



March

[www. u3asites.org.uk/march](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/march)

Registered Charity Number 1172951

MARCH CAMBS

ANNUAL REPORTS

OCTOBER 2022 – NOVEMBER 2023



The Object of March u3a is :

**The advancement of education and,
in particular, the education of older people and
those who are retired from full time work, by all
means including associated activities conducive to
learning and personal development, who reside in
March, Cambridgeshire, and the surrounding area.**

**The Third Age is defined as the period of time after
the first age of childhood dependence and the
second age of full time employment and/or parental
responsibility.**

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This last year, my third as Chairperson, has simply flown by and I have enjoyed every minute of it, including celebrating a significant birthday.

I took over the Chair just as Covid was beginning to ease. It has not been an easy task but, with the help of a brilliant committee, I believe we have risen to the challenge and overcome many difficulties along the way. I have been lucky to have the help of an excellent Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chairperson, and to have had the support of April Hammond who has sourced a variety of speakers for our monthly meetings. Also, during the year we welcomed two new committee members, Sharon Smith and Adrian Edgington and I would like to take the opportunity to thank those members who help to set up the hall for monthly meetings and Paula and Marion for organising our raffles.

During this year Colin Head and Maureen Malvern have been awarded honorary memberships.

The maximum term for a Chairperson, according to the Constitution, is three years so I must therefore stand down and let someone else take over. Naturally, I hope to remain on the committee.

The total membership for March u3a has fallen to 243 members which is down a lot from the start of the pandemic due to some people moving away, one or two passing away and quite a few not renewing their membership. This has, of course, seriously affected our bank balance and, therefore, the committee have been considering ways to boost our numbers, especially when we think that fees for the hall, for speakers and for accomodation where necessary for groups may all be increased.

Pauline Horton - Chairperson

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This has been a testing year as we are all slowly getting over the COVID experience. We here at March u3a are still experiencing the aftermath with a drop in membership due mainly to many of our older members no longer wishing to participate in larger groups/meetings. However, part of the role of Vice Chair is to encourage recruitment of new members to our friendly and sociable organization.

My main role as vice chair has been to deputize for the chairperson when she has not been available to chair the monthly committee meeting or to host the monthly members meeting.

During the year I have run my own groups and organised day trips. In conjunction with other committee members I have taken part in organising our special occasions, for example our celebration of the Platinum Jubilee and then the coronation of King Charles III. The Christmas members meeting last year was especially hard work.

Last year I organized the Christmas lunch which was held at The Con Club in March, it was very well attended and we all had a good time and went home with very full bellies. I hope to repeat this event this year.

My hope for this coming year will be to rebuild March u3a from the aftermath of COVID so that it becomes an organization for all our members to enjoy and learn and hopefully for plenty of new members to come along, to make new friends, and maybe learn something new along the way and, above all, to have a good time.

Dorothy Hughes - Vice Chair

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This is a role I somehow fell into and for the most part it is rewarding to sit with my fellow committee members and discuss the way forward. Obviously, there are times when the task can be quite onerous. I do wonder sometimes how we can continue, we need more volunteers to help, for instance, setting up the hall for the monthly meeting and restoring it to normality.

It would be good to attract new, younger members and to this end we intend to have a 'recruitment' drive by promoting the benefits of belonging to the u3a. The misconception some people have is that it is strictly for learning and whilst this is part of the ethos, we must stress the importance of the social benefits of our meetings and groups.

We have a committee who are committed to the future of March u3a, however, we have all either served our term or dare I mention are getting older. We are quite friendly and do not bite and would be happy to advise anyone interested in getting involved.

I know that we only have about a quarter of our members who attend the monthly meetings and we only meet other members if we belong to particular groups. There must be a vast source of talent amongst our members who could offer help with setting up a new group, running an existing group, helping with publicity, volunteering at the monthly meetings or even coming forward to serve as a committee member.

Janet Hoskyn - Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again we come to our AGM when we have to tell you how your U3A is getting on. Financially we are just about keeping our heads above water as they say. What about any reserve? Well we did have around £3000, put by for a rainy day, and as you all know the evil Covid arrived and we were all locked down.

