



East Renfrewshire u3a
Scottish Charity No SC044004

Annual Report and Accounts

For Financial Year ended 31 March 2023

East Renfrewshire u3a – Annual Report and Accounts for Financial Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Charity Name

East Renfrewshire University of the Third Age is known as East Renfrewshire u3a.

Charity Number

SC044004

Contact Address

c/o Treasurer, Ann Scott, Flat 3-1, 43 Seedhill Street, Paisley PA1 1SD

Trustees at the date of agreement of the Annual Report

Marbe McNeill	Chair, Accessibility Officer	Elected 2016
Lilias Dunlop	Vice-Chair, Speaker	Elected 2021
	Organiser, Compliance	
Ann Scott	Treasurer	Elected 2021
Mary Fyfe	Secretary, Compliance Officer	Elected 2022
Allison Kershaw	Groups Coordinator 1, Beacon	Elected 2021
Teri McCormick	Groups Coordinator 2	Elected 2020
Roy Bryce	Membership Secretary, Webmaster	Elected 2021
Robert Humphrey	IT and Equipment Co-ordinator	Elected 2016
Shirley Thorogood	Hospitality Coordinator	Elected 2022
Allen Walker	TAM Reporting and PAT Testing	Elected 2014
Avril McAllister	Minute Secretary	Elected 2022

Structure, Governance & Management

East Renfrewshire u3a is an unincorporated association, formed in 2008, which was granted charitable status by the Office of the Scottish Charities Register in

May 2013. It is governed by the constitution which was adopted on 17 February 2021 and controls the affairs and resources of East Renfrewshire u3a.

Membership of the Committee is open to all members of East Renfrewshire u3a. The u3a is affiliated to the Third Age Trust which provides guidance and support, training and common services.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Committee members serve a term of one year and can offer themselves for re-election up to a maximum of 9 years. New Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting in June each year and the Committee may co-opt up to a further three members during the year to meet any identified needs. Committee members have collective responsibility for all decisions and meet formally at least 10 times a year. All members of the Committee are Trustees of the charity.

Aims and Objectives

The stated aims and objectives are the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people who have retired from full-time employment, residing in East Renfrewshire and its surrounding area. This is achieved through the operation of a range of interest and activity groups where members share the teaching and learning. All our activities are regarded as charitable for the purposes of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Summary of the Main Achievements and Performance

Membership

Membership of East Renfrewshire u3a is open to anyone no longer in full-time employment, on payment of an annual membership subscription. At the end of March 2023 there were 553 members. This compares with 485 in March 2022. Recovery from the drop in numbers during the Covid restrictions continues although it has been noticed that the rise is significantly greater in the east of the county whilst membership in the G78 postcode is less than 8% of our total membership and this is an issue that requires to be addressed.

Interest Groups

Following the challenges of COVID, we are now back to normal with all groups meeting face to face with the exception of In-line Bridge and Wine Buddies who have opted to meet on Zoom but have an annual lunch. We currently have 72 groups. Three groups ceased for various reasons – Art Together, Family Trees and Sing with John and we would like to thank the facilitators for all they did towards the success of these groups.

Eleven new groups started this year: Chess, Classical Music Appreciation, Crafty Beads, Basic Sewing, Italian Beginners, MOTO (Members on Their Own), Rummikub, Saturdays Together, Talking Music, Upholstery and Urban Sketching. The groups have all been well attended and in a few cases there are waiting lists.

Events

Two joint Facilitator/Committee meetings were held during the year. One in May 2022 and one in November. A sandwich lunch was served at both and Facilitators were thanked for their commitment which had resulted in another successful year. They were also consulted on the updating of our Members Code of Conduct. The issue of car- sharing was raised and eventually resolved. In May we held two small meetings for new members giving them the opportunity to find out more about interest groups etc. These were appreciated by our new members and we plan to extend this next year.

On a scorching day in June we had a stall at the local Eaglesham Fair promoting the u3a to visitors, handing out leaflets and pens and giving information. Our local MP was among our visitors. Our Ukulele group gave its first public performance to great acclaim.

In September we took part in the National u3a Week with display boards and information leaflets in both Barrhead and Clarkston libraries, promoting and raising the profile of our u3a.

Monthly Meetings

We have had a good variety of speakers over the year, however although numbers attending have gradually increased, they still fall short of pre-Covid

years. The Christmas party was well attended and both the entertainment, provided by our own Ukulele group, and the catering were well received by members.

External Relations

Our Chair continues to attend the Central Belt Network, which is held four times a year on Zoom. This enables us to share our knowledge and experience with other u3as. We gained an insight about how other u3as were addressing the post Covid issues such as finding volunteers to take on committee roles. Our Chair also had the opportunity to meet with the new Trustee for Scotland via Zoom to discuss plans and policies for the future growth of the u3a movement.

