

GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1016356

Details

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Other names | U3A GLOUCESTER |
| Status | Registered |
| Legal form | Other |
| Registered | 1993-01-25 |
| Register | View on the Charity Commission register |

Contact

| | |
|---------|--|
| Address | 5 Newark Court Ladywell Close Gloucester GL2 5XF |
| Phone | 07957867536 |
| Email | businesssec@u3agloucester.co.uk |
| Website | www.u3asites.org.uk/gloucester |

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE EDUCATION OF OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED FROM FULL TIME WORK BY ALL MEANS, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: Life Long Learning for those no longer in full time employment

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GLOUCESTER
- Gloucestershire

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-05-31 | £54,158 | £54,480 | - | - |
| 2024-05-31 | £42,052 | £42,725 | - | - |
| 2023-05-31 | £32,753 | £33,493 | - | - |
| 2022-05-31 | £21,475 | £22,079 | - | - |
| 2021-05-31 | £7,142 | £7,673 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|-----------------------------|------|------------|
| Barbara Morgan | | 2019-08-19 |
| Gerald Robins | | 2019-08-19 |
| Ian Pickup | | 2026-04-22 |
| Jeremy John Anthony Furtado | | 2024-07-22 |

GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1016356

Accounts

u3a Gloucester AGM 2025

Report from the Chair

Over the last year we have gained over a hundred new members, taking our current membership to over 600. No doubt this is due in part to the new flyer we produced and the enthusiasm with which members distributed them for us. The more members we have, the easier it is for us to maintain the lowest u3a membership fee in our area. As we have e-mail addresses for 96% of our members, we are also able to distribute information in a very cost effective way. I would like to remind everyone to tell Barbara, if their e-mail address changes, so they can be kept up-to-date. Despite the high level of e-mail usage we know that members still like to have a printed newsletter and after some discussion we have decided not to reduce the number we produce.

Over recent months I have been analysing the attendance at our monthly meetings. Unsurprisingly the subject and the weather seem on the basis of this preliminary data to be the deciding factors on the attendance. Our lowest attendance of 55 was for a very enjoyable talk on George Gershwin in September, when it poured with rain. The Christmas concert, on a mild December day, attracted 125 including the choir. However, the largest attendance of 136 on a dry, bright day in March was for a chance to hear about the A417 Missing Link road scheme. Of course that also had to be the day when a power cut struck and it took some time to get the presentation equipment back online. At least we will know what needs to be done, should the same thing happen again. As ever our thanks are due to Mary for organizing our monthly meetings and to Thelma and her team for providing the refreshments and manning the entrance.

We continue to offer a wide range of interest groups – 37 in all. I would like to thank all those who make this possible by agreeing to act as group leaders. The rising cost of hiring rooms has proved to be a problem for some groups. While the committee can assist with the startup costs for a new group and will help with exceptional expenses thereafter, on the whole we need groups to be self-sustaining. Fortunately some local businesses have proved happy to host small groups, in the expectation that they will buy refreshments. We have recently gained three new groups for Kayaking, Tai Chi and Family History. The latter two came about after members expressed an interest in these areas at the August Subs and Clubs meeting and I'd like to thank Bridget for her hard work in finding suitable accommodation and willing group leaders. After a brief hiatus when Marian Carroll stepped down as group leader, the Horticultural Group has also resumed its programme of talks and outings, after I took over ably assisted by the indefatigable Mary and Carol Tarbox, who books our speakers. Unfortunately Travel, another of our long-established groups, is now in a similar situation as Carol Wheeler is unable to continue as leader. I would urge those of you who appreciate the value of this group to consider stepping forward. I can confirm from personal experience that you will receive plenty of support and it turns out to be not as daunting as it appears the minute after you find yourself offering to do it. I would also like to thank John Thorn,

who has stepped down as leader of the recorder group due to ill health.

