

# **Somerton u3a**

**Registered Charity No 1089838**

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

**01.04.20. to 31.03.21.**



# Somerton u3a Annual Report to Members

1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

## About Us

Somerton u3a is an Unincorporated Members Association whose governing document is the Constitution updated on 24th May 2019. Our object as set out in the constitution 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 Somerton and the surrounding area.

As a member of the Third Age Trust we adhere to the principles of the u3a movement which is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

### ***The Third Age Principle***

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

### ***The Self-help Learning Principle***

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

### ***The Mutual Aid Principle***

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.

## Our Activities

The main activities we usually carry out to achieve our objectives are as follows:

- prior to the first national Coronavirus lockdown on 23rd March 2020, we held general meetings on the fourth Friday of the month which were free and open to all members. Since October 2020 speakers have been providing presentations (starting monthly and increased to bi-monthly) to all members via Zoom on topics such as Nelson Mandela, a Fishmonger's Tales, Astronomy and Hypnosis

- we form interest groups where members learn about a subject from each other or engage in social activities together
- we produce a monthly Newsletter which shows details of upcoming events, reports on recent group activities, communications from the committee and lots of contact details to keep members up to date on developments in our u3a
- the Trustees regularly meet with other u3as in our area to exchange news, ideas and experiences. This group is known as the Avalon Network Group and consists of Camelot, Chard & Ilminster, Crewkerne, Martock and Yeovil u3as. In planning all our activities, the Trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

### **Chairman's Report Review of the Year**

During the year Somerton u3a has enriched the lives of its members by offering over 50 different activities and interest groups. Members would normally benefit physically, mentally and emotionally by joining together and supporting each other to:

- pursue interests in a variety of subjects
- learn new skills or develop existing ones
- participate in physical activity.

Because of the effects of Coronavirus and the inability to enjoy social interaction, membership numbers fell from 500 to around 350 as at 31st March 2021. This approximately one third reduction in membership is very much in line with other u3as, certainly within the Avalon Network Group.

Our monthly meetings at the Edgar Hall were regularly attended by more than 100 members. These monthly meetings have been replaced by monthly, moving to twice a month, Zoom talks with around 40 to 50 members attending.

I am very pleased to say that our membership is slowly increasing. We have been encouraged by the National u3a to adopt new communication methods, Facebook and Twitter for example. However, these are just optional extras. Technology has enabled us to keep in touch on a monthly basis, to enjoy the speakers' meetings, to hear about events and online learning. Without this technology we would have struggled to survive. I would like to publicly thank you if you have been able to join us in this new wonder. This does not mean that we do not value the traditional ways of communicating and we very much hope that we will be able to meet face-to-face in the very near future.

Earlier in 2020 we adopted Beacon as our administrative and communication tool. This continues to be successful, and we will help all Group Leaders to manage their groups going forward in the coming months.

We have also taken advantage of this period of relative inactivity to update our website and review our policies and procedures and update them where necessary. We have reviewed our banking policy to allow online payments to creditors and to receive monies from members. This has reduced administration and has provided greater security. The website is continually updated. The Guide for Group Leaders and the Welcome Guide to new members are also being brought up to date. The Constitution has been amended due to the extraordinary times over the past year.

As restrictions are being relaxed some of our outdoor groups have started to meet again with measures in place to control numbers and meet sanitisation and social distancing guidelines. Some small groups have met in members' gardens and may soon be able to meet in members' homes. Some community facilities are starting to re-open as Covid-secure premises so some indoor activities may be able to resume in the coming weeks and months. As a group, our age profile makes us generally more susceptible to the virus so all members must make their own assessment of the risk involved to themselves and those they live with before deciding whether or not to take part in any u3a activity.

