

Thank you lunch

(423.96)

(421)

Drury Lane

(18.50)

-

Andre Rieu

50.00

9

Sandhurst

245.84

-

Summer Afternoon tea (AGM)

(662.45)

(111)

Angels

55.00

-

Music Quiz (Entertainment Evening)

143.88

160

Prom concert

46.02

-

Ladies who Lunch (Pearls & Prosecco)

66.65

-

Ladies who Lunch (Halloween)

49.17

-

Ladies who Lunch (Holly & Ivy)

53.99

-

Xmas afternoon tea

(481.31)

(503)

Coronation Lunch

-

55

Ladies who Lunch (Glitz & Glamour)

-

63

Ladies who Lunch (Autumn Leaves)

-

33

Ladies who Lunch (Turkey & Tinsel)

-

52

Ladies who Lunch (Easter Bonnet)

-

158

Newmarket

-

160

The Clink

-

107

Ely

-

25

Sister Act

-

77

The King and I

-

60

Goldsmith Hall

-

125

Kew - Xmas lights

-

220

Scott Elvis lunch

-

408

Hits from the Blitz (Kenneth Moore)

-

(4)

Kiss Me Kate

-

20

Middle Temple

-

(60)

(875.67)**633**

Buckhurst Hill U3A
Accounts
Year to 31st March 2025

all figures £

2024 / 2025	2023 / 2024
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Note 4:

Amounts paid in advance (or receivable)

Third Age Trust - credit note	27.36	18
Arundel	10.00	
ABBA (Queens Theatre)	26.20	
Joint Quiz Group re Hall Hire	48.00	
Operation Mincemeat - outstanding ticket money	39.50	
	151.06	18

Note 5:

Amounts received in advance (or payable)

2025/26 Membership fee and P&P paid in advance (24/25)	(4,362.00)	(5,076)
Hall Hire re Grange Farm (Jan/Feb)	(144.00)	
Arundel visit	(2,472.50)	
ABBA	(314.40)	
Titanique - ticket over paid	(20.00)	
Stationers Hall	(80.00)	
Xmas Flower Arranging	(12.00)	
Spring Flower Arranging	(259.00)	
Ladies Who Lunch	(600.00)	
MN expenses (cards/stamps/refreshments)	(40.12)	
Prince Regent - Motown Xmas lunch	-	(1,081)
Drury Lane visit	-	(352)
Roydon Gardens	-	(119)
Sandhurst	-	(1,950)
Gunpowder Mill	-	(456)
	(8,304.02)	(9,034)

Buckhurst Hill u3a

Reconciliation of gross income and expenditure to the audited accounts

Year to 31st March 2025

Appendix 1

all figures £

	Gross income	Gross expenditure	ADJUSTMENTS				Surplus / deficit	Audited Accounts
			Monies paid / rec'd in prior year	Cash / cheques to bank	Monies rec'd in advance or payable	Monies paid in advance or receivable		
Income								
Subscriptions 2024/2025	1,570.00	(50.00)	4,490.00				6,010.00	
Subscriptions 2025/2026	3,622.00	(54.00)		532.00	(4,100.00)		-	
Travel commission	332.82						332.82	
								6,342.82
Expenditure								
Hall hire								
Main	36.00	(366.00)			(144.00)		(474.00)	
Craft	384.00	(384.00)					-	
Singing Group	46.00	(46.00)					-	
								(474.00)
Third Age Trust Costs								
U3A Capitation		(1,224.00)					(1,224.00)	
U3A Magazine		(966.20)	(18.00)			27.36	(956.84)	
								(2,180.84)
Administrative expenses								
Stationery		(134.39)			(11.70)		(146.09)	
Stamps		(370.86)			(6.80)		(377.66)	
Printer Ink		(29.00)					(29.00)	
Postal supplements 2024/2025	189.00		234.00				423.00	
Postal supplements 2025/2026	206.00			56.00	(262.00)		-	
Membership Cards		(44.40)					(44.40)	
Publicity Materials							-	
E-mail		(439.20)					(439.20)	
Sundry	55.72	(253.34)					(197.62)	
								(810.97)
Interest Group support		(297.99)					(297.99)	
Speakers		(970.00)					(970.00)	
Equipment purchases		(20.99)					(20.99)	
Refreshments net expense		(80.23)			(21.62)		(101.85)	
								(4,856.64)
Net Income								1,486.18
Social account (re Appendix 2)	21,905.17	(23,201.98)	3,898.14	157.20	(3,757.90)	123.70	(875.67)	(875.67)
Total net income	28,346.71	(28,932.58)	8,604.14	745.20	(8,304.02)	151.06	610.51	610.51