Trips and social events are a valued part of our offering to members. In the past year these have included coach trips to Wightwick Manor, Waddesdon Manor, Rodmarton House, Cotswold Farm Gardens and Ashwood Nurseries, as well as a number of concerts and a longer Travel Group visit to Torquay. In addition the activities of the Social Group have included visits to Javelin Park, Laithwaites Winery, Beckford Silk Mill, the Bugatti Museum. My thanks to all those involved in the running of these trips.

We remain members of the Cotswold Link, their regular meetings being attended by our representative Jeremy Furtado. This is a valuable group, which provides access to our members to groups run by other u3as within the area and peer support groups for various committee roles. This year's special interest day, held in Cheltenham in June, was entitled 'The Influence Of Music On Our Society And Culture'. Cotswold Link are looking for volunteers to join their committee, as several serving members will soon be stepping down. None of our current committee feel able to commit to this, but I'm sure there are some among you with relevant experience who might consider this worthwhile role.

As your Chair this is my opportunity to thank on my own and your behalf all those who carry out essential roles enabling Gloucester u3a to function. Sarah Maidlow our Newsletter Editor chases us for contributions, checks our copy and puts the whole newsletter together. John Harding our Webmaster manages our website, which plays an increasingly important role in advertising what we are doing to the world, encouraging new members to join and making resources accessible to existing members. Keiron Helmy takes charge of Beacon, an essential tool for the administration of u3a groups and membership and Penelope Brown has kindly assisted Gerald by checking our accounts for the third time. I must also thank the members of the Committee: Gillian, Business Secretary; Gerald, Treasurer; Babs, Membership Secretary; Bridget, Groups Co-ordinator; Mary, Monthly Meetings Organizer and Jeremy, Cotswold Link Liaison. Between them they have made my role as Chair over the last year straightforward and enjoyable. For both Gillian and Gerald the coming year will be their last on the committee and I will be moving away, so we will be looking for a new Chair, Business Secretary and Treasurer in 2026. I would urge you all to consider, whether you could step forward to help Gloucester u3a continue on its upward trajectory.

Jan

Gloucester u3a

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

Printed 31st May 2025 21:50

Income & Expenditure, 1st June - 31st May

| Start year | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Category | In | Out | In | Out |
| -Account Transfers | £4,468.00 | £4,468.00 | £11,600.00 | £11,600.00 |
| BF balance transfer | | | £425.00 | £425.00 |
| Donations | £0.25 | | | |
| Membership | £6,820.84 | £0.20 | £6,452.50 | £15.86 |
| PayPal commission | | £60.89 | | £88.52 |
| PC1 Room Hire | | £340.80 | £194.72 | £288.32 |
| PC2 3AT & Cotswold Link | | £4,823.09 | | £4,543.24 |
| PC3 Postage | | £13.60 | | £30.00 |
| PC4 Printing Copying Stat | | £957.55 | | £1,005.75 |
| PC5 Gifts | | | | £17.99 |
| PC6 Central Other Payment | | £109.13 | £129.33 | £288.60 |
| PG1 Room Hire | | £16,792.17 | £79.20 | £16,989.18 |
| PG2 Groups Other Costs | £10,848.00 | £31,067.19 | | £19,307.58 |
| PG3 Cotswold Link | | £14.00 | | |
| RC2 Newsletter By Post | £28.00 | | £24.00 | |
| RC3 Central Other Receipt | £376.27 | | £88.22 | |
| RG1 Groups Activity Chg | £36,084.88 | £301.52 | £35,013.30 | £229.34 |
| RG2 Groups Other Receipt | | | £150.00 | |
| Sub-totals | £58,626.24 | £58,948.14 | £54,156.27 | £54,829.38 |
| Brought forward | £22,386.43 | | £23,059.54 | |
| Total | | £22,064.53 | | £22,386.43 |

Balance Sheet

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current | £9,023.52 | £9,065.15 |
| FairFX | £551.63 | £340.08 |
| PayPal | £1,989.16 | £2,857.25 |
| Savings NW | £10,500.22 | £10,123.95 |
| Social NW | | |
| Total | £22,064.53 | £22,386.43 |

Membership Analysis, at 31st May 2025

| | Members |
|-----------------|------------|
| Associate | 12 |
| Associate Joint | 4 |
| Individual | 438 |
| Joint | 149 |
| Totals | 603 |

Independent examiner's report to the Committee and Members of Gloucester U3A

I report to the Committee and Members on my examination of the accounts of Gloucester U3A (the Charity) for the year ended 31 May 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The Committee of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. This examination is not an audit.