Finally, as Chairman, I would like to thank all the Committee members for all their hard work and support. For the whole of 2020/21 the Coronavirus pandemic has severely curtailed our activities which meant that we were no longer able to hold our large monthly gatherings or face-to-face group meetings. A number of our Group Leaders responded by holding outdoor meetings when Government restrictions (and the weather) allowed and by moving on-line. Where possible many continued their activities using Zoom or other video-conferencing software or kept in touch via email or WhatsApp. The Trustees changed from meeting face-to-face to meeting monthly using Zoom to keep abreast of developments in the Coronavirus situation. We are keeping in touch with members through information in the monthly Newsletter. These are emailed to most members but hand delivered or sent out by post to those without email.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Our last AGM was held in September 2020. We wish to return to our normal AGM timing, that being after the End of Year accounts are completed. By submitting our accounts to an accountancy firm, the invoice in previous years has been near or over £1,000. Having consulted with the Charity Commission and other similar sized u3as, we, the Trustees, have acted on their advice and have submitted them to an Independent Examiner. The cost of this service is zero.

### **Financial position**

Our income and expenditure for the year under review and the closing position at 31st March 2021 is set out in our accounts which follow this report. For the Unrestricted Funds (non-group activities), income exceeded expenditure for the year by £2,868. Although membership subscriptions were reduced from the previous year by £1,547, Gift Aid for two prior years was received in the sum of £1,651. On the expenditure side, there have been no payments for hall hire or equipment for groups. A payment was made to the National u3a for the Beacon database licence fee the first time this year in the sum of £494, based on 2019/20 membership. The levy for this is £1 per member.

Restricted Funds (those funds held for groups) are mainly unchanged from the previous financial year as very little activity has taken place.

### **Looking to the future**

The principal source of funds for Somerton u3a is the annual membership fees. The age profile of our membership requires continuous recruitment just to maintain numbers and in previous years we have seen steady growth year on year. Since the

year end our membership numbers have fallen to around 350 due to the impact of Coronavirus. We had planned to stage a recruitment drive around the National u3a Day which was originally scheduled for June 2020 then postponed to October 2020 and now pushed back again to June 2021. With Coronavirus and social distancing likely to be with us for several more months at least, we are looking at new ways to keep our activity groups going and to recruit new Trustees to the committee. It is only by attracting more members to join and getting more members involved in the committee that Somerton u3a will continue to thrive in the post-Covid era.

## Trustees

The Trustees form the Executive Committee and are all Somerton u3a members who are usually elected or re-elected annually by the membership at the AGM for a term of one year. Trustees may be co-opted by the executive committee during the year to fill casual vacancies on the committee until the next AGM. Trustees who acted during the year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and up to the date of approval of this report are shown below (with starting or finishing dates if they did not act for the whole period).

Trustee name	Office / Role	Dates acted (if not for whole period)
Judith Powell	Chair	
Susan Haigh	Secretary	From 25.09.20.
Elizabeth Short	Treasurer	From 25.09.20.
David Harrison		To 25.09.20.
Amanda Hooper	Committee member	Co-opted from 08.03.21.
Joan Banbury		To 25.09.20.
Michael Davis	Co Editor	From 25.09.20.
Julie Hopkins		To 25.09.20.
Marilyn Muffett	Membership Secretary	
Laurence Reeves	Beacon Technical Adviser	From 25.09.20.
John Rickard		To 25.09.20.
David Robins	Speakers Co-ordinator	
Valerie Taylor	Groups Co-ordinator	
Kay Williamson		To 25.09.20.
Kay Williamson	Co Editor	Co-opted from 08.02.21.

## Contact details

Charity's principal address 8 Wheeler Barton, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6FE.

