

Hello Everyone,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for placing your trust in me as Chair for the next three years. I'm not entirely sure whether to feel honoured or slightly nervous, but if I'm honest, it's mostly honoured. It really is a privilege, especially in this special year as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Hillingdon u3a.

As I take up this role, I'm very mindful of the strong example set by my predecessors. From our very first Chairman, Rev David Jenkins, through to Alan Mellors, Rosemary Noyes, Pat McAlpine, Ann Lines, and most recently Judy Peddie. I'm stepping into a position shaped by dedication, care, and a great deal of hard work. Those are big shoes to fill, but I will do my very best to do them justice and try not to trip over along the way.

This anniversary is a wonderful reminder of how far the organisation has come. Since joining in February 2023, I've been struck by how friendly, welcoming, and inclusive this community is. That spirit is something truly special and something well worth preserving as we continue to grow.

We've already seen some positive changes. The monthly Buzz keeps us better connected, our move into social media—yes, even Instagram—has brought us firmly into the modern age, and the introduction of TryBooking has made organising trips far simpler (and perhaps a little less nerve-wracking than waiting to see if your name is drawn from a hat!). While it may cost a little more, at least you know you're actually going on the trip rather than just hoping for the best. Individually these may seem like small steps, but together they make a real difference for all members.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about what we can achieve together. My aim is simple: to build on what is already working well, to listen to your ideas, and to ensure Hillingdon u3a remains the friendly, active, and welcoming community we all value. I will also be encouraging some of you to consider joining the committee because having a range of skills and perspectives helps us continue to develop and support our many groups and activities.

Thank you again for your support, especially in our 25th year with you being present at our celebrations next month, it genuinely means a great deal. I promise I will do my very best in the role... though I may still ask you to be a little gentle with your new Chair!

Pauline Rees
Your 2026/27 Chairman