

Somerton u3a

Registered Charity No 1089838

Annual Report and Accounts

01.04.21. to 31.03.22.



Somerton u3a Annual Report to Members

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

About Us

Somerton u3a is an Unincorporated Members Association whose governing document is the Constitution updated on 9th August 2021. 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:

- general meetings on the fourth Friday of the month returned to Edgar Hall in October. These meetings were free and open to both members and visitors. Speakers have been providing hybrid live/Zoom presentations on topics such as The Forgotten Art of the Postcard, a presentation by Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Will Making and Falling With Style
- we enjoyed Christmas Lunch once again in Edgar Hall
- 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

I am very pleased to report that our membership is continuing to increase, albeit slowly. Membership numbers were approaching 400 at 31st March 2022, still not achieving pre-pandemic membership of 500 but numbers continue to grow each month. The lower numbers are a trend across all u3as nationally. We were not able to have an Enrolment Day in 2021 so I am encouraged by these numbers. However, it is not 'numbers' that make our u3a successful, it is your willingness to participate in the running and organisation across the board.

In June, we celebrated the National u3a Day by promoting our groups and meeting many new and existing members in Somerton Market Square. This also prompted new interest groups. I would like to thank Jane Redgrove for taking over as Groups Co-ordinator and for organising the Group Leaders' Meeting in September. In turn, without the Leaders either continuing their groups or members stepping forward to lead new interests, we would not have the range of activities which are the envy of many u3as.

During the Autumn we re-started the Friday monthly meeting in Edgar Hall. These meetings were free and open to both members and visitors. Speakers have been providing hybrid live/Zoom presentations on a variety of topics.

New members were encouraged to join our first welcome meeting and we had a very enjoyable guided tour of the history of Somerton.

In early October, the Isle of Man was the destination for the first Su3a holiday for over 3 years. Members flew from Bristol to Ronaldsway and stayed in Douglas; being treated to Blue Guide Tours each day.

In December, nearly 100 members and friends enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at Edgar Hall with entertainment from Chris Cox and our very own SUBS (Somerton Ukulele Band & Singers).

Beacon and our Newsletter continued to be our main communication tool. The Editors and Publications team have done an amazing job keeping all members informed of future events and articles of past events. These are emailed to most members but hand-delivered or sent out by post to those without email.

Online Learning events were also advertised in the Newsletter and were eagerly booked by members.

It has been wonderful to see the groups slowly returning to socialising and members enjoying the activities. In March, it was another first for many months with a lively outing by coach to Exeter.

There are many people to thank; in fact, there are nearly 400 of you, all of whom make Somerton u3a the success it is today. Without your continued membership and friendship to one another we would not have survived the past two years and be looking forward to thriving in the coming years. It is down to you, so well done to you all.

This will be my last AGM as I stand down after six very enjoyable years. I would like to thank the Committee members who have continued to support me and each other via Zoom and, recently, face to face meetings. I know there will be members coming forward to join the committee and I am sure they will find it just as rewarding as I have.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our last AGM was held in August 2021. We wish to return to our normal AGM timing, that being after the End of Year accounts are completed.

Financial position

Our income and expenditure for the year under review and the closing position at 31st March 2022 is set out in our accounts which follow this report. For the Unrestricted Funds (non-group activities), income exceeded expenditure for the year by £3,327. Membership subscriptions increased from the previous year by £1,073 with Gift Aid of only £773 received. Members are being encouraged to complete the required documentation to increase this figure. On the expenditure side, there has been over £1,300 paid out for hall hire and speakers as monthly meetings have returned.

Included in Miscellaneous were small thank you gifts, a new members' coffee morning and a Group Leaders' coffee morning and meeting.

A payment was made to the National u3a for the Beacon database licence fee in the sum of £348, based on 2020/21 membership. The levy for this is £1 per member. Beacon proved to be invaluable during lockdown as a means of communicating with members.

There has been significant movement in Restricted Funds (those funds held for groups) as groups have increasingly opened up and returned to booking halls for their activities.

Independent Examiner

Barrie Davies, Independent Examiner, reports as follows: 'I have examined the bank statements for Santander A/C Nos 82483286 and 05242177 also TSB A/C No 00958442. I have examined the ledgers, miscellaneous documentation, supporting schedules, cheque book and paying in books and in my opinion found them to be correct.'

Looking to the future

One area we wish to improve on is the hybrid meeting at Edgar Hall. Our technical team, led by Doug Skillicorn and Laurence Reeves, has worked tirelessly and it has been agreed by the committee to purchase new equipment to improve the quality of the Zoom meetings. We feel this is very important for those members unable to attend in person, with Su3a continuing its policy of inclusivity.