A team from our Quiz Group regularly takes part in the monthly Interu3a Quiz organised by Linda and Ian Matheson of Ayr u3a. This initiative was started during lockdown and has grown to include u3as quiz teams from all over Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

In September the quiz team took part in an event hosted by Glasgow West End u3a to celebrate their 5th anniversary, coming in a respectable third place. Glasgow West End have since invited us to several more of their events and is hoped we can develop further relationships with more of the Greater Glasgow u3as.

Looking ahead, we will be supporting the new Glasgow Southside u3a which is due to have its inaugural meeting in May.

Publications and Website

We produced twelve editions of our monthly newsletter, Chit-Chat, which is available on our website and a paper copy is posted to non-email members who wish to receive it. This gives information about current groups, proposed groups, and various other items of information and news about our u3a.

Our website continues to develop. Potential members can see our extensive list of groups and forthcoming events.

All our policies are available on our website and the Committee minutes are available on the site once approved.

We continue to use the secure Beacon System, which is managed by the Third Age Trust to hold our members information and for internal communications by our facilitators with their groups and for committee communications

Acknowledgement

The Trustees want to thank all our Facilitators for their commitment and unstinting efforts without which East Renfrewshire u3a would not exist. We also acknowledge the help of volunteers who help in Hospitality role, making new members feel welcomed and serving tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. Their efforts are indispensable.

Financial Review

Subscriptions and Gift Aid are the main sources of income. Gift Aid of £912 received in the current year relates to 2021-22. Gift Aid for year ending 2023 will be received in 2023-24 once approved by HMRC.

Groups requiring indoor accommodation were significantly increased due to the relaxing of Covid-19 regulations resulting in the Hire of Hall costs for the current year being £9724..

Operational Funds and Reserves

The reserve is still high at £18854. The recommended reserve level should be equivalent to 3 – 6 months expenditure, estimated as £4K to £8K. The reduction in reserves is not as high as projected due to an increase in membership from the 500 projected to 553 actual.

For the year 2022-2023 hall costs are projected to be circa £10,000. This does not allow for additional groups being created and if the increase in membership continues at the current rate additional accommodation will be required for new and/or larger groups.

From the subscription of £24, £8.35 is paid to Third Age Trust leaving £15.65 to cover all other expenses.

After much discussion the committee decided to maintain the subscription at the current level for the following reasons:

1. Due to the significantly increased room charges the current subscription level will not cover the operational costs but the reserve can offset the forthcoming years' deficits.
2. Due to increased membership larger rooms are required in many cases to accommodate greater group numbers..
3. Membership is still difficult to predict and the rate of increase may well slow down.
4. Subscriptions cannot be returned to members under the u3a constitution so a reduction in subscription would be required to reduce reserves. The Committee made the decision the reserve would be better used to offset costs in the next years to obviate reducing for a year then having to increase beyond the current level.

Approved by the trustees on 20 April, 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Marbe McNeill, Chair

Date.....

East Renfrewshire u3a

Income	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions	13319	11986
Gift Aid	912	192
Other Income	1223	407
Activity Account	10727	4490
Total	26181	17075

Expenditure

Hire of Halls	9724	3556
Speakers' Expenses	70	420
Stationery, Postage and Sundries	672	157
Third Age Subscription	2000	1734
Magazine Delivery	1360	1263
Beacon	484	475
Catering Costs	469	173
Group Expenses	560	274
Marketing	591	858
Activity Account	10351	4458
Total	26281	13368
Surplus (Deficit)	-100	3707

Funds as at 31st March

Opening Balance at 1st April 2022	20126	16419
Surplus (Deficit)	-100	3707
Closing Balance at 31st March 2023	20026	20126

Bank Balance	18854	19330
Floats	3	2

Activities Account	1169	794
	20026	20126

Trustee A C Scott, Treasurer

Trustee M McNeill, Chair

Date

Notes to Accounts

At 31st March 2023

- 1 Assets are purchased, but not capitalised. A list of owned assets is maintained and reviewed on an annual basis
Redundant assets are sold or written off.
- 2 Gift Aid receipts are in respect of 2021-22
2022-23 will be received in the financial year 2022-23
- 3 No Trustee received payments or expenses of a personal nature.
- 4 The balance in the Activities Account at year end is restricted
It is deposits and will be paid out for forthcoming bookings.
- 5 Accounts are prepared on a cash basis
- 6 £355 collected at Xmas Party donated to East Ren Food Larder