Unable to have our monthly meetings, all our Speakers cancelled, Groups unable to meet, what to do? Your Committee decided we could not ask for membership fees when we could not meet. So everyone who had been with us throughout 2020 to 2021

was given free membership until March 2022. This was one of our rainy days. Did the Head office of the u3a help us though this period? Oh no, they still asked for the Capitation fee for each current member £1043, plus £298 for our administration system, and of course the cost of TAM magazines was £548.70.

You may have heard that they tried to increase the Capitation fee annually at their AGM that year, but this got rejected unanimously by u3a's. However this year the Capitation is £4 per current member, and with the charge for the admin system this amounts to £5 out of your membership Fee.

As you know, in order to bring down costs the Committee felt we could no longer supply the TAM Magazines as part of your membership. The cost has risen to £3.60 for postage for the five Magazines to be delivered. The cost for 2022 to 2023 was £654 so sadly we have asked those of you who wish to continue to receive them to pay for the postage. I am happy to continue to order them for those that wish.

The Main meeting hall, and committee room hire for March 2022 to February 2023 was £1320. The admin costs of running the committee, £296 for office supplies, with the cost of inkjet cartridges and stamps taking up most of this.

Our Speaker Secretary is doing a brilliant job in selecting Speakers that are not only very good, but that we can afford. This period cost £1078.50 for the speakers and their expenses.

Presentations were given to members retiring from running groups, celebrating special occasions, and those who have helped especially at meetings.

Welfare cards and flowers have been sent to those who are unwell and to those who are not having good times. Our wonderful welfare lady calls and visits to give support.

Both of the items above are made possible by the brilliant Raffles run by our two ladies who have raised over £350 in this period. Many thanks to them for their fantastic efforts.

Groups have also been hit by rising costs of room hire, a £10 session now costing £11 per hour, and the Community Centre Hall costing £23 per hour, are two examples of this and of course we have helped with a little Groups support when we could, although the Groups all do a really good job in maintaining themselves, thanks to brilliant Group Leaders. And let us not forget our Group Co-ordinator.

The committee, who all give their time for free, having done their very best with limited resources, have concluded that we must raise our membership fee next year in order to try and build up a little financial reserve for any more rainy days that will inevitably occur.

Looking Forward,

Dave Walton -Treasurer

March U3A**Statement of Accounts: Current***Printed 5th September 2023 14:23***Income & Expenditure, 1st March - 28th February**

Start year	2022		2021	
Category	In	Out	In	Out
-Account Transfers	£2,358.00	£1,405.34	£3,406.92	£240.50
Accounts Brought Forward		£1,049.59		
Accounts Inspection		£100.00		
Beacon Fees		£308.00		£298.00
Capitation 3rd Age Trust		£1,232.00		£1,043.00
Card Bank Charges		£16.13		£1.30
Card Payments			£1.11	
Cash (Petty)		£90.00	£8.00	
Donations	£74.00	£26.00	£97.00	£45.00
FACT Bus Membership		£15.00		£15.00
Gift Aid	£321.29			
Groups (Support)		£161.50		
Groups Monies	£1,344.00		£650.00	£1,469.06
Groups Room Hire	£1,200.00	£1,220.00		£690.00
Items Purchased		£761.38		£233.81
Meeting Hall (Speakers)		£1,078.50		£290.00
Meeting Hall Monthly Hire		£1,200.00		£700.00
Meeting Room (Committee)		£120.00		£230.00
Meetings Refreshments		£163.67		£294.23
Members Events	£36.00	£24.80	£40.00	£1,574.75
Members Trips	£65.00			£376.40
Membership	£4,190.00		£562.00	
Office Supplies		£296.19		£375.27
Presentations		£169.41		£151.28
Printing (External)		£31.75		£123.23
Raffles (All)	£201.00		£162.00	
T.A.M Magazines	£10.80	£654.11		£548.70
Welfare		£101.00		£122.98
Sub-totals	£9,800.09	£10,224.37	£4,927.03	£8,822.51
Brought forward	£1,878.25		£5,773.73	
Total		£1,453.97		£1,878.25

