

Somerton u3a

Registered Charity No 1089838

Annual Report and Accounts

01.04.22. to 31.03.23.



Somerton u3a Annual Report to Members

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

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 at Edgar Hall. There is a small charge of £2 for visitors and refreshments are provided for 50p. This year, Speakers have mostly been in the hall with hybrid live/Zoom presentations on topics such as *How did the Kings Find Bethlehem? Christmas but (maybe) not as we know it!* *Those Magnificent Women in their Flying Machines*, a presentation by Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a talk by the Regional Fraud Protect Advisor, Avon & Somerset Police on Senior Safety and *The Wonderful world of Glass*.

We continue our association within the Avalon Network of 7 u3as, consisting of Yeovil, Street & Glastonbury, Camelot, Chard & Ilminster, Crewkerne & District and Martock & District, with reciprocal arrangements in place with the last four mentioned. This means members may join one or more of each other's u3a's Groups, subject to availability and with each organisation's own members being given priority.

- we try to meet regularly with the u3as within the Avalon Network to share ideas and form friendships
- 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.

Chairman's Report Review of the Year

I am very pleased to report membership numbers were very close to 400 at the start of May 2023, although still not achieving pre-pandemic membership of 500. The lower numbers continue to be a trend across all u3as nationally.

Our thanks go to Ruth Thomas for organising two coach trips with a trip to Bath in July and a trip to Bristol in November. Both trips were well supported and enjoyed.

Open Day returned to Edgar Hall in September to encourage new members and to inform existing members of all that is on offer.

The Events Team, headed up by Amanda Hooper, organised a Barn Dance in October and a Christmas Lunch in December; both being well attended and appreciated.

In October we celebrated Somerton u3a's 25th birthday. An Afternoon Tea was held with three of our original members being awarded Lifetime Membership.

Jane Redgrove has continued to work hard on organising her trips and holidays which have been well supported and enjoyed.

The Christmas Lunch, attended by nearly 100 members, was held at Long Sutton Golf Club. A break from our traditional gathering at this time but with a choice of 2 or 3 courses, served at table, was also in recognition of our 25th anniversary. The SUBS entertained us as well!

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. Our web site and 'social media' outreach on Facebook are getting more popular with more views and members joining up.

It was with an element of surprise that I found myself, once again, taking on the role of Chairman and I am pleased to have Jane Redgrove as my Vice Chairman; this being somewhat of a surprise on her part as well.

I would like to thank the Committee members who have supported me at our meetings and my thanks go, especially, to Doug Skillicorn who remained a loyal Committee member right up to his passing; he is greatly missed.

Marilyn Muffett steps down from the Committee this month having extremely ably carried out the roles of Welfare Officer and Membership Secretary and I thank her for her hard work.

I know there are members coming forward to join the committee and I am sure they will find it just as rewarding as we do.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our last AGM was held in May 2022 with a return now 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 2023 is set out in our accounts which follow this report. For the Unrestricted Funds (non-group activities), income exceeded expenditure for the year by £1,506. Membership subscriptions increased from the previous year by £444 with the subscription being held at 2021/22 figure with an increase in Gift Aid of £199. On the expenditure side, there has been £2,201 paid out for hall hire and speakers as regular monthly meetings have returned.

Included in Miscellaneous were small thank you gifts, a new members' coffee morning and the Copyright Licencing Fee.

We were successful in securing a grant from National u3a to cover the cost of our Open Day held in September.

A payment was made to the National u3a for the Beacon database licence fee in the sum of £368, based on 2021/22 membership. The levy for this is £1 per member. Beacon is an invaluable tool, particularly for Group Leaders, for communicating with members.

Movement in Restricted Funds (those funds held for groups) has more than doubled 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. Also, there are no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.'

Looking to the future

I think our future is again looking positive following the fall, in line with u3as nationally, in our membership during the pandemic. We will strive to attract more members and therefore develop more interest groups, in line with the principles of u3a.

I would like to see our cooperation with other u3as, particularly within the Avalon Network, develop more with a focus on getting back to our more regular meetings.

This, like many things, dwindled during the pandemic years but the importance of shared learning and support within this network cannot be overstated.

Likewise, I would like to see us explore more ways in which we can use the facilities, expertise, and training opportunities available to us within the national organisation. We should constantly be seeking new ways in which to develop and grow and to make Somerton u3a attractive to new members. We do run independently, and we do focus on the sort of interests that our members have but we should never lose sight of the 'big picture' and explore new ideas and challenge ourselves.

We should continue to have fun!

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 2022 to 31st March 2023 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	To 22.07.22.
Susan Haigh	Secretary	To 22.07.22.
Stephen Davis	Chairman	From 22.07.22.
Jane Redgrove	Vice Chairman	From 22.07.22.
Annette Sparks	Secretary	From 22.07.22.
Elizabeth Short	Treasurer	
Frances Cook	Committee Member	From 22.07.22.
Michael Davis	Editor	
Amanda Hooper	Events Co-ordinator	
Marilyn Muffett	Membership Secretary	
Laurence Reeves	Beacon Administrator	
David Robins	Speakers Co-ordinator	
Douglas Skillicorn	Technical Adviser	To 03.02.23.
Kay Williamson	Co-Editor	To 24.06.22.