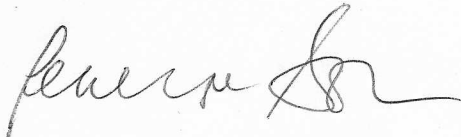
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across 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.

Signed:



Name: Penelope M D Brown FCA

Address: 94 Bloomfield Road, Gloucester GL1 5BP

Date:

6 October 2025

GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1016356

Accounts

**Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of Gloucester u3a
held at 2. pm on Monday, 22nd July, 2024
at Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate Street, Gloucester. GL1 2DR**

Present: 66 members present therefore meeting was quorate.

Chairman's welcome: Denis Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Kath Delaney, Monica Evans, Dorothy Farley, Alan Grove, Leon Laporte, Anna Mitchell, Kathleen Perchtold, Marie Tomlin.
2. **Minutes of 35th AGM** held on Monday, 24th July, 2023, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Approval of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Sue Bartlett and seconded by Robert Purdey. . All present were in agreement. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Chairman's Report and Annual Summary of the year.**

Report from the Chair for year June 2023 to May 2024

In the last year there were no major events as in the previous year. Membership has remained in the mid five hundreds, the finances are comfortable and, although the number of Groups continues to fluctuate, it is generally steady compared with other years. The overall comment on the year is: steady as she goes.

At the beginning of the year there were Zoom sessions with the Third Age Trust (TAT) on Keeping It Legal, which resulted in almost all our policy documents needing to be updated. Over the course of the year your committee updated the following documents: Copyright and Licences, Equality Diverison and Inclusion, GDPR (Data Protection), GDPR (Privacy), Insurance (FAQs) and Member Code of Conduct. These documents are now available on our u3a Gloucester website. To advertise these changes, a session was held at a Group Leaders Meeting, where I attempted to engage and enthral. Updating policy documents is an ongoing task, but not normally all at once.

We remain members of the Cotswold Link where neighbouring u3as meet twice yearly to share information for mutual benefit. In addition there is an annual Interest Day, which this year was entitled Brave New World and dealt with different aspects of technology. Our Cotswold Link member, Clive, has attended all these events (I missed the Interest Day owing to an injury). Clive has been an excellent representative of u3a Gloucester at the Cotswold Link. As you know, Clive has been Group Leader of a number of activities, including the current Singing Together. He also organises visits for all members, such as several visits to the Incinerator at Javelin Park; he is also a past Vice Chair. Clive has now decided to ease his workload and stand down as our Cotswold Link. Many heartfelt thanks, Clive, for all your hard work for Gloucester u3a.

It is worth mentioning two items raised at the Cotswold Link of particular relevance to us. It was agreed by the TAT with the Charity Commission about 6 years ago that Social Groups were permitted in the u3a, and consequently in our Constitution to '...activities conducive to learning' the words 'and personal development' were added. The second item involves data protection which prevents us keeping information unless we have a legitimate interest (within the Charitable Purpose), but the Equalities Act requires the monitoring of demographic information. TAT are looking into this apparent conflict, and we have left this out of our policy document, pending clarification.

Of course it is the Groups and Group activities that are central to our u3a, and not a single Group would exist without a Group Leader. As is well known, I have never been a Group Leader, but I am in awe of the amount of enthusiasm and energy shown, and some even lead more than one Group. I'm sure we all extend our sincere thanks to all Group Leaders.

