

From u3a Health Check List 10 Key Questions

SE London u3a 01 05 2025 to 30 04 2026

Audit of recommended National u3a Standards

1. *Do at least **90%** of new members renew their membership after their first year of membership?*

No ?

End April to End April Analysis

New members 01 05 2025 to 30 04 2026

Number 129

Not renewed by 30 04 2026 - 10 (5 Resigned; 5 Lapsed)

119/129 - **92.25% (Target >90%)**

(New members joining from January to April are given up to 3 months extra membership and do not renew until April of the following year. This makes analysis difficult and the reason for two periods of analysis)

January to January Analysis

New Members 01 01 2025 to 01 01 2026

Number = 179

Not renewed by end April 2026 = 27 (14 Lapsed, 13 resigned)

152/179 = **84.9%**

2. *Do you actively monitor your membership statistics each year.?*

Yes – Presented and Discussed at July Committee Meetings. Once agreed by the committee the data is published on the web site .

3. *Has your membership grown for two or more consecutive years ?*

Yes

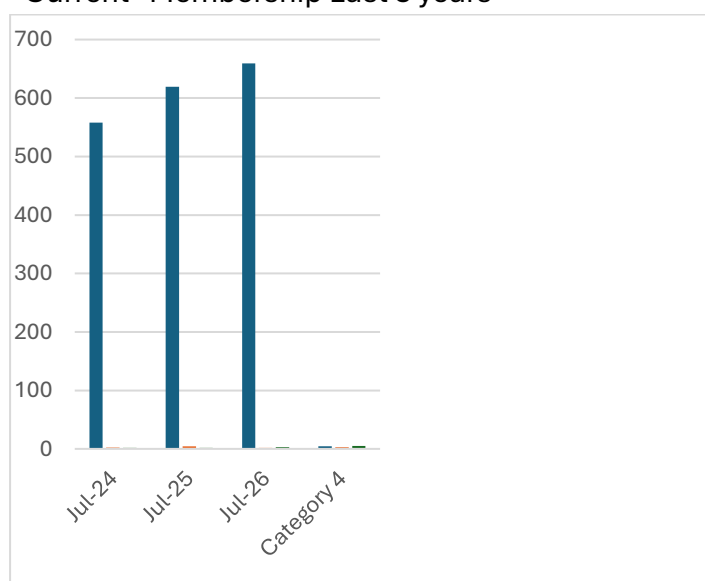
Membership Numbers fluctuate widely but in a fairly predictable manner during the u3a year.

Non renewals only declare themselves at the end of the u3a year with a fairly sudden drop in membership whereas new members join more gradually bringing

the “current” membership up to a peak at the end of April. Hence it is important to choose a fixed month for comparisons e.g. July

	July 2024	July 2025	July 2026
Current Members	558	619	659
Not renewed by May	63	83	86 (resigned 41,Lapsed45)
New Joiners	105 2023-2024	103 2024 -2025	129 2025-2026

“Current” Membership Last 3 years



4. Have you managed your u3a finances without any unplanned deficits for the last two consecutive years?

Yes

5. Does your committee membership change on a regular basis and in line with your constitution?

Yes

6. Do you have effective ways of communicating with all your members?

Yes. ?

This is mainly by email and through the web site. Weekly newsletters are sent to members by email with a reminder of events taking place that week together with other items of interest. Occasional communication takes place by post. 15 members (2.27% of current membership) are without email . Communicating with this group is inevitably not as efficient .

This year we have seen the successful launch of a SE London u3a Instagram account.

7.If you divide the total number of members by the number of groups – is the ratio of your number of members to number of groups less than 12?

Yes

Total Members/Number of Groups

Number of Groups 79

Members 659

$659/79 = 8.34$ (desirable < 12)

8.Has the number of interest groups increased year on year?

Yes

Three new groups in last year

1. Creative Writing Group 2. Tai Chi Class 3, Rummikub Group

9. Is your u3a open and welcoming to new members?

Yes.

New members meetings are held usually after the bimonthly plenary talks on Friday mornings. All new members are invited. We now have a dedicated additional committee member to help with the needs of new members. The figures in Question 1 (i.e. retention of new members)are of relevance .

10. Does at least 20% of your membership volunteer?

No

Volunteers can be grouped as follows

Committee	10
Convenors (but not committee members)	50
Others	59
Total	119
Current Members	659
Percentage (Target 20%)	18.1%

While below the target of 20% this is a significant improvement compared to the previous year (14.5%). We now have a new Volunteer Committee role and hope for further progress .Some of this progress comes from recognizing the existing contribution of a greater number of members as well as finding new volunteers .