

Trustees' Report for AGM

1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026

2025/6 Committee

Chair: Vacant

Business Secretary: Paul Webley

Treasurer: Francis Marslen-Wilson

Membership Secretary: Roy Hodson

Group Secretary: Alison Wright

Other members: Dianne Excell, Dave Marshall and Ranjit Arora.

The year once again has been a mixture of successes and unexpected challenges. We have managed the more difficult issues through the hard work of the committee and many other members, so you can enjoy the good times and the wide range of activities on offer.

We have continued to keep membership levels over the 300 mark as at the end of the last membership year. Many thanks to all of you who have helped to recruit new members either by sharing your experiences with friends or by supporting our membership events in the Broadway, at St Blaise Day at the Industrial Museum and at the Peace and Crafts Fair in Saltaire. Another crucial route for new members and for keeping existing members up to date is our website which has continued to improve this year under the leadership of Roger Broadie.

Our interest groups are at the heart of most members' experience of u3a. I would like to thank all the Group Coordinators and especially the Group Secretary, Alison Wright. As well as groups, events are a highlight of many people's involvement in u3a. Jean Blackburn and her colleagues have been very busy this year. The annual trip to Doddington Hall was a great success despite the heat. Other events have included trips to Bronte's birthplace, and Leeds Minster, the Bradford Sock Group, Hepworth Gallery and many more. The Theatre visits included Henry V, Midsummer Night's dream and Small Island and trips to the cinema to see amongst others Playboy of the Western World and All the President's Men.

Our monthly speaker programme has provided a fascinating series of topics led by experts from both within and outside our u3a. Many thanks to them all. Our programme for 2026 to 2027 looks equally interesting and varied. We had a successful year of Monthly Meetings at the Bradford Arts Centre but sadly we have been priced out of the venue with the cost more than doubling. In the coming year we will use the Bradford Mechanics Institute Library. The Library also provides an excellent venue for several interest groups. The staff have been very welcoming and we hope our use of the building continues.

Our biggest challenge is finding enough people to run the u3a. Not just the Committee but also to help with the Really Useful Group (RUG) and with promotional activities. We are hoping that this year enough people will come forward to help and prevent the closure of the u3a.

Bradford u3a Trustees