Happily, most of our Groups are flourishing and well attended, but sometimes a Group finishes, and sometimes it is for lack of a leader. Well, we are a self-help organization and volunteers are essential to our continued existence.

There are some important members referred to in the following paragraphs, not on committee but listed under Other Responsibilities in the Newsletter, to whom I offer sincere thanks for their contributions.

Sarah is our Newsletter Editor who, four times a year, chases us for contributions, checks our offerings, then has been known to work well into the night to meet printing and distribution deadlines. Sarah also leads two Groups.

Thelma organises her Contact Team to provide light refreshments at our major events to create a welcoming and social environment. She also contacts members who have had accidents, or worse, and keeps me informed.

Our new Webmaster, John, has done a superb job in converting our Website using the new Siteworks. This task has taken John many hours of work, and we now have a much more flexible system. However, much of the site is a direct transfer from the original, but it can now be improved. John awaits suggestions for the site – but not all at once. Thanks also to Keith, our former Webmaster who not only maintained the website under the former Sitebuilder system, but also remained as backup for John during the changes.

An important role in keeping us in line with data protection policy has been carried out by Keiron as Beacon Administrator. This system also allows easy communication between committee and Group Leaders to members.

Very many thanks to all of the above for their efforts and commitment for the benefit of all our members.

My extra special thanks go to the Executive Committee. Babs, Gerald and Triss have been with me for the duration of my tenure. They have held u3a Gloucester, and me, together. Babs has been Membership Secretary and Vice Chair as well as Leader of two Groups. Gerald, our Treasurer keeps us financially sound, and keeps close records of each Groups' expenditure. Our Groups Coordinator, Triss, has come to the end of her tenure on committee and we will need a replacement. Triss is also Leader of the Social Group, which she initiated. She will be very much missed on committee. Mary will continue as our Monthly Meetings Organiser, but has decided to retire from her role as a Joint Group Leader. She too has completed her tenure on committee as Minutes Secretary; she has also hosted our monthly committee meetings, which has been much appreciated by the committee. We had been without a Business Secretary for a while until Gillian joined us and reminded me, to my relief, of what a Business Secretary does. A very big thank you to all our committee members.

It has been a great honour for me to be your Chair for the last three years. That we still exist as a u3a in a happy, prosperous and largely dynamic state is a great relief to me. It came as a shock for me to realise that I will be 90 towards the end of next year. That, and the fact that I don't even live in Gloucester, I hope, sets an example for members to consider volunteering to fill u3a roles at almost any age, especially if you have relevant or transferable skills. Alternatively, you might be able to understudy, and act as backup.

Denis Riley

5. Treasurer's Report: Balance sheets were distributed prior to the meeting – see attached.

Treasurer reported that the accounts are fairly healthy. Current bank balance is £22,386. However there is approximately £3,000 owing for outstanding invoices re hire of premises.

£900 received from Gift Aid, Group Activities expenditure £36,217.56 Group
Activities Income £35,013.30

Expenditure on Capitation, Third Age Matters (TAM) and quarterly newsletters = £6,000

The Charity Commission return has been submitted.

In answer to query re increase in cost against PC6 from £22.97 in 2022/23 to £159.27 nett in 2023/24 Treasurer confirmed that this was the cost of Group Leaders meeting which did not take place in 2022/23.

The £6 expenditure against membership fees is due to a refund

Treasurer announced that he has opened a Savings Account paying 4% interest.

The Chair thanked Gerald for compiling the accounts .

Treasurer suggested that the membership fee for the coming year remains at £10.

6. To Approve the Examiner of Accounts for 2023 - 2024.

The Treasurer requested approval for the accounts to be examined by Penelope Brown, Chartered Accountant and member of Gloucester u3a.

This was proposed by Jeremy Furtado and seconded by Marian Carroll. All members in Favour.

