

# **Somerton u3a**

**Registered Charity No 1089838**

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

**01.04.23. to 31.03.24.**



# Somerton u3a Annual Report to Members

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

## 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, there was a return to Speakers being in the hall with presentations on topics such as *Town Criers* (with the presenters and our Chairman in full regalia), *Fairgrounds at War*, *Wildlife Photography in Iceland* and *The Wonderful world of Glass – Part 2*.

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 over 400 at the start of May 2024, although still not achieving pre-pandemic membership of 500.

Open Day was held in Edgar Hall in August to encourage new members and to inform existing members of all that is on offer. It was agreed that the event had a return to a buzzing atmosphere.

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

In May we celebrated the coronation of our King Charles III with a special lunch. Members were invited to create hats related to the event, with some splendid results.

The Christmas Lunch, attended by over 100 members, was again held at Long Sutton Golf Club. The Recorder Group and SUBS entertained us as well!

Beacon and our Newsletter continued to be our main communication tool. The Editor 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 website and 'social media' outreach on Facebook are getting more popular with more views and members joining up.

I would like to thank the Committee members who have supported me at our meetings.

Liz Short stepped down from the Committee at the end March and I thank her for her hard work as Treasurer.

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 2023 after the End of Year accounts were completed.

### **Financial position**

Our income and expenditure for the year under review and the closing position at 31st March 2024 is set out in our accounts which follow this report. For the Unrestricted

Funds (non-group activities), income exceeded expenditure for the year by £3,450. Membership subscriptions increased from the previous year by £372 with the subscription being held at 2021/22 figure with a slight increase in Gift Aid of £66. On the expenditure side, there has been £2,176 paid out for hall hire and speakers as regular monthly meetings have returned.

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 £393, based on 2022/23 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, again, seen a substantial increase as new groups have started up.

### **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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

'However, I recommend to the Trustees that future accounts adopt the Receipts/Payments format as contained in the Charities Commission guidelines for organisations with a turnover of less than £250,000.'

### **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 2023 to 31st March 2024 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.

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office / Role</b>	<b>Dates acted (if not for whole period)</b>
Stephen Davis	Chairman	
Jane Redgrove	Vice Chairman	
Annette Sparks	Secretary	
Elizabeth Short	Treasurer	
Frances Cook	Membership Secretary	
Michael Davis	Editor	
Barrie Davies	Committee Member	From 11.01.24.
Amanda Hooper	Events Co-ordinator	
Laurence Reeves	Beacon Administrator	
David Robins	Speakers Co-ordinator	
Sarah Terry	Committee Member	From 11.05.23.

### **Contact details**

Charity's principal address 16 Heather Close, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6FA.

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

## Somerton u3a

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.24.	Total Funds 31.03.23
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Gift Aid	1,038		1,038	972
Grants	150		150	133
Interest on Bank Accounts	79		79	6
Membership subs	7,468		7,468	7,096
Monthly meetings	64		64	181
Platinum Jubilee	0		0	100
TAM	208		208	264
Group Activities		9,888	9,888	6,807
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,007</b>	<b>9,888</b>	<b>18,895</b>	<b>15,559</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Committee expenses	75		75	158
Diaries	58		58	0
Equipment for Groups	0		0	129
Hall Hire	1,455		1,455	1,726
Miscellaneous	20		20	216
Monthly meetings	0		0	156
Open Day	264		264	133
Platinum Jubilee	0		0	136
Printing, stationery & postage	448		448	1,088
Speakers	721		721	475
TAT Beacon	393		393	368
TAT Capitation	1,576		1,576	1,472
TAT Magazine	260		260	1,189
Group Activities		6,425	6,425	7,010
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>11,695</b>	<b>14,256</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE/(INCOME)</b>	<b>(3,737)</b>	<b>(3,463)</b>	<b>(7,200)</b>	<b>(1,303)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	8,634	4,273	12,907	11,604
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>12,371</b>	<b>7,736</b>	<b>20,107</b>	<b>12,907</b>

## Somerton u3a

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.03.24.	Total Funds 31.03.23.
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank and in hand	7,672	13,223	20,895	13,695
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year (Avalon Network Funds)	0	(788)	(788)	(788)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>7,672</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>20,107</u>	<u>12,907</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>7,672</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>20,107</u>	<u>12,907</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			7,672	8,634
Restricted funds			12,435	4,273
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>20,107</u>	<u>12,907</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)

## Somerton u3a

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

#### Movement in Funds

	At 01.04.23. £	Net movement £	At 31.03.24. £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	8,634	3,737	12,371
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Art	110	125	235
Art Appreciation	26	0	26
Aviation	0	661	661
Birdwatching	52	(50)	2
Collectables	35	75	110
Computing	254	(168)	86
Craft	94	23	117
Curling *	21	(21)	0
Family History	110	133	243
Geology	40	(21)	19
History	21	135	156
Local Discovery	125	30	155
Local History	92	1,952	2,044
Music Appreciation	11	(11)	0
Photography	22	65	87
Projects	1,579	40	1,619
Quiz	336	240	576
Raspberry Pi *	164	(164)	0
Readers	10	(10)	0
Recorders	0	112	112
S M Bowls	408	(118)	290
Scottish Dancing	0	0	0
Scrapbooking *	45	(45)	0
Singing for Fun Group	111	(70)	41
Table Tennis	578	51	629
Tap Dancing	0	235	235
Ukulele	30	10	40
Groups Contingency	0	254	254
	<hr/> 4,273	<hr/> 3,463	<hr/> 7,736
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> 12,907	<hr/> 7,200	<hr/> 20,107

£1,419 was transferred in year from Local History funds to Projects.

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

\* Group now defunct



## Somerton u3a

### Social Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	31.03.24.	31.03.23.
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Anniversary Tea Party		1,028.00
Barn Dance	215.00	205.00
Bath Coach Trip		465.00
Bristol Coach Trip		702.00
Coronation Lunch	1,270.00	
Xmas Lunch	2,688.00	2,216.00
SS Great Britain Coach Trip	594.00	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,767.00</b>	<b>4,616.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Anniversary Tea Party		968.90
Barn Dance	165.00	164.00
Bath Coach Trip		555.00
Bristol Coach Trip		565.00
Coronation Lunch	1,378.91	
Xmas Lunch	2,569.56	2,086.75
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4,113.47</b>	<b>4,339.65</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	653.53	276.35
Reserves brought forward	1,506.57	1,230.22
Reserves carried forward	<b>2,160.10</b>	<b>1,506.57</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Cash at bank	<b>2,160.10</b>	<b>1,506.57</b>
General Fund	1,506.57	1,230.22
<b>Events Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		
Anniversary Tea Party		59.10
Barn Dance	50.00	41.00
Bath Coach Trip		(90.00)
Bristol Coach Trip		137.00
Coronation Lunch	(108.91)	
Xmas Lunch	118.44	129.25
SS Great Britain Coach Trip	594.00	
	<b>2,160.10</b>	<b>1,506.57</b>