Website <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton>.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ by:

Judith Powell - Chairman

Susan Haigh - Secretary

## Somerton u3a

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.02.21.	Total Funds 31.03.20.
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donation from TSB A/C	1,000		1,000	1,000
Gift Aid	2,139		2,139	0
Grants	0		0	100
Interest on Bank Accounts	0		0	21
Membership subs	5,579		5,579	7,126
Sale of Coin	20		20	
Sale of Diaries	110		110	94
Group Activities		298	298	13,489
<b>Total income</b>	<b>8,848</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>9,146</b>	<b>21,830</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Accountant's Fee	1,200		1,200	946
Committee expenses	16		16	
Diaries	0		0	193
Equipment for Groups	0		0	854
Hall Hire	0		0	2,298
Miscellaneous	138		138	319
Printing, stationery & postage	545		545	750
Speakers	700		700	738
TAT Beacon	494		494	-
TAT Capitation	1,736		1,736	1,715
TAT Magazine	1,151		1,151	2,546
Group Activities		804	804	14,100
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>6,784</b>	<b>24,459</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE/(INCOME)</b>	<b>(2,868)</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>(2,362)</b>	<b>2,629</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	933	4,376	5,309	7,938
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>7,671</b>	<b>5,309</b>

## Somerton u3a

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.21.	Total Funds 31.03.20.
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank and in hand	3,801	4,658	8,459	6,101
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year (Avalon Network Funds)	0	(788)	(788)	(792)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>3,870</u>	<u>7,671</u>	<u>5,309</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>3,870</u>	<u>7,671</u>	<u>5,309</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			3,801	933
Restricted funds			3,870	4,376
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>7,671</u>	<u>5,309</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees and Independent Examiner and signed on its behalf by:

Elizabeth Short - Treasurer  
(Membership Number 1292)

Judith Powell - Chairman  
(Membership Number 1025)

Miriam Oetegenn – Independent Examiner  
(Membership Number 1302)

## Somerton u3a

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

#### Movement in Funds

	At 01.04.20.	Net movement	At 31.03.21.
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	933	2,868	3,801
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Art	77	0	77
Art Appreciation	36	0	36
Aviation	22	0	22
Birdwatching	52	0	52
Bridge	6	(6)	0
Card Craft (now Craft)	140	0	140
Computing	83	(16)	67
Craft	81	(81)	0
Curling	21	0	21
Drama	35	(35)	0
European Studies	28	16	44
Exercise	67	(67)	0
Family History	68	0	68
Flight Simulator	207	(207)	0
Gardens	6	(6)	0
Geology	4	0	4
History	96	0	96
Local Discovery	117	0	117
Local History	1,419	72	1,491
Music Appreciation	11	0	11
Photography	103	0	103
Quiz	279	0	279
Raspberry Pi	180	(16)	164
Readers	10	0	10
Rummycub	15	(15)	0
S M Bowls	447	(89)	358
Science & Technology	15	0	15
Scottish Country Dancing	102	(64)	38
Singing for Fun Group	47	0	47
Table Tennis	145	(24)	121
Ukulele	457	(177)	280
Defunct Groups	0	210	210
	<hr/> 4,376	<hr/> (506)	<hr/> 3,870
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> 5,309	<hr/> 2,362	<hr/> 7,671



## Somerton u3a

### Social Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

	31.02.21. £	31.03.20. £
<b>Income</b>		
Bath Trip	-	440.00
Sidmouth Trip	-	624.00
Oxford Trip	-	880.00
Xmas Lunch	-	2,095.00
Theatre Trips	175.50	1,599.20
Prior year adjustment	49.56	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>225.06</b>	<b>5,638.20</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Bath Trip	-	460.00
Sidmouth Trip	-	575.00
Oxford Trip	-	850.00
Xmas Lunch	50.00	2,021.25
Theatre Trips	191.30	1,468.66
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>241.30</b>	<b>5,374.91</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(16.24)	263.29
Gift to Somerton u3a main fund	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)
Reserves b/fwd	1,997.94	2,734.65
Reserves c/fwd	<b>981.70</b>	<b>1,997.94</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Cash at bank	<b>981.70</b>	<b>1,997.94</b>
General Fund	256.23	1,206.67
Xmas Lunch Fund	291.34	341.34
Theatre Fund	278.53	294.33
Coach Trips	155.60	155.60
	<b>981.70</b>	<b>1,997.94</b>