Balance Sheet

Current	£1,453.97	£1,878.25
Total	£1,453.97	£1,878.25

March U3A

Statement of Accounts: Groups Accounts

Printed 5th September 2023 14:25

Income & Expenditure, 1st March - 28th February

Start year	2022		2021	
Category	In	Out	In	Out
-Account Transfers	£1,164.00	£2,163.46	£1,129.00	£1,619.06
Groups (Support)		£26.00		£26.00
Groups Monies	£4,392.63	£1,339.75	£2,855.56	£914.00
Groups Room Hire		£3,107.88		£695.50
Members Events	£288.00			
Members Trips	£25.00		£150.00	£498.60
Sub-totals	£5,869.63	£6,637.09	£4,134.56	£3,753.16
Brought forward	£1,850.46		£1,469.06	
Total	£1,083.00		£1,850.46	

Balance Sheet

Groups Accounts	£1,083.00	£1,850.46
Total	£1,083.00	£1,850.46

Statement of Accounts: Trips & Events account

Printed 5th September 2023 14:29

Income & Expenditure, 1st March - 28th February

Start year	2022		2021	
Category	In	Out	In	Out
-Account Transfers	£414.34	£507.54	£40.00	£2,916.36
Bank deposit Interest	£0.97		£0.03	
Card Bank Charges		£13.53		
Card Payments	£1,032.22	£892.68	£75.81	£75.81
Equip Renewal or Sale	£121.00			
Groups Monies		£20.00	£668.00	
Items Purchased		£95.27		
Members Events	£485.00	£806.63	£1,200.00	
Members Trips	£1,389.00	£1,407.50	£1,441.50	£740.50
Membership	£48.00	£16.00		
Raffles (All)	£354.00		£278.00	
Sub-totals	£3,844.53	£3,759.15	£3,703.34	£3,732.67
Brought forward	£10.03		£39.36	
Total	£95.41		£10.03	

Balance Sheet

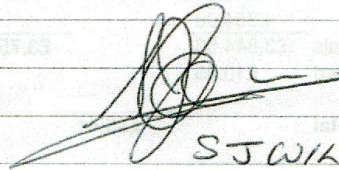
Trips & Events account	£95.41	£10.03
Total	£95.41	£10.03

March U3A

To the Inspection of Accounts
for the year ended 28th February
2023, and confirm that they are
a true record.

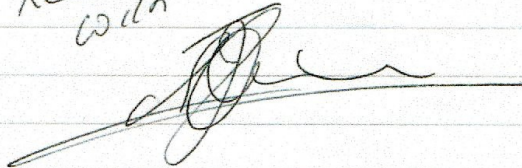
Fee

100.00



S J WILSON

Received Thanks
with



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

March u3a, at its peak just before the pandemic, had three hundred and forty-two current and associate members. The figure now is two hundred and forty-three. That amounts to a reduction in membership payments of one thousand five hundred and eighty-six pounds. Added to that we had a year when no membership fees were collected but we still had to make payments for capitation (four pounds per current member) and for the Third Age Matters magazine.

I think that the best solution to the problem of this current trend of reducing numbers leading to a shortage of funds is to increase our membership. It is well known that advertising and raising our profile in the public domain will have results in the right direction but we all know that there is no substitute for "word of mouth". Let us all think about the people we know - are they eligible to join? Would they enjoy taking part in any of our group activities or even simply enjoy the monthly meetings? Is it even possible that they might want to make a contribution in terms of helping to run a group or take a role on the committee?

Meanwhile, Gift Aid might earn you money as well as good karma. Gift Aid allows charities to get an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 contributed. It is available to anyone who pays tax and is applicable to our membership fees as well as to voluntary donations. For example, if you contributed £16, the charity can claim Gift Aid to make your contribution £20. You claim Gift Aid through a simple form we can provide on request at any monthly meeting or online, and, what's more, we do all the work.