7. To Approve the Examiner of Accounts for 2024 - 2025

The Treasurer requested approval for the accounts to be examined by Penelope Brown, Chartered Accountant and member of Gloucester u3a.

This was proposed by Ann Williams and seconded by Jan Broadway. All members in Favour.

8. Receive and approve the Examined Accounts of Gloucester & District u3a for the period 1st June, 2023 to 31st May, 2024.

This was proposed by Robert Purdie and seconded by Elvin Young. All members were in favour.

9. Election of Officers and Committee:

Jan Broadway was appointed as Chair for the coming year. Proposed by Sue Constance, seconded by Nigel Purdie.

Gerald Robins will continue as Treasurer. Proposed by Jane Bembridge and seconded by Bob Sharples.

Barbara Morgan will continue as Membership Secretary and also Vice Chair. Proposed by Colin Phillips and seconded by Joan Phillips.

Gillian Talbot will continue as Business Secretary. Proposed by Carole Mockford and seconded by Ann Williams.

Committee Members:-

Mary Kitchen will continue as Monthly Meetings Organiser

Jeremy Furtado will be Cotswold Link Representative. Proposed by Chris Davies, seconded by Sonia Tallen

Bridget Berrecloth was proposed by Marian Carroll and seconded by David Carroll.

All members were in favour of the elections of these officers.

Chair thanked the Committee for all their support and hard work and repeated the need for more volunteers to join the Committee especially to fill the outstanding vacancy for Groups Co-ordinator.

At this point, Denis Riley left the stage and Jan Broadway took up the role.

10. A.O.B.

A. Barbara Morgan presented Denis Riley and Triss Pollington with farewell gifts to thank them for all their hard work for Gloucester u3a.

B. Jan Broadway made a short speech outlining her background. She came to Gloucester in 1986, initially living in Lonlevens and moving to Hucclecote in 1989.

She has a degree in History and was trained at the expense of the MoD as a software engineer.

In the 1990s she returned to Birmingham to do a PHD and subsequently alternated between academic research and software jobs. Following Covid and the death of her partner in 2021, she retired to spend more time on her allotment. She joined u3a in 2023, having heard about the Gloucester group from a fellow volunteer for the Carers' Hub. Her main interests are Local History and Horticulture.

C. Jeremy Furtado gave a short report on the benefits of our membership of Cotswold Link. This is a mutual partnership of u3a's in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Gloucester has

been going for 36 years and Cheltenham is the second largest in the country. Churchdown, a fairly new u3a has been able to benefit from the knowledge of such u3as. There are also Peer Groups for Chairs, Treasurers, etc and anyone who came forward to fill the Groups Co-ordinators vacancy could benefit from this support. There is one meeting every 6 months and the next meeting is on 28th September in Worcester.

This year the Special Interest Day was held at The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham on 4th June when the theme was the different aspects of computer technology in “Our brave new world”.

D. The closing date for entries in the next edition of the Newsletter is Friday, 26th July. This edition will include details of the AGM and will be available at the Subs and Clubs meeting.

E. Barbara Morgan pointed out that renewal of membership can be made on line via Paypal, by BACS payments. Payments by cash or cheque can be made at Subs and Clubs which will be held at the Baptist Church at 2pm on Monday, 19th August. BM will circulate details to enable members with this task.

The AGM concluded at 2.42pm

The 37th Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, 28th July, 2025. Date and venue to be confirmed nearer the date.

