

Romsey and District u3a
TRUSTEES' REPORT and CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the period ended 31st March 2023

1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Name: Romsey & District u3a

Registered Charity No. 1082501

We are affiliated to the Third Age Trust

Address: 2 Windfield Drive Romsey SO5 7RL

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The formal object of the charity is: *'the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning, and personal development in Romsey and the surrounding areas.'*

We provide a programme of activities which includes monthly speaker meetings and regular interest group activities which provide members with physical, mental and social stimulation to support active living.

Members learn from each other, through sharing their knowledge, skills and experience. Our interest groups provide opportunities for physical activity, e.g. table tennis & pickleball, learning activities, e.g. Italian & Spanish, industrial heritage, study e.g. philosophy, art appreciation, opera and creativity, e.g. painting, creative writing. Our [current list of groups](#) is on our website

Public Benefit: Due regard has been given to complying with public benefit guidance. The charity proactively encourages and supports anyone in the local community who is no longer in full-time employment or raising a family to learn through mutual educational, creative and leisure activities.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted on 30th March 2022. The charity is managed by a committee of, a maximum of 12, trustees elected annually. During the period of this report it comprised:

CHAIR and Accessibility Officer	Kay Lovell	Elected May 2022
VICE-CHAIR	Dave Lovell	Elected May 2022
SECRETARY	Trisha Meredith	Elected May 2022
TREASURER	Sheila Prangle	Elected May 2022
TRUSTEE (Groups Finance)	David Percival	Elected May 2022
TRUSTEE (Risk Management)	Tim Holmes	Elected May 2022
TRUSTEE (Minutes Secretary)	Sue Brookes	co-opted w.e.f November
TRUSTEE (Groups Coordinator)	Margaret Marchbank	co-opted w.e.f. November
TRUSTEE	Bruce Cawdron ¹	co-opted w.e.f. November

They have met 6 times during the year.

Our u3a is part of the South West Hants u3a network which has been established as a result of merging the Southampton & District u3a network with the New Forest u3a network.

Representatives of the u3as in the network meet bi-monthly to receive updates from the trustee for the South East Region of the Third Age Trust and share ideas to maintain vibrant u3as. Our Chair

¹ Resigned January 2023

has attended five of the six meetings this year and a number of other trustees have attended 'Peer Group' meetings e.g. of u3a Treasurers.

4. THE FUTURE OF ROMSEY AND DISTRICT U3A

In line with many organisations in the voluntary sector; we have found it difficult in recent years to secure a sufficient number of trustees to maintain our charity. Our, legally binding, constitution requires us to have a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one other trustee. As a result of this continuing trend much of the trustees' time and attention this year has focussed on ensuring the survival of Romsey and District u3a.

On Tuesday 2nd Aug our Chair and Vice Chair met with the Chair and VC of Archway to acquaint them with the situation and explore opportunities.

After communicating the importance and urgency of identifying members willing to stand as trustees through our newsletter, in emails and at monthly meetings with little success, members were invited to an all-member afternoon tea, on Wednesday 2nd November. At this our Chair delivered a clear message about the importance and difficulty of recruiting new trustees and discussed with those present how the situation might be remedied

Following this all members were invited to attend the trustees' meeting 9 November 2022. Eleven did so and this resulted in the addition of three trustees through co-option onto the committee. A number of others indicated their intention to stand for election on 17th May 2023.

5. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Operational roles

Our u3a is run for members by members who volunteer to undertake specific roles. Some are trustees, others lead interest groups, some look after the arrangements for our monthly meetings and others undertake communication activities. There are about 70 who do this, or roughly 10% of the membership. Without them the charity would be unable to operate.

Every person who does something for our charity e.g. trustee, group convenor, the refreshments team, is a volunteer. The trustees place on record their thanks to each and every one of them.

Membership

Membership, as in all years, has fluctuated. We are very pleased that some 70 people were attracted to join our u3a leading to a closing total of 699 members. Following the loss of our former Membership Secretary, all membership work has been overseen by our Treasurer, Sheila Prangle, until two Co-Membership Secretaries, Jan Tudball and Jean Wilks, took on the role. Jan Moody, our 'New Member Buddy', and her team continue to help our new members to settle in.

Communication with Members

We have a new newsletter editor, John Dick, who has produced a new-look edition each quarter. These were sent to all members by email, hand delivery or sent by post. Copies were also made available on the website.

These were supplemented by numerous emails on a variety of subjects ranging from warnings of online scams, to learning opportunities and events provided by the Third Age Trust.

Interest Groups

Throughout the year, we have maintained around 50 interest groups. A few groups have continued to make use of Zoom for some of their meetings and outdoor activities have been well supported.

Group leaders have reported their activities in our quarterly newsletter.

Changes to Interest Groups April 2022 to March 2023

New groups:

- New Theatre group (completely different to the previous one) Sept 2022
- Scrabble March 2023
- Crime Fiction Book group Oct 2022
- Table Tennis Fridays Apr 2022

Closed groups: Natural History, Enjoying Music, Music Appreciation, Snappers.