Higher Rate taxpayers could also claim a tax refund, which goes to them and not the charity. This is equivalent to the difference between the rate they pay and the basic rate. For the refund, they will need to use a self-assessment tax return or go online and ask for a P810 form.

Meanwhile, the committee are planning to look into ways to raise our profile and make people aware of what we have to offer, and that we really are a welcoming and sociable bunch of people and well worth getting to know!

Steve Hoskyn - Membership Secretary

SPEAKER SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year there has been a diverse selection of speakers, including an action-packed presentation by Constance Novis on "The body never lies", which was met with a mixed reception. Some members loved this talk and others hated it.

In contrast, an equally action-packed presentation by Lucy Allen, "Life of a Stunt Woman", was very well received.

Other speakers who's subject and presentation kept the audience's attention were Paul Barwick with "The double Agent Zig Zag" and Jason Middleton with "Gemstones

And jewellery of the rich and famous".

Jim Stebbing, with his "Magnificent 7", talk about famous musical composers was also popular. Though he teased those who sung along with the songs he played, by stopping the songs--just as the "singers" in the audience were warming up!

There was a good turnout for Brian Butcher's "Ann Boleyn Saint or Sinner", though unfortunately his talk was marred by microphone gremlins.

Mostly technical gremlins are erased prior to the talk, for whom I have to thank Dave and Steve who assist the speakers with setting up their equipment. So, fortunately technical hiccups are rare.

Barbara Meyer presented on Norfolk and Lincolnshire seals with a selection of her great photographs. The East Anglia Air Service presented a fascinating film of their rescue service and collected £195 in their collection boxes!

So a huge thank you to all our members for being so generous!

Unfortunately, the speaker for February could not attend and sent a replacement speaker who did not present the advertised talk "The Fenland Tiger ". So, I apologise for both the Speaker and the truth about the Fenland Tiger--not being revealed.

Still to come in November is Hexachordia, a group of musicians who will play historic instruments and music and in December we have Jim Stebbing who will host the meeting with a Christmas Special.

I am now booking for next year another diverse selection of speakers including Melody Flyte singing WW2 favourites and Richard Gibbons with a presentation on Nuclear Protest, 1945-1993.

Plus, Paul Barwick will be back, with the mystery of the body in the bag!

I really enjoy seeking out speakers and I sincerely hope next year's speakers are all well received.

But, before I sign off, I must say a special thank you to Dave Walton, for storing and bringing all the heavy presentation equipment to the Braza club, every month. And to Steve Hoskyn for assisting all the speakers with the equipment.

April Hammond Speaker Secretary

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

This has been a year of stopping and starting for some groups. While many old established groups continue to flourish under the guidance of their hardworking Group Leaders it has been difficult to find enough support to keep other groups going. This is despite the efforts of some very willing leaders. The proposed Litter Collecting group fell foul of the District Council who basically wanted to run it their way, and Board games, Geography/Armchair travel are currently shelved despite the

enthusiasm of the Group Leader. More positively History has restarted and we hope to have a Classical Music group soon.

Ideas for new groups are always welcome. However, Interest Groups, which are a major building block of the u3a movement, need people to take responsibility for organising them, someone with a bit of knowledge in the subject, an affordable venue and members who want to go to that group. The Group Leaders we have in March u3a have been excellent this year as always and where there have been temporary leadership problems other group members have stepped up and kept things going. These leaders and those who host meetings in their homes give so much to our organisation. It is wonderful that we have so much choice in our activities, but we need to respect and thank those who make it possible. You can turn up and enjoy an art session in the library but someone has to be prepared, collect the fees, make the tea and clear up afterwards. I am personally grateful to all those of you who find the time to make these groups successful. It is not hard to run a group but it does take commitment and energy so thank you for all you continue to do.

I am sure that the new Groups Co-Ordinator will have many ideas for new and interesting groups and that the membership will support them and our Group Leaders to keep March u3a active and attractive to all.

The Winner of the Photographic Competition is on the front page and shows the Tai Chi group in action, and the runner up is this picture of some of the Tangent group :



Lynda Andrews - Groups Co-Ordinator