Gloucester U3A

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

Printed 2nd June 2024 15:31

Income & Expenditure, 1st June - 31st May

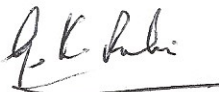
| Start year | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Category | In | Out | In | Out |
| -Account Transfers | £11,600.00 | £11,600.00 | £3,700.00 | £3,700.00 |
| BF balance transfer | £425.00 | £425.00 | | |
| Donations | | | £18.50 | |
| Membership | £6,452.50 | £15.86 | £5,356.00 | |
| PayPal commission | | £88.52 | | £95.06 |
| PC1 Room Hire | £194.72 | £288.32 | | £290.00 |
| PC2 3AT & Cotswold Link | | £4,543.24 | | £5,524.58 |
| PC3 Postage | | £30.00 | | £73.78 |
| PC4 Printing Copying Stat | | £1,005.75 | | £897.43 |
| PC5 Gifts | | £17.99 | | £86.98 |
| PC6 Central Other Payment | £129.33 | £288.60 | | £22.97 |
| PG1 Room Hire | | £16,909.98 | | £14,928.80 |
| PG2 Groups Other Costs | | £19,307.58 | | £11,542.30 |
| RC2 Newsletter By Post | £24.00 | | | |
| RC3 Central Other Receipt | £88.22 | | £893.28 | |
| RG1 Groups Activity Chg | £35,013.30 | £229.34 | £26,485.88 | £32.00 |
| RG2 Groups Other Receipt | £150.00 | | | |
| Sub-totals | £54,077.07 | £54,750.18 | £36,453.66 | £37,193.90 |
| Brought forward | £23,059.54 | | £23,799.78 | |
| Total | | £22,386.43 | | £23,059.54 |

Balance Sheet

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current | £9,065.15 | £22,258.62 |
| FairFX | £340.08 | £626.29 |
| PayPal | £2,857.25 | £174.63 |
| Savings NW | £10,123.95 | |
| Social NW | | |
| Total | £22,386.43 | £23,059.54 |

I certify that the above Statement of Accounts is a true summary of the accounts of Gloucester and District U3A for the year ending the 31st May 2024.

Signed:



Gerald Robins, Treasurer Gloucester and District U3A

Date: 1st July 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Committee and Members of Gloucester U3A

I report to the Committee and Members on my examination of the accounts of Gloucester U3A (the Charity) for the year ended 31 May 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The Committee of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. This examination is not an audit.

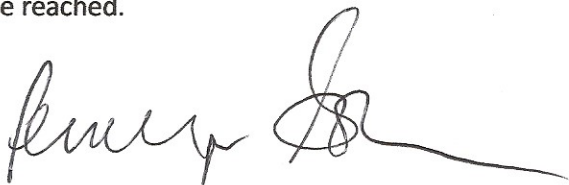
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across 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.

Signed:



Name: Penelope M D Brown FCA

Address: 94 Bloomfield Road, Gloucester GL1 5BP

Date:

21 August 2024

GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1016356

Accounts

Gloucester and District u3a Annual General Meeting

Report from the Chair

Welcome to the 35th AGM of the Gloucester u3a. I am happy to report that our groups are active and generally flourishing, our finances are comfortable and our numbers are steady, in fact no different from last year. I will begin with the events that are open to all, or just happen as a part of keeping us running.

In October the Robot Challenge was held. This was a whole day event of competition between Electronic Groups in u3as of the south-west. The competition involved a number of courses and tasks that the robots had to carry out (or not, or with an occasional poke). The event was organised by our Electronics Group headed by Keith Bostock together with valued assistance from the Churchdown u3a Group. Susan Parker, the south-west Trustee, was present throughout, and at the end awarded the top prize to none other than our very own Robby, made by Keith's Group, of course. Susan was enthusiastic about another event in perhaps two years' time, and recommended greater publicity to enable a fun time for more spectators.

The annual Subs and Clubs was held in August last year, and in February we had the New Members meeting. Both were very busy events and were greatly helped by Thelma Miller and her team of caterers. Much of the organising was done by our Membership Sec Barbara Morgan and Groups Coordinator Triss Pollington, and it was good to have many of the Group Leaders at both events. To maintain interest at the New Members event, speakers, i.e. Group Leaders, were limited to one minute maximum. This ensured an excellent pace, which was applied with great enthusiasm to all, including the Chair.

