ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ANNUAL LECTURE OF THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2026

Dear Guests,

AGM DOCUMENTS

Please find attached the following documents for your perusal:

1) AGM Agenda
2) Minutes of AGM held on 15 October 2025 (for approval)
3) Report of the Branch Chair
4) Financial Statement to date (for approval)

EVENT TIMETABLE

18:00 – 18:30	Arrival of guests
18:30 – 18:45	Welcome and AGM
18:45 – 20:00	Jonathan Webb talk and Q&A
20:00 – 21:00	Networking - reception with refreshments
21:00	Close

LONDON BRANCH OF UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL ALUMNI
Annual General Meeting: 27th October 2026
Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HD

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

2. Minutes of 2025 AGM held on 15 October 2025 – for approval

3. Chairperson's annual report 2025/2026

4. Financial statements to end October 2026 – for noting

5. Election of Treasurer for a three-year term (until the 2029 AGM) - for decision

Under the constitution, the officers of the branch retire by rotation. This year the Treasurer, Tim Curthew-Sanders, is retiring and has decided to offer himself for re-election. There are currently no other members offering themselves for election at the date of writing.

6. Any other business

MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2025

PRESENT:	Cheryl Gurnham (Chair)	Prof. Evelyn Welch
	Alan Ingham (Secretary)	Shelagh Farrell
	Tim Curthew-Sanders (Treasurer)	Melissa Crawshay-Williams
	All attendees of 2025 annual lecture	Harriet Fieldhouse

1) Welcome and apologies for absence

- CG welcomed the attendees of the 2025 annual lecture and introduced committee officers.
- CG introduced our Speaker Evelyn Welch and the subject of Renaissance Skin.
- CG outlined the purpose of the London Branch and the agenda for the evening.
- CG provided a summary of Branch activities over the past year and forthcoming events.
- AI noted no apologies.

2) Minutes from last AGM and matters arising

- Papers from 2024 AGM, current finances, agenda and Chairman's statement circulated.
- CG invited attendees to voice any objections to the 2024 AGM minutes.
    - No objections were raised. Minutes adopted.

3) Annual report

- CG delivered Chair's statement to those attending and thanked everyone for their support.
- CG summarised the events of 2025, but referred to the detail in written report which was with the AGM papers, highlighting the Carol Service, Wine Tasting and the London Walks.
- CG thanked the officers and whole committee for their hard work, including the new joiners, who have taken on duties for some events.
- CG outlined our upcoming events, including the Carol Service at the end of this year and our upcoming social and walk(s). Also looking for a new Speaker for our next lecture.
- CG paid tribute to our former Chair, Julian Metcalfe.
- CG extended an invitation to anyone who wished to join the committee.

4) Financial statement

- TCS talked through the provided financial statements.
- TCS explained that we aim to run each event at a slight profit in order to maintain a working float for future events.
- TCS invited questions. None were raised.

5) Election of Secretary

- Alan Ingham (AI) offered his candidacy for re-election.
- CG noted that no other person had offered their candidacy for the role.
- CG proposed, SF seconded
- AI re-elected by show of hands.
- No objections.
- CG formally declared election result. AI re-elected as Secretary until 2028 AGM.

6) Any other business

- None raised.
- 2025 AGM declared closed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2025 – OCTOBER 2026

Introduction:

This report summarises the activities and financial performance of the London Branch of the University of Bristol Alumni Association for the period November 2025 to October 2026. During the year, the Branch continued to offer a varied programme bringing alumni together through lectures, social occasions, cultural events and walks. The programme reflected our continuing aim of maintaining connections across the alumni community while keeping events welcoming and accessible.

Our Events:

The Branch delivered six principal activities during the year:

- **Annual Lecture and AGM:** Our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Evelyn Welch, speaking around topics associated with her recent book (*Renaissance Skin*). We had 23 attendees (3 of whom were <10 years graduation)

- **Carol Service**: As always, this was a complete sell-out and we had on-door requests (requiring on-door payments we could not accept). As a result, we are changing the way we deal with the choir this year and asking that they purchase tickets in advance.

- **St Bride's Tour event**: 32 tickets sold.

- **Social event**: Aimed at new graduates. Good turnout. Funded through the Alumni Association grant.

- **London Walk:** We decided only to do one walk this year. It was fully sold out, but we didn't have enough on the waiting list to warrant a second event.

We also worked closely with the other alumni branches and hall associations in relation to the annual alumni weekend (held in August).

Committee Members:

We've had no new committee members this year, but continue to look out for people who show an interest. A few people have expressed an interest in being involved, but have not yet joined the committee.

Challenges Faced:

The same challenges as last year continue to be issues that the committee are facing:

- **Event Attendance and No-Shows:** A recurring issue has been the number of paid attendees who do not attend events or only attend part of the event. Last year, we introduced a policy, making it clear when refunds will not be available.
- **Venue Costs and Capacity:** The rising cost of London venues has continued. Capacity constraints (and availability), particularly at prestigious venues such as the House of Lords, have also affected flagship events. Where possible, we have looked to use grants from the Alumni Association.
- **Insurance and Risk Management:** At present, we rely on venue insurance (or the tour guide, in relation to walks). Obtaining separate events insurance is proving a difficult request with insurance brokers.

Plans for the Upcoming Year:

Looking ahead, the London Branch aims to:

- Continue delivering a varied programme of events to appeal to a diverse alumni base.
- Strengthen engagement with recent graduates and underrepresented groups through tailored events.
- Explore new venues and event formats to manage costs and enhance accessibility.
- Finalise and implement a comprehensive event organisation guide, where we can share our learnings.
- Foster closer collaboration with the University and other alumni branches, including joint events and knowledge sharing.

Conclusion:

The London Branch of the University of Bristol Alumni Association has enjoyed another productive and engaging year, despite the challenges faced. Our achievements are a testament to the dedication of our committee, the support of the University and Alumni Association, and the enthusiasm of our alumni community. We look forward to building on this foundation in the year ahead.

Cheryl Gurnham
Chair, London Branch of the University of Bristol Alumni Association
7 October 2026

In partnership with BRISTOL ALUMNI

LONDON BRANCH OF UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL ALUMNI

Annual General Meeting: 27th October 2026
Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HD

London Branch of University of Bristol Alumni

Financial Statements for year to 31 July 2026

2026	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/(Deficit)
Annual Lecture/AGM	740	851	-111
Carol Service	2,970	2352	619
St Brides	434	364	70
Social	350 *	350	0
Walk May 2026	840	633	207
Surplus for year			**784**

* includes Alumni Association contribution of £350

Financial Statements for year to 31 July 2025

2025	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/(Deficit)
Walk Canterbury	908	909	-1
Annual Lecture/AGM	3,730 *	3,492	238
Carol Service	2,550	2346	204
Expenses-badges+gift		298	-298
Wine tasting	1,496	1,386	110
Walk May 2025	846	654	192
Walk July 2025	392	478	-86
Surplus for year			**359**

* includes Alumni Association contribution of £1000

Balance Sheet at 31 July 2026

		2026		2025
Cash at bank		**9,071**		8,287
Net assets at 31 July 2026		**9,071**		**8,287**
Balance at 1 August 2025		**8,287**		7,928
Add surplus above		**784**		359
Balance at 31 July 2026	**£**	**9,071**	**£**	8,287

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Cheryl Gurnham
25 September 2026

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T Curthew-Sanders
25 September 2026