

Wadhurst u3a
Trustees' Annual Report
and Accounts

For the year ended
30 June 2026

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details:

Registered Charity: 1160124 (registered in England)

Trustees:

Michael King	Chair (resigned 13 July 2026)
Jane Austin	Vice-Chair/Webmaster
Sheila King	Treasurer
Marianne Whittingdale	Secretary
Graham Burden	Speakers Co-ordinator
Sheila Jemmett	Membership Secretary/Database Administrator
Rosemary Johnson	Trustee
Sara Irwin	Welcome Co-ordinator
Jan Whiteley	Groups Co-ordinator

Principal Office: c/o Sheila King
8 Deepdene
Wadhurst
East Sussex
TN5 6EL

Independent Examiner: N Warran-Smith
Cherrymead
Turners Green Road
Wadhurst
East Sussex TN5 6EA

Website: www.wadhurst.u3asite.uk

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026. The trustees confirm that the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The Legal and Administrative information on page 1 forms part of this report.

Objectives and Activities

The charity is a member of The Third Age Trust (charity number 288007) and represents its principles in Wadhurst, East Sussex, and the surrounding area. Those principles are as follows:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wadhurst u3a was founded on 5th June 2013. On 23 January 2015, the organisation registered as a charity, number 1160124. It is an unincorporated association governed by a trust deed registered with the Charity Commission.

The u3a is managed by an elected Committee of Trustees who oversee governance, finance, safeguarding, and strategic planning.

Trustees are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting, which is open to all members. The trustees meet at least 12 times per year, and are responsible for all operating decisions.

Trustees of the charity are detailed on page 1 of this report. New trustees are recruited generally by invitation or recommendation, or by seeking suitable volunteers at meetings and/or social events. Nominations for additional trustees may be made at or before the Annual General Meeting, for consideration at that meeting.

Key governance activities during this year 2025-26 included the timely review and update of key policies, and the development of new ones such as the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy.

Public Benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The activities described in this report have been undertaken for the public benefit and in pursuit of the charity's objects.

Achievements and Performance

This year has been one of renewed energy, steady growth, and community connection. Members have embraced new groups, enjoyed a varied programme of monthly speakers, and contributed generously to the friendly, welcoming atmosphere that defines our u3a.

We are delighted to report that our membership has increased to 252 which is 7.7% higher than at the end of the previous financial year. We have almost reached our peak membership of 264 attained before COVID, and the continuing flow of new members is encouraging.

We ended the financial year with 34 special interest groups covering a wide range of activities. This is a slight decrease from the 36 reported in June 2025, but several new groups were formed during the year including Karate, Short Walks and Chair Yoga & Balance. Members continue to be encouraged to form new groups, particularly in areas not currently represented, as well as establishing short-term interest and activity groups that help to provide a fresh and diverse membership offering.

This year's programme offered a rich mix of learning and social opportunities. Attendance at monthly meetings, social events and seasonal gatherings has been steady. The introduction of a new evening social event (the Wine & Cheese Mingle) was well attended by a new and broader profile of members than seen at afternoon events.

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

The Quiz Night in March 2026 was enjoyed by over 110 participants, another full house for Wadhurst Commemoration Hall. The funds raised at this event covered the cost of all the members' social events held during the remainder of the year.

Outside visits are popular with members but the increasing cost of coach hire is a source of concern if these are to remain viable. The visits to Eltham Palace and Crossness Pumping Station had broad appeal across our membership.

Our communications have remained clear, timely, and member-focused throughout the year:

- Our monthly bulletin, distributed to all members by email, continues to ensure that everyone is informed of the latest talks, events and developments.
- Our new look 'News' magazine, distributed three times a year, publishes items that are too lengthy for the monthly bulletin and allows members to put into print their group reports, creative thoughts, stories and pictures.
- Our website is updated on a continuous basis and monthly activity analysis shows that it continues to receive a high number of "hits". The website is now also beginning to be used to canvas members' views and for online booking of social events.
- During the year, a new FaceBook page was launched and greater use was made of local social media to advertise our events and group activities.
- We increased visibility of our charity through advertising in local publications and other outlets and venues, and u3a stalls at local community-wide events.
- We also forged closer links with other organisations such as the Wadhurst Institute Hall & Field, Wadhurst Cricket Club and Wadhurst Cinema Club

All of these efforts increase our visibility within Wadhurst and the surrounding villages, helping to showcase our special interest groups and attract a new demographic of members.

The Trustees warmly thank:

- All convenors for their time, dedication and inspiration
- Volunteers who support meetings, events and administrative activities
- Members for their enthusiasm and participation
- Local venues and partner organisations for their continued support.

Financial Review

We have ended the financial year with a surplus of £1,466 (2025 £2,197). This has enabled us to maintain the subscription at the existing rate despite the increase in some of our costs during the year. This has been possible by continuing economies.

