

Chichester u3a Chair's Report – AGM 2026

I'm reading this on behalf of Jacky, who sends her apologies as she is unable to be here today.

First of all, my apologies for not being with you today. I'm currently in Chile attending my niece's wedding - but I am sorry to miss seeing you all at the AGM.

It has been a busy and very positive year for Chichester u3a. Our membership numbers continue to grow, which is always encouraging, and our focus has been on making it easier for people to take part and feel part of our community.

At the centre of everything are, of course, our Groups. Supporting our Group Leaders has been a priority — making sure leading a group remains enjoyable and not a burden.

Volunteering has been another key focus. We do need more people to get involved, but we're working to make this flexible and manageable. It's also one of the best ways to feel connected and make a real contribution to the u3a. Our new Volunteers team is already helping us move forward.

We've strengthened how we welcome new members, with smaller gatherings at Fernleigh alongside the Minerva coffee mornings. These have been very well received and are helping people settle in more easily.

We've also created a Social Main Events Team, which is already helping to share the load and improve planning.

I would also like to offer two very special thank yous. Firstly, to Miriam, for producing our fortnightly bulletin. It plays a vital role in keeping members informed and connected, and the care and consistency Miriam brought to it are hugely appreciated. As you prepare to move to Israel to be closer to your family, we wish you every happiness.

Secondly, to Peter Newland, for his many years of dedicated IT support. His knowledge and reliability have made a lasting difference to how we operate. As he moves on to London and Switzerland, we send him our very best wishes and sincere thanks. He too will be greatly missed.

None of this happens without people. So thank you:

- To our Group Leaders, for all that you do.
- To our volunteers — your contribution really matters.
- To the Committee, for your ongoing support.
- And to all our members, for making Chichester u3a such a friendly and welcoming community.