

Buxton and District u3a Annual General Meeting 11 May 2026

Chairman's Report

Buxton and District u3a is a great organisation with wonderful members. Membership numbers are now over 530, and I hope everyone is participating in whatever they enjoy.

There is certainly plenty to choose from, indoor and outdoor activities, brainteasers, crafts, music, cinema, and social events. New groups open, while others fade, but that is the essence of a vibrant organisation. Also, there is our Charabanc so popular that it often has to repeat its trips.

Many group leaders/coordinators and their Registrars are using and benefiting from Beacon our Membership Management System, and our Banking has become in the main electronic. We can manage cash and cheques if that's what you prefer, but as we are all volunteers we have tried to find the most cost effective and least taxing for our Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Event organisers, including Charabanc.

As you will hear our Finances are healthy, our policies are in line with Third Age Trust recommendations, thanks to all the hard work of the committee especially, Marge, Lindsay, Tineke, Jean and Diane, and our Charity Commission returns are in order.

We have retained the annual subscription at £47 (reducing pro rata quarterly for new members who join mid-year) due to increased membership numbers, efforts to make all events break even, and despite paying for venues to improve your group experiences.

We are very grateful to a generous benefactor and to the Bingham Trust for donations and a grant that have enabled us to celebrate our 30th Anniversary Year and start 2 Kurling Groups playing side by side.

Over the last year and at your request we have tried out more events, quizzes, lunches in the Dome, a sing-a-long with Singing for Fun, a visit from Baroness Bolsover, Christmas lunch, an Early- Bird Greek dinner, and an outing to Buxton Opera House for Iolanthe, a G&S performance and I hope you have enjoyed them. Meanwhile by my count there were 14 Charabanc outings, and Moto events, the Movie Matinee so popular that it is moving from Members' home to the Conservative Club on 14 April, meeting fortnightly.

There were talks on the second Monday of the month ranging from the Buxton Wells Dressing to Electric Vehicles, The Christie Hospital History and Work, our annual Review, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Theatre, to How to sell the Eiffel Tower, 10 in all.

Our Anniversary Celebration group is working hard to put on a number of events to celebrate our 30 years of operating. These will be coming out during the year, but I'm excited by the plans.

Thanks to our committee who have worked very hard behind and in front of the scenes, and to those who have taken on events both large and small. Also to those guests, Simon and Christine who have helped the committee with their expertise. Not forgetting those who arranged the many outings to places further afield, and to Group Leaders who are the backbone of this organisation, largely unseen, and who keep us going.

Last year I thanked you all for your trust in electing me, this year for tolerating me and my 'bad Xmas jokes', and now I am asking for your trust again, so that we have a great year in 2026/27, to celebrate our 30th anniversary year.

Jill Murphy, Chairman

11 March 2026