Buckhurst Hill u3a

Reconciliation of gross income and expenditure to the audited accounts

Analysis of Social Account

Year to 31st March 2025

Appendix 2

all figures £

	Gross income	Gross expenditure	ADJUSTMENTS				Surplus / deficit	Audited Accounts
			paid / rec'd in prior year	Cash / cheques to bank	rec'd in advance or payable	paid in advance or receivable		
Thank you lunch	-	(423.96)					(423.96)	
Drury Lane	518.00	(888.00)	351.50				(18.50)	
Andre Rieu	455.00	(405.00)					50.00	
Sandhurst	550.00	(2,254.16)	1,950.00				245.84	
AGM Afternoon Tea	-	(662.45)					(662.45)	
Angels	1,317.50	(1,262.50)					55.00	
Music Quiz (Entertainment Evening)	1,232.50	(1,088.62)					143.88	
Prom concert	750.00	(703.98)					46.02	
Ladies who Lunch - Pearls & Prosecco	646.15	(579.50)					66.65	
Ladies who Lunch - Halloween	582.77	(533.60)					49.17	
Ladies who Lunch - Holly & Ivy	454.39	(400.40)					53.99	
Xmas afternoon tea	-	(481.31)					(481.31)	
101 Dalmations	416.50	(416.50)					-	
ABBA	131.00	-		157.20	(314.40)	26.20	-	
Arundel	2,497.50	(35.00)			(2,472.50)	10.00	-	
Chelsea Hospital	975.00	(975.00)					-	
Evita	1,100.00	(1,100.00)					-	
Farm Hall	140.00	(140.00)					-	
Fiddler on the Roof	330.00	(330.00)					-	
Flower Arranging	128.00	(128.00)					-	
Flower Arranging - Spring 25	259.00	-			(259.00)		-	
Flower Arranging - Xmas	240.00	(228.00)			(12.00)		-	
Goldsmith Hall	260.00	(260.00)					-	
Great Gatsby	1,210.00	(1,210.00)					-	
Gunpowder Mill	-	(456.00)	456.00				-	
Hamilton	750.00	(750.00)					-	
Jazz @ Kenneth Moore Theatre	162.00	(162.00)					-	
Joint Quiz group	54.00	(102.00)				48.00	-	
Ladies who Lunch - Easter	689.36	(30.00)	(59.36)		(600.00)		-	
Lehman Trilogy	100.00	(100.00)					-	
Macmillan Coffee morning	36.00	(36.00)					-	
MJ The Musical	670.00	(670.00)					-	
Moulin Rouge	220.00	(220.00)					-	
Oliver	780.00	(780.00)					-	
Operation Mincemeat	829.50	(869.00)				39.50	-	
Physic Gardens Xmas Fayre	416.00	(416.00)					-	
Prince Regent - Dec 2024	658.00	(1,739.00)	1,081.00				-	
Roding Players	153.00	(153.00)					-	
Roydon Gardens - Winter Lights	245.00	(364.00)	119.00				-	
Roydon Xmas Lights	148.00	(148.00)					-	
Stationers Hall	480.00	(400.00)			(80.00)		-	
The Play That Goes Wrong	111.00	(111.00)					-	
Tina	750.00	(750.00)					-	
Titanique	460.00	(440.00)			(20.00)		-	
Social account totals	21,905.17	(23,201.98)	3,898.14	157.20	(3,757.90)	123.70	(875.67)	(875.67)