

Royston u3a Chair's Statement AGM 30th June 2026

Time flies, and it is hard to believe that a year has passed since our last Annual General Meeting. Serving as Chair of Royston u3a remains a true privilege. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside a committed, hardworking committee. Every year brings fresh challenges, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our members for your unwavering support throughout the past twelve months.

Our biggest achievement this year has been retaining and growing our membership. At the time of writing, we proudly stand at 470 members.

Our monthly meetings have featured a wide variety of speakers. I hope you found these sessions both interesting and entertaining. Furthermore, we now offer 30 interest groups. This extensive programme is entirely due to our amazing group leaders who generously give their time to enrich the lives of other members.

While I cannot list every single group, I am delighted by the volume of activity within our u3a. I would like to highlight a few examples of members' involvement and dedication:

- **Walking Groups:** Our popular Strollers group that meets fortnightly usually walks for a gentle 3 miles, while the longer 5-mile plus Walking group meets monthly. Both groups continue to grow and thrive due to the meticulous advance planning of their leaders, who ensure all routes are safe and enjoyable.
- **Health and Fitness:** Our two Tai Chi groups and the active and seated Exercise groups continue to keep members both mentally and physically active. The Golf group also combines fitness with great non-competitive company on the courses.
- **Seasonal and Social:** During the summer months, our Boules and Croquet groups flourish as does the Clay shooting group; a group that meets throughout the year. Meanwhile the monthly get-together of the Wine Appreciation group continues its enjoyable mission of tasting and judging wines from around the world.
- **Creativity, educational and local and international affairs :** The Current Affairs group, History group, Quiz group, French Conversation group, three Book clubs, the Canasta group, Art group, Quiz group, Ukulele group, Singing for Fun group and the two Craft groups provide vital places for members to develop and pursue activities they enjoy

that may have lapsed over the years. The groups provide members not only with profound health benefits but also new and wonderful camaraderie.

A special thank you goes to our highly successful Theatre group organiser, as well as the wonderful tea volunteers who look after us so well at our monthly meetings.

To any group I have not mentioned by name; please accept my apologies. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by me and the entire membership.

As can be seen from the accounts, our finances remain in excellent shape. This stability allows us to confidently pursue our endeavours of learning, laughing and living for those of us who are approaching or who are in their third age.

While we are fortunate to have such a vibrant u3a, we must never take its success for granted. A thriving u3a relies on its individual members making a conscious decision to play an active, contributing role.

I make no apology for closing with a heartfelt appeal. For Royston u3a to sustain its success, we need your active participation. This can take many forms:

- Leading a new interest group either on your own or with others as well as assisting with running the group
- Engaging with others at monthly meetings
- Helping serve teas and coffees

Many hands make light work. When you participate, you definitely reap the benefits of friendship, purpose, and community. Let us value and protect what we have built, while continuing to grow by launching new groups to share your interests with others.

Thank you once again for allowing me the privilege of chairing Royston u3a. With the continued support of our fantastic committee and our wonderful membership, I look forward to another successful year ahead.

Jackie Gellert
Chair, Royston u3a
30th June 2026