

Woking Area u3a

Annual Report for the year ending 31st August 2025

Constitutional and administrative information

Woking Area u3a was established via a constitution in September 1993 and is registered with The Charity Commission (No. 1031717). The correspondent is the Secretary, Peter Grieve, whose address is 4 Church Close, Horsell, Woking, Surrey GU21 4QZ.

The trustees are the members of the committee, they are elected or re-elected annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting or appointed or co-opted by the committee in the interim. They are: Barbara Nicholson (Chair), Sue Holmes (Treasurer), Peter Grieve (Secretary), Anne Turvey (Venues Co-ordinator), Derek Hancock (Membership Secretary), Christine Maunders (Beacon administrator), Alan Chalmers (Special Projects), Philip Heaton (Groups Co-ordinator) and Christine Cunliffe (Events organiser).

The bankers are Barclays Bank plc, Woking and the independent examiner is Mr Phillip Smitham, 107 Old Woking Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6HY.

Objectives and organisation

Woking Area u3a is a self-help organisation for people who are no longer in full-time employment. Its primary objective is providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities for its members by its members. The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

The committee usually meets monthly to review operational and financial matters. Meetings with Group Leaders and new members were held during the year while monthly meetings, open to all members, were maintained at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park.

Overview

Membership on August 31 was 1,449 and rising, compared to 1,332 the previous August 31. At its peak there were over 1,600 members. More renewals and new members were expected as the academic year got into full swing.

We have continued to maintain most of our groups, with thanks to all the Group Leaders who give their time to run them. A few have closed or merged but a number of new ones have formed. We will continue to promote the development of new groups.

Over the year, there has been a determined effort to get more members involved in the running of the organisation and to create a viable succession plan for the committee and groups.

This is a constant battle, as it is in most charities, but the idea of group leaders having deputies is hopefully taking root and replacements for retiring committee members have been found, subject to election at the AGM. These were needed for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Venues Coordinator and Special Projects. The drive to have deputies at committee and GL level must go on and we will continue to encourage members to volunteer.

Many of our volunteers tell us how much they have enjoyed the experience, so it benefits them as well as the organisation.

Activities other than groups have blossomed and proved extremely popular. Quizzes, curry suppers and outings have been fully booked while plans for our first u3a holiday for some years are well under way. Committee members have given their time to arrange these but it would help if others could volunteer to help.

Also popular was the renewals day, held for the first time early in August. Around 100 members took advantage to renew, join or seek advice on joining groups.

Efforts have also been made to push the Woking Area u3a name into the public domain. A volunteer fair, run by Woking Council, was attended; a public Facebook page created and plans are afoot to resurrect the role of publicity officer. Efforts are continuing to optimise our online presence on Google searches, for example.

We have updated various policies, particularly on health and safety, and are in the process of revamping role descriptions which will be put on our website. The committee also sought to revamp our constitution, as times have changed since our last amendments in 2016. It was hoped to bring this for approval to the AGM but, as of August 31, this is looking unlikely. The committee has agreed the rewrite as has the Third Age Trust. However the Charity Commission has yet to give the go-ahead on three small parts which it has to approve.

We have as always continued to monitor our finances closely. There is more detail in the financial report but it is good to report that despite rising costs eating into our reserves this year, it was decided to keep the subscription charge and most group fees the same as in 2024-25.

The success of our u3a in 2024/25 is down to all the volunteers we do have. As well as the committee and Group Leaders, there are others who work in the background. These include our u3aTimes Editor, Nicole Scully, Speaker Secretary Martin Clark, Webmaster Kevin Wallace, Chris Bunyan and the IT team, Web Administrator and tea rota coordinator Tricia Breen, the AV guys, photographer Bob Holmes and the team who put together the Guide for Members. We owe them all a vote of thanks.

Looking ahead

Following the AGM there will be significant changes to our committee including both a new Chairman and Secretary. New people will of course bring new insight on how

best to manage our u3a but our priorities will remain the same of providing a vibrant u3a with enough volunteers to maintain our organisation in a changing world.

Financial

The attached accounts set out the financial position of Woking Area u3a as at 31st August 2025. The accounts show a deficit of £9,391 compared to a surplus of £6,223 for the previous year which is mainly as a result of reducing most meeting fees to £1 per session.

Income received from meetings was £42,955, a reduction of £16,062 from the previous year. Also, even though our membership has increased this year, so have our costs; primarily, venue hire, printing and postage and payments made to the Third Age Trust.

The accumulated funds for Woking Area u3a as at 31st August 2025 were £60,973 compared with £70,364 for the previous year.

The accumulated surplus will finance the continued reduction in the membership fee to £10 and the reduction in most meeting fees to £1.



Peter Grieve, Secretary (on behalf of the committee)

26th September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Woking Area U3A, Charity number 1031717 ('the charity'), set out on pages 4 to 6, for the year ended 31 August 2025.