In addition, we are looking at new ways to expand the range of activities on offer to our members both new and existing to ensure that Somerton u3a continues to thrive and grow in the future.

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 2021 to 31st March 2022 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	Chairman	
Susan Haigh	Secretary	
Elizabeth Short	Treasurer	
Amanda Hooper	Events Co-ordinator	
Michael Davis	Co-Editor	
Marilyn Muffett	Membership Secretary	
Laurence Reeves	Beacon Administrator	
David Robins	Speakers Co-ordinator	
Douglas Skillicorn	Technical Adviser	From 14.02.22.
Valerie Taylor	Groups Co-ordinator	To 10.05.21.
Kay Williamson	Co-Editor	

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

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Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.02.22.	Total Funds 31.03.21.
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Donation from TSB A/C	0		0	1,000
Gift Aid	773		773	2,139
Grants	0		0	0
Interest on Bank Accounts	0		0	0
Membership subs	6,652		6,652	5,579
Sale of Coin	0		0	20
Sale of Diaries	93		93	110
Group Activities		3,106	3,106	298
Total income	7,518	3,106	10,624	9,146
EXPENDITURE				
Accountant's Fee	0		0	1,200
Committee expenses	30		30	16
Diaries	103		103	0
Equipment for Groups	0		0	0
Hall Hire	529		529	0
Miscellaneous	372		372	138
National u3a/Relaunch Day	87		87	0
Printing, stationery & postage	558		558	545
Speakers	791		791	700
TAT Beacon	348		348	494
TAT Capitation	1,218		1,218	1,736
TAT Magazine	155		155	1,151
Group Activities		2,500	2,500	804
Total expenditure	4,191	2,500	6,691	6,784
NET EXPENDITURE/(INCOME)	(3,327)	(606)	(3,933)	(2,362)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	3,801	3,870	7,671	5,309
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	7,128	4,476	11,604	7,671

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Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.22.	Total Funds 31.03.21.
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand	7,128	5,264	12,392	8,459
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year (Avalon Network Funds)	0	(788)	(788)	(788)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	7,128	4,476	11,604	7,671
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				
NET ASSETS	7,128	4,476	11,604	7,671
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			7,128	3,801
Restricted funds			4,476	3,870
TOTAL FUNDS			11,604	7,671

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)

Barrie Davies – Independent Examiner
(Membership Number 1284)

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2022

Movement in Funds

	At 01.04.21. £	Net movement £	At 31.03.22. £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,801	3,327	7,128
Restricted funds			
Art	77	(2)	75
Art Appreciation	36	(10)	26
Aviation	22	28	50
Birdwatching	52	0	52
Bridge	0	0	0
Collectables	0	150	150
Computing	67	122	189
(Card) Craft	140	(51)	89
Curling	21	0	21
International (European) Studies	44	(44)	0
Family History	68	13	81
Geology	4	36	40
History	96	0	96
Local Discovery	117	(7)	110
Local History	1,491	(72)	1,419
Music Appreciation	11	0	11
Photography	103	(38)	65
Quiz	279	(23)	256
Raspberry Pi	164	0	164
Readers	10	0	10
Rummycub	0	0	0
S M Bowls	358	77	435
Science & Technology	15	0	15
Scottish Country Dancing	38	0	38
Singing for Fun Group	47	(10)	37
Table Tennis	121	562	683
Ukulele	280	(124)	156
Defunct Groups	210	0	210
	<hr/> 3,870	<hr/> 606	<hr/> 4,476
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 7,671	<hr/> 3,933	<hr/> 11,604

Some groups hold small amounts of cash. These amounts are not included in the above.

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Social Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	31.03.22. £	31.03.21. £
Income		
Xmas Lunch	2,069.00	-
Theatre Trips	-	175.50
Prior year adjustment	-	49.56
Exeter Coach Trip	468.00	-
Total income	2,537.00	225.06
Expenditure		
Xmas Lunch	1,802.04	50.00
Theatre Trips *	16.44	191.30
Exeter Coach Trip	470.00	-
Total expenditure	2,288.48	241.30
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	248.52	(16.24)
Gift to Somerton u3a main fund	-	(1,000.00)
Reserves b/fwd	981.70	1,997.94
Reserves c/fwd	1,230.22	981.70
Represented by		
Cash at bank	1,230.22	981.70
General Fund	981.70	256.23
Xmas Lunch Fund	266.96	291.34
Theatre Fund	(16.44)	278.53
Coach Trips	(2.00)	155.60
	1,230.22	981.70

* This relates to expenditure from the previous financial year