Our total charitable expenditure for the year was £5,872 (60%), and our total operational support costs were £3837 (40%).

A breakdown of these costs are shown overleaf.

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Charitable Expenditure 2025-26	£	
Monthly meetings (Guest speakers, room hire and refreshments)	2,062	21%
Visits and activities	1,794	18%
Social events (Annual Quiz, parties etc)	2,016	21%
Total Charitable Expenditure	5,872	60%

Operational Support Costs

News magazine	822	8%
Capitation fees to u3a	1,647	17%
Advertising and publicity	450	5%
Other administrative costs	918	10%
Total Operational Support Costs	3837	40%

Total Expenditure Year ended June 2026	9,709	100%
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The past and future annual membership fee of £25 is based on the decision to absorb centrally all costs associated with the charity so that members can attend monthly meetings and other member-only social events free of all charges.

Our membership fee is dependent on the actual number of members, as our main cost items such as monthly meetings and our News Magazine are of a fixed nature.

Risks

Wadhurst u3a has a steady income stream and it is considered that we have built sufficient reserves to deal with financial risks.

The central risk is the difficulty of finding members with the time, enthusiasm and ability to take on leadership roles within the charity, both as Trustees and Group Convenors. The trustees will keep this under constant review as part of its sustainability strategy and recruitment and retention drive.

Operational risks to which we might be exposed are regularly reviewed by the trustees and action taken as required.

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Reserves

Reserves stand at £9,175 in unrestricted funds and are sufficient to meet day to day working capital requirements.

The Trustees have a Reserve Policy and agreed that, over time, reserves equal to 100% of direct costs should be maintained whenever possible. Direct costs are those costs not related to visits by groups, as they have their own direct income streams and are not dependent on subsidies.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Wadhurst u3a Trustees' Report

Independent Examiner

The reappointment of Mr Nicholas Warran-Smith as the charity's Independent Examiner will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



E Jane Austin
Vice-Chair

11th September 2026

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Wadhurst u3a

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts set out on pages 9 to 11 of Wadhurst u3a ('the Charity') for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

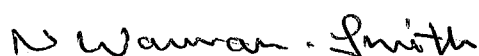
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act and, with respect to its subsidiary, were not kept as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 March 2018, effective 1 January 2019).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



11th September 2026

Nicholas Warran-Smith
Cherrymead, Turners Green Road
Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6EA

Wadhurst U3A

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2026	2026	2025
	Total	General	Social	Total
	£	Fund	Fund	£
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Subscriptions	5,958	5,958	-	5,768
Visits and activities	1,726	1,726	-	1,508
Gift Aid Income Tax recovered	915	915	-	767
Interest income	37	37	-	39
Other income	589	589	-	753
Social Events	1,950	-	1,950	2,060
Total incoming resources	11,175	9,225	1,950	10,895
Resources expended				
Monthly meetings	2,062	2,062	-	1,731
Visits and activities	1,794	1,794	-	1,496
Social Events	2,016	-	2,016	1,604
Direct Charitable Expenditure	5,872	3,856	2,016	4,831
Support costs				
Administration	1,839	1,839	-	2,336
Head Office costs	1,647	1,647	-	1,530
Miscellaneous	351	351	-	-
Total support costs	3,837	3,837	-	3,866
All charitable expenditure	9,708	7,692	2,016	8,698
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	1,466	1,532	(66)	2,197
Transfer from general fund to social fund	-	(84)	84	-
Funds brought forward	7,709	6,391	1,318	5,512
Funds carried forward	9,175	7,838	1,336	7,709

Wadhurst U3A

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepayments	18	-
Bank Current Account	2,120	2,672
Bank Savings Account	7,000	5,000
Cash	36	37
	<u>9,175</u>	<u>7,709</u>
 NET ASSETS	 <u><u>9,175</u></u>	 <u><u>7,709</u></u>
 <i>representing:</i>		
Unrestricted funds		
General Fund	7,838	6,391
Social Fund	1,336	1,318
	<u>9,175</u>	<u>7,709</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>9,175</u></u>	<u><u>7,709</u></u>

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on
11th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Sheila King
Treasurer



Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 30 June 2026

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

INCOME RECOGNITION

Subscriptions and gift aid income tax recovered are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income from "Visits and activities" is recognised when received, and provision is made for any related expenditure not yet incurred at the end of the accounting period.

It is not considered possible to quantify the value of donated services and facilities, or of services provided by volunteers, which have not been included in the financial statements.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Some small groups operate on a petty cash basis and are self-financing, making neither a surplus nor deficit.

The results of these groups are not included in these accounts.

VALUE ADDED TAX

The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the related expenses.

2 EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

There are no employees. None of the trustees received any remuneration during the year.