Our Monthly Meetings brilliantly organised by Mary Kitchen continue to be well attended. At these events the speakers always present something new and intriguing. However, I particularly enjoyed the musical sessions, both Noel Coward, and our very own Choir Group who presented us with a varied and challenging programme - I'm still smiling (a poem from one of the Choir).

The Cotswold Link provides us with an opportunity to liaise with other u3as in the region. The Spring Meeting and AGM was attended by ex-Vice Chair Clive Harper, and myself.

At the Third Age Trust Annual General Meeting last October, the proposal of linking capitation (the amount from your annual subscription that goes to HQ) to inflation was defeated. At a follow-up meeting in Blackfriars, London, I attended a meeting where the financing of HQ administrative costs was discussed further.

Triss Pollington, our Groups Coordinator continues to organise the Cathedral Cuppa event, where we meet outside the Cathedral coffee shop for an al fresco chat – most enjoyable. Only one so far has taken place this year, but more are promised.

Of course, the members and their groups are the essence of all u3as. It is good to see us recovering from lockdown, with the number of groups increasing from 31 to 38. The new groups are: Art, Book Club, Concert Group, Italian for Beginners, RummiKub, Social Cycling, and three started by Clive Harper, Humour, Singing Together, and What the Papers say. Many thanks to all the new Group Leaders who have given up their time to organise the start-ups. Unfortunately, three groups have closed over the same period. Understanding Art is no longer running and Walking Football had to close owing to a reduction in regular participants. It's no joke that Clive's Humour Group also finished

for lack of support. It is worth mentioning here that as a full member of Gloucester u3a, you can join as an associate member to take part in one group in another u3a.

As well as regular meetings. A number of groups have organised study trips which were enjoyed by many members. The Travel Group booked a 5 day tour to Llandudno in April which included visits to many fabulous gardens and grand Stately homes. Recently, there was a day trip to Bishop's Palace in Wells which I understand had an eventful journey home as they had to wait for a replacement coach. Horticulture Group had a trip to Hampton Court Castle which is in Hereford, but the coach might have been heading to Hampton Court Palace in Richmond on Thames if their mistake had not been pointed out beforehand. There was also the possibility that some of the members might not have been on the coach home as they were stuck in the maze! The Group also went to Coughton Court in Alcester - the guide said it is easy to remember that it is pronounced Coaton as it is so cold there that you always need to keep your coat on! The house has been in the same family for more that 600 years and I have been told that the herbaceous borders were outstanding.

Local History Group had guided tours of The Folk in Gloucester, Tewkesbury Abbey and Woodchester Mansion which gave a far greater insight into the fascinating history of these places. The Steam Railways Group visited the Didcot Railway Centre and had a trip on the West Somerset Railway. Theatre Group had two trips to the theatre in Malvern and the recently formed Concert Group have already been to concerts in Birmingham and Cardiff.

My very great thanks to all the Group Leaders and their helpers for the enthusiasm and hard work that has gone into organising and running their groups. More detailed reports are published in the Newsletter, and there are, of course, groups that are content quietly to beaver away without any publicity; let's hear more from you.

A very warm welcome to our 87 new members over the year. As mentioned earlier, the total number of members has not altered since last year, which just shows as many left (some sadly deceased) as joined. My thanks to all involved in recruiting.

A very big thank you to all those not on the Executive Committee, but who have undertaken essential responsibilities: Keiron Helmy, Beacon administrator; Sarah Maidlow, Newsletter Editor; Thelma Miller, Welfare and catering team; Keith Bostock, Webmaster. This has been Keith's last year as Webmaster and I offer my sincere thanks and greatest admiration to his skill with digital things, and his patience with the unskilled, like me. Keith is replaced by John Harding (bass guitar, Folk Band) who has already demonstrated his skill as Webmaster. Keith will still be available for assistance if needed.

My thanks to all who have served on the Executive Committee over the last year. Two very welcome members joined us early in 2023: Linda Morris and Gillian Talbot. Gillian came to Gloucester from Ross-on-Wye where she had had experience of being Business Secretary, a role she has now undertaken with us.