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:

Stephen Davis - Chairman

Annette Sparks - Secretary

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.23.	Total Funds 31.03.22
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Gift Aid	972		972	773
Grants	133		133	0
Interest on Bank Accounts	6		6	0
Membership subs	7,096		7,096	6,652
Sale of Diaries	0		0	93
Monthly meetings	181		181	0
Platinum Jubilee	100		100	0
TAM	264		264	0
Group Activities		6,807	6,807	3,106
Total income	<u>8,752</u>	<u>6,807</u>	<u>15,559</u>	<u>10,624</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Committee expenses	158		158	30
Diaries	0		0	103
Equipment for Groups	129		129	0
Hall Hire	1,726		1,726	529
Miscellaneous	216		216	372
Monthly meetings	156		156	0
National u3a/Relaunch Day	0		0	87
Open Day	133		133	0
Platinum Jubilee	136		136	0
Printing, stationery & postage	1,088		1,088	558
Speakers	475		475	791
TAT Beacon	368		368	348
TAT Capitation	1,472		1,472	1,218
TAT Magazine	1,189		1,189	155
Group Activities		7,010	7,010	2,500
Total expenditure	<u>7,246</u>	<u>7,010</u>	<u>14,256</u>	<u>6,691</u>
NET EXPENDITURE/(INCOME)	<u>(1,506)</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>(1,303)</u>	<u>(3,933)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	7,128	4,476	11,604	7,671
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>8,634</u>	<u>4,273</u>	<u>12,907</u>	<u>11,604</u>

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Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.23.	Total Funds 31.03.22.
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand	8,634	5,061	13,695	12,392
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year (Avalon Network Funds)	0	(788)	(788)	(788)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>8,634</u>	<u>4,273</u>	<u>12,907</u>	<u>11,604</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				
NET ASSETS	<u>8,634</u>	<u>4,273</u>	<u>12,907</u>	<u>11,604</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			8,634	7,128
Restricted funds			4,273	4,476
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>12,907</u>	<u>11,604</u>

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

Elizabeth Short - Treasurer
(Membership Number 1292)

Stephen Davis - Chairman
(Membership Number 224)

Barrie Davies – Independent Examiner
(Membership Number 1284)

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

Movement in Funds

	At 01.04.22. £	Net movement £	At 31.03.23. £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,128	1,506	8,634
Restricted funds			
Art	75	(35)	110
Art Appreciation	26	0	26
Aviation	50	50	0
Birdwatching	52	0	52
Collectables	150	115	35
Computing	189	(65)	254
Craft	89	(5)	94
Curling	21	0	21
International Studies	0	0	0
Family History	81	(29)	110
Geology	40	0	40
History	96	75	21
Local Discovery	110	(15)	125
Local History	1,419	(91)	1,510
Music Appreciation	11	0	11
Photography	65	43	22
Projects	0	(160)	160
Quiz	256	(80)	336
Raspberry Pi	164	0	164
Readers	10	0	10
Recorders	0	0	0
S M Bowls	435	27	408
Science & Technology	15	15	0
Scottish Dancing	38	38	0
Scrapbooking	0	(45)	45
Singing for Fun Group	37	(74)	111
Table Tennis	683	105	578
Ukulele	156	126	30
Groups Contingency	210	210	0
	<hr/> 4,476	<hr/> (203)	<hr/> 4,273
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 11,604	<hr/> 1,303	<hr/> 12,907

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 2023

	31.03.23. £	31.03.22. £
Income		
Anniversary Tea Party	1028.00	
Barn Dance	205.00	
Bath Coach Trip	465.00	
Bristol Coach Trip	702.00	
Exeter Coach Trip		468.00
Xmas Lunch	2,216.00	2,069.00
Total income	4,616.00	2,537.00
Expenditure		
Anniversary Tea Party	968.90	
Barn Dance	164.00	
Bath Coach Trip	555.00	
Bristol Coach Trip	565.00	
Exeter Coach Trip		470.00
Xmas Lunch	2,086.75	1,802.04
Theatre Trips		16.44
Total expenditure	4,339.65	2,288.48
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	276.35	248.52
Reserves brought forward	1,230.22	981.70
Reserves carried forward	1,506.57	1,230.22
Represented by		
Cash at bank	1506.57	1,230.22
General Fund	1,230.22	981.70
Events Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		
Anniversary Tea Party	59.10	
Barn Dance	41.00	
Bath Coach Trip	(90.00)	
Bristol Coach Trip	137.00	
Exeter Coach Trip		(2.00)
Xmas Lunch	129.25	266.96
Theatre Trips		(16.44)
	1,506.57	1,230.22