Change of Leader

- Strollers: Sandra Vines to Margaret Massie
- Cinema: Anne Gorst to Pat Robertson
- English Literature: Mary Hill to Sue Brookes
- Architecture & Local History: Shirley Rogers to Kathy Feely
- Horticulture: Linda Meyer to Cathy Suter
- Philosophy: Harry Tuffill to Chris Amery
- Recorders: no-one to Anne Hayes
- MahJong: Jennifer Jarman to Margaret Ellis

Monthly Meetings and other events

Husband and wife team, Gill and Timothy Bailey, have taken on the post of Programme Secretary this year and have exercised the role admirably.

Following the impact of Covid-19, monthly meetings are again being held in person at Crosfield Hall. Some have been held as 'hybrid'² meetings. Attendance at these meetings has generally been between 75 and 100.

On 1st June 2022 all members were invited to attend a 'Picnic in the Park' (Memorial Park). Despite a sudden downpour everyone attending enjoyed themselves.

Also during June we helped to decorate the town and advertise our charity to visitors to the town centre through the annual Yarn Bombing event.

We exhibited at the 3rd July Mayor's Picnic, jointly with Archway, resulting in a number of new membership applications.

We opened our September meeting to the family and friends of all members as a contribution to the national 'u3a day' celebrations.

In November our Chair attended the Remembrance Day service and laid a wreath on members' behalf, jointly with Archway, at the town War Memorial.

On Wednesday 1st March 2023 we provided an additional monthly meeting, via Zoom, on the subject of 'sleep'.

Risk Management

The trustees recognise that they continue to have a duty of care to their members. Group convenors are required to produce risk management plans accommodating Covid-19 restrictions and health and safety risks arising from group activities. Though still not universally popular with the wider membership, and something of an administrative burden on convenors, a reasonable level of compliance has been achieved.

Website

Our website is now managed by John Dick. During the year the hosting arrangements for the site, provided by the Third Age Trust unexpectedly collapsed. This required John to 're-build' the site; a not insignificant task

Our Zoom licence is managed by Michael Ward

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

We maintain a reserves policy which is regularly reviewed. Our policy is to maintain a reserve of 50% or running costs averaged over the preceding 3 years.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription was raised to £15 at the commencement of this year, with members who pay their Third Age Trust capitation through another u3a, paying £11.00.

² i.e. with an audience in Crosfield Hall and other members attending in their own homes via Zoom connection

Financial Overview

Our finances were organised into three bank accounts – Main, Reserve and Groups, on a receipts and payments basis.

The Trustees agreed that the financial year would be changed to commence on the 1st March from 2023, so last year's accounts were for 11 months from 1st April 2022 to 28 February 2023. This ensured that the majority of membership subscriptions are now received in the correct financial year as our membership year runs from 1st April - 31st March.

Our main income is from Membership Subscriptions and the claiming of Gift Aid on eligible Subscriptions.

All the bank accounts had an independent auditor examine and authorise them.

Outgoings: The Third Age Trust fees include yearly Membership Fee, cost of the Third Age Magazine (TAM), plus the annual fee to use the Beacon Membership Database. This year we only purchased one yearly Licence for Zoom, as well as an option to purchase an additional large meeting licence, if required.

We continued to pay for monthly speakers who attended the monthly meeting at Crosfield Hall, with an occasional extra meeting held over Zoom.

Main Current Account: The balance at the beginning of the financial year was £4,603.30 and ended with a balance of £7,466.44

Reserve Account: The balance at the beginning of the financial year was £5,948.93 and ended with a balance of £5,954.53

Groups Bank Account: The balance at the beginning of the financial year was £9,845.17 and ended with a balance £7,041.53

[Continued]

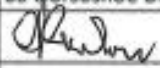
7. ACCOUNTS

Romsey & District U3A Financial Statement for year 2022/23 ending 28 February 2023				
Current Acc Income 2022/23	£	Current Acc Expenditure 2022/23	£	Current Acc Expenditure Breakdown
I1. Membership subscriptions 22/23	9544.50	E1. Third Age Trust – Membership Fee, TAM, Beacon	-4680.40	Beacon £709.00 TAT £2576.00 Licence £60.00 TAM £1335.40
		E2. Monthly meetings – speakers, refreshments	-2643.07	Hire of Hall £1230.30 speakers £1043.74 zoom Licence £143.88 Refreshments £225.15
I2. Donations	98.50	E3. Events, Study Days, W/Shops	-244.05	Refreshments £75.47 Hall hire £168.58
I3. Gift Aid	1335.71	E4. Printing, Postage, Stationery, Inf	-199.38	Ink £137.82 Stationery £4.25 Postage £10.51 Xmas Cards £46.80
I4. Miscellaneous	371.00	E5. Website, Newsletter	-399.32	Newsletter £399.32
				Gifts £135.00, Printing £37.70 cttee mtg £73.80 Domain Renewal £67 Post £6.85
		E6. Committee, AGM Costs	-320.35	
		E7. U3A Day	0.00	
		E8. Miscellaneous		
2022/23 Income	11349.71	2022/23 Expenditure	-8486.57	