Many thanks also to Barbara Morgan (Vice Chair and Membership), Gerald Robins (Treasurer), Triss Pollington (Groups Coordinator), and Mary Kitchen (Monthly Meetings and Minutes Sec). They have worked hard on your behalf, and given me support and good advice throughout the year.

Future effort, it is suggested, should be directed at recruiting more members, although, as yet, we have no one on the committee who has a special interest in this. I am reminded that our membership once reached eight hundred. I know that among our members there are some who have ideas on recruitment - at least one on committee would be a great asset.

And that brings me to my final point, the minimum and maximum number on the Executive Committee is 5 and 12. At the time of writing we have 7 nominees – room for another 5. According to the Constitution the Officers are the Chair, not more than two Vice Chairs, Treasurer and Secretary, the rest are non-Officers. As a non-Officer you need not have any role other than to join in discussions and offer opinions. However, all Executive Committee members are Trustees. Having more non-Officers on committee is a good investment in the future, as the Officers have a limited period of service, and in just one year's time two replacements will be necessary. We look forward to the future with optimism and expectation. May we continue to learn in an atmosphere of happy companionship.

Denis Riley
Chair

Gloucester U3A

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

Printed 1st June 2023 19:05

Income & Expenditure, 1st June - 31st May

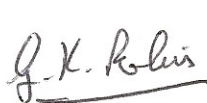
| Start year | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Category | In | Out | In | Out |
| -Account Transfers | £3,700.00 | £3,700.00 | £9,076.67 | £9,076.67 |
| Donations | £18.50 | | £10.00 | |
| Membership | £5,356.00 | | £5,416.25 | |
| PayPal commission | | £95.06 | | £99.81 |
| PC1 Room Hire | | £290.00 | | £83.52 |
| PC2 3AT & Cotswold Link | | £5,524.58 | | £3,866.50 |
| PC3 Postage | | £73.78 | | £53.91 |
| PC4 Printing Copying Stat | | £897.43 | | £1,141.99 |
| PC5 Gifts | | £86.98 | £4.00 | £88.30 |
| PC6 Central Other Payment | | £22.97 | | £972.68 |
| PG1 Room Hire | | £14,928.80 | | £8,949.36 |
| PG2 Groups Other Costs | | £11,542.30 | | £6,822.65 |
| RC3 Central Other Receipt | £893.28 | | £1,158.72 | |
| RG1 Groups Activity Chg | £26,485.88 | £32.00 | £15,138.23 | |
| Sub-totals | £36,453.66 | £37,193.90 | £30,803.87 | £31,155.39 |
| Brought forward | £23,799.78 | | £24,151.30 | |
| Total | | £23,059.54 | | £23,799.78 |

Balance Sheet

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current | £22,258.62 | £22,602.93 |
| FairFX | £626.29 | £932.16 |
| PayPal | £174.63 | £264.69 |
| Social NW | | |
| Total | £23,059.54 | £23,799.78 |

I certify that the above Statement of Accounts is a true summary of the accounts of Gloucester and District U3A for the year ending the 31st May 2023.

Signed:



 24/7/2023

Gerald Robins, Treasurer Gloucester and District U3A

Date: 1st July 2023

Independent examiner's report to the Committee and Members of Gloucester U3A

I report to the Committee and Members on my examination of the accounts of Gloucester U3A (the Charity) for the year ended 31 May 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The Committee of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. This examination is not an audit.

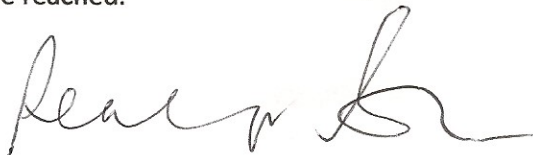
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across 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.

Signed:



Name: Penelope M D Brown FCA

Address: 94 Bloomfield Road, Gloucester GL1 5BP

Date:

24 July 2023