As the charity's trustees, you 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.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

P Smitham
Chartered Accountant
107 Old Woking Road
West Byfleet
Surrey
KT14 6HY



26th September 2025

Woking Area U3A

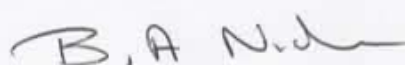
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st August 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Incoming Resources			
Member subscriptions		16,050	13,570
Gift Aid and donations	2	2,694	2,420
Group meetings contributions	3	41,955	58,017
Outings contributions	4	47,561	31,968
PPS		-	3
Commission		719	-
Interest		2,245	992
Other		60	-
Total incoming resources		111,284	106,970
Resources Expended	5		
Third Age Trust and Membership system			
Capitation fees and Beacon		5,188	7,422
PayPal and SumUp fees		384	296
		5,572	7,718
Meeting Costs			
Venue hire charges		48,353	41,527
Monthly meetings expenses		1,364	1,688
GL Expenses		357	1,847
Speakers		802	590
		50,876	45,652
Communications with members			
Third Age Matters	6	6,451	7,484
Printing		3,503	2,391
Postage, Phone & Website		6,125	3,896
		16,079	13,771
Cost of Outings	4	46,915	30,146
Equipment		198	198
CLA		-	-
Retirement presents		59	30
Group Leader and Zoom Costs		170	218
30th Anniversary Expenses		-	187
30th Anniversary Meals		-	2,045
Banners and Badges		101	-
Sundry expenses		269	234
Examiner's Honorarium		100	100
Depreciation		336	448
		48,148	33,606
Total resources expended		120,675	100,747
Net incoming resources	9	(9,391)	6,223
Funds at start of year		70,364	64,141
Funds at end of year		60,973	70,364

Woking Area U3A
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed Assets	7				
Equipment			1,008		1,344
Current Assets					
Cash	10	78,783		83,010	
Prepayments	11	<u>4,815</u>		<u>2,920</u>	
			83,598		85,930
Less: Liabilities, amounts falling due within one year	12		<u>23,633</u>		<u>16,910</u>
			59,965		69,020
Net Current Assets					
Total Assets less Liabilities			<u>60,973</u>		<u>70,364</u>
Represented by					
Funds					
General Fund	8		60,973		70,364
Total Funds			<u>60,973</u>		<u>70,364</u>

Barbara Nicholson, Chairman



8 26/9/25

Susan Galliflent-Holmes, Treasurer



26/9/25

For and on behalf of the Committee

Woking Area U3A

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2025

1 Accounting Policies

General

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals accounting basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Practice on Accounting for Charities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on equipment in use at 25% per annum on the reducing balance basis.

2 Gift Aid

Gift Aid increased due to increase in membership.

3 Group Meeting Contributions

Group meeting contributions decreased due to reduction of fee to £1 per meeting.

4 Outings

Outings include visits to places of historical and cultural interest, theatres and visits in connection with specific group interests. The costs are funded by the members participating in the outings.

5 Expenditure

Substantially the whole of the expenditure is direct charitable expenditure.

6 Communication with Members

The payment for Third Age Matters relates to the year 2024/25.

7 Fixed Assets

Miscellaneous computer, audio-visual and groups' equipment and presentation aids.

		2025 £	2024 £
Cost	At beginning of year	17,825	17,825
	Additions	-	-
	At end of year	<u>17,825</u>	<u>17,825</u>
Depreciation	At beginning of year	16,481	16,033
	Charge for year	336	448
	At end of year	<u>16,817</u>	<u>16,481</u>
Net book value		<u>1,008</u>	<u>1,344</u>

8 Funds

The funds are mainly unrestricted.

9 Net Incoming Resources

The net increase/(decrease) in funds during the year is made up as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Main fund	(10,037)	4,879
Outings	646	1,344
Total	<u>(9,391)</u>	<u>6,223</u>

10 Cash

Cash is made up as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Community Account	6,831	8,614
Business Saver Account	37,326	19,038
Groups Account	1,331	1,665
Renewals Account (formerly Outings account)	5,206	5,150
MOTO Account	4,522	890
Metro Bank	7	1
Skipton BS Bond	20,364	19,348
Metro Bank Bond	-	20,000
PayPal	3,196	8,304
Petty Cash	-	-
Sum Up	-	-
Total	<u>78,783</u>	<u>83,010</u>

11 Prepayments

	2025 £	2024
Payments for 2025/26 outings and theatre	4,815	2,920

12 Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
2025/26 subscriptions received in advance	14,610	12,534
Advance payments for outings	8,848	4,276
Advance payment for meetings	75	-
Examiner's honorarium	100	100
Total	<u>23,633</u>	<u>16,910</u>