2022/23 Income less Expenditure	2863.14	<i>Notes for Current Acc:</i> Membership payments of £657.00 for 2022/23 received in 2021/22
B/F Balance 1/04/2022	4603.30	
Balance at Bank at 28.02.23	7466.44	

Reserve Acc Income 2022/23	£
B/F Balance 01/04/22	5,948.93
Interest received June	0.45
Interest received September	1.83
Interest received December	3.32
Balance at Bank at 28.02.23	5954.53

Total of Current and Reserve	13420.97
Balance of Groups Account	7041.53
Loans to	
Groups (Showing in No 2 Groups Acc bal)	1000.00

I have examined the books of Romsey & District u3a, Charity No.1082501, for the financial year 1st April 2022 – 28 February 2023. This examination has taken place in accordance with the relevant directions from sections (130) (132-1) of the Charity Commission act 2011.	
The accounts have been properly drawn up and represent a true view of the financial position as shown by the books.	
Print Name:	Peter R E Hanlon FCIB
Status:	Retired
Address:	35 Horseshoe Drive, Romse, SO51 7TP
Signature:	
Date:	20/03/2023

Groups using U3A Bank

Apr 2022-Feb 2023

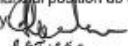
Group	B/f 01/04/22	In	Out	YTD Balance	Not Cleared	Adj Balance
Architecture	213.98	230.00	312.40	131.58		131.58
Art Appreciation	84.60	286.25	259.00	111.85		111.85
Bridge for Improve	117.07	872.00	788.95	200.12		200.12
Current Affairs	59.00	208.00	240.00	27.00		27.00
Garden 1	164.70	0.00	0.00	164.70		164.70
Genealogy	492.26	317.00	401.00	408.26		408.26
Geography	0.00	652.00	414.00	238.00		238.00
Horticulture	66.31	203.90	168.00	102.21		102.21
Ind Heritage	581.13	654.00	487.90	747.23		747.23
Paint 1	539.70	941.00	1,410.00	70.70		70.70
Paint 2	29.00	0.00	0.00	29.00		29.00
Philosophy	126.00	0.00	0.00	126.00		126.00
Pickleball	567.37	0.00	186.00	381.37		381.37
Questers	2,099.10	0.00	2,099.10	0.00		0.00
Short Day Trips	863.16	9,503.50	10,084.23	282.43		282.43
Snappers	6.30	0.00	0.00	6.30		6.30
Social History	42.62	275.00	188.10	129.52		129.52
Table tennis	0.00	1,287.00	1,287.00	0.00		0.00
Table tennis 2	124.00	1,679.00	1,594.00	209.00		209.00
Theatre	0.00	715.00	715.00	0.00		0.00
Travel	1,747.75	3,096.40	3,209.50	1,634.65		1,634.65
Wine Appr	511.29	625.90	720.15	417.04		417.04
Reserve	1,409.83	253.74	39.00	1,624.57	15.00	1,639.57
Balances	9,845.17	21,799.69	24,603.33	7,041.53	15.00	7,056.53

Number 2 Bank Account

	Income	Expenditure	Net	Ball
				9,845.17 adj bank at 31/3/22
Apr	£1,746.59	£3,923.18	(£2,176.59)	£7,668.58
May	£2,142.75	£1,911.15	£231.60	£7,900.18
Jun	£1,904.25	£1,622.60	£281.65	£8,181.83
Jul	£1,873.00	£2,412.09	(£539.09)	£7,642.74
Aug	£3,685.50	£2,840.71	£844.79	£8,487.53
Sep	£2,635.70	£973.70	£1,662.00	£10,149.53
Oct	£2,302.00	£3,440.90	(£1,138.90)	£9,010.63
Nov	£1,020.00	£2,024.85	(£1,004.85)	£8,005.78
Dec	£829.00	£1,017.45	(£188.45)	£7,817.33 bank account £7832.33
Jan	£2,593.90	£2,652.20	(£58.30)	£7,759.03 bank account £7774.03
Feb	£1,067.00	£1,784.50	(£717.50)	£7,041.53 bank account £7056.53

21,799.69	24,603.33	(2,803.64)
-----------	-----------	------------

I have examined the books of Romsey & District u3a, Charity No.1082501, This examination has taken place in accordance with the relevant directions The accounts have been properly drawn up and represent a true view of the financial position as shown by the books

Signed by: 
Status: Retiring
Address: 35 KINGSWOT DRIVE ROMSEY SO51 7TP
Signature: PETER R.E. HANLON
Date: 20.3.23

8. OUTLOOK

Not unusually, during the year some volunteers have given up their role whilst others have announced their intention to stand down at year end. We thank all of them for their commitment and contribution to the success of our u3a.

The coming year will see many changes within the committee of trustees. Ensuring the success and vibrancy of Romsey & District u3a will be their priority. In doing so, they will continue the work begun by previous committees.

It would be remiss of the current trustee not to highlight the fact that more trustees would help share the 'load' and bring more diverse ideas to the running of Romsey and District u3a

9. DECLARATION

The trustees have approved this report.

Signed on their behalf,

Kay Lovell

Chair