

Porthcawl u3a

England & Wales · Charity number 1052905

Details

Other names	PORTHCAWL UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, PORTHCAWL U3A
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1996-02-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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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.

Activities: Porthcawl U3A is a learning co-operative of older people. Its programme includes lectures, educational visits, cultural and social events and a wide range of study and interest groups.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PORTHCAWL AND ITS SURROUNDING LOCALITY
- Bridgend
- Neath Port Talbot
- Vale Of Glamorgan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£36,076	£38,460	-	-
2023-12-31	£26,547	£27,153	-	-
2022-12-31	£24,165	£28,555	-	-
2021-12-31	£7,645	£11,601	-	-
2020-12-31	£23,300	£9,280	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew John Mason		2024-04-10
Benjamin Rhys Fielding		2020-09-16
Laurence Richard Parry		2017-03-13
Louise Roberts		2025-03-09
Malcolm Cowper		2025-03-09
Norah Clarke Mrs		2025-10-27
Rhian Davies		2025-03-09
Richard Hopkins		2023-04-05
Selwyn Jones		2026-04-15

Porthcawl u3a

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Accounts

Porthcawl U3 Statement of Financial Accounts 2024

Treasurers Account		£
Opening Bank Balance 01.01.24		1889.37
Closing Bank Balance 31.12.24		2134.72
 Instant Access Savings Account		
Opening Balance 01.01.24		11657.13
Closing Balance 31.12.24		12012.74

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the period 01.01.24 -31.12.24

	2024		2023	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Bank Interest	203.71		98.93	
BAVO		448.54	450.00	
Donations	121.50		8.00	
Equipment		647.87		
Beacon Fees		383.00		379.00
TAT Membership		1532.00		1516.00
TAM fees	37.60	7.20	41.79	140.74
Domain Fees		100.64		85.04
Gift Aid	2958.51		2780.08	
Group Leaders Event		620.00		630.00
Group Running Costs		48.47		24.99
Membership	17714.00		16906.00	
Newsletter		1358.98		1465.65
Open Day	472.79	556.43		
Other/Misc	470.90	93.46		145.78
Postage		18.00		
Printing		627.94		
Recruitment		75.00		
Badges	18.00		12.00	
Room Hire		18199.19		15901.13
Speakers		50.00		120.00
Visits/Events	16547.90	13021.65	6250.00	6601.15
Zoom Licence		155.58		143.88
	38544.91	37943.95	26546.80	27153.36
 2025 Adjustments				
Coach Hire		-700.00		
Tickets for Millenium Visit		-240.00		
December Newsletter		-135.78		
Gloucester Trip	-150.00			
Concert Payments	-2319.00			
	-2469.00	-1075.78		
	36075.91	36868.17		
 2024 Bills				
Room Hire		1052.70		
Coach Hire		539.00		
	36075.91	38459.87		

Porthcawl u3a Annual Report 1/1/24 -31/12/24

Purpose of Porthcawl u3a

The abbreviation u3a stands for University of the Third Age. It is a reference to the third age of people's life, when they have retired from full time employment. The u3a itself is a national organisation and there are hundreds of local u3a's such as ours in Porthcawl. The ethos of the u3a is to provide learning and activities in a caring fun environment for those of us who have a lot of spare time to do just that. Indeed the motto is "Learn, Laugh, Live"

Activities of Porthcawl u3a

We have over 40 groups for members to choose from and they can go to as many as they want. The groups offer a wide variety of activities from Science, Astronomy and Wildlife to Philosophy and Conversation and for those who are more active we have Cycling, Walking, Table Tennis and Social Dancing. For those with a more creative bent we have Writing, Poetry, Crafts and Ceramics. There are also language groups and a Mindfulness group. Once a month a speaker is booked to give a talk of approximately 2 hours and these are very popular and open to non members.

The groups are all run by Group Leaders who are u3a members and are all volunteers and do a great job of providing interesting and stimulating activities for our members.

We also have a team who organise about 10 visits a year to places of interest. For example visits have been made to Hereford Cathedral, Celteg vineyard in Narberth, Llancaiach Fawr manor and the SS Great Britain.

Three theatre/concert visits have also been made to Bristol Hippodrome, New Theatre Cardiff and Swansea University concert.

Membership Payments

The members pay an annual membership fee in January of each year. The fee is decided by the committee after studying the budget forecast which is done in November. They make no further payments after that except if opting to go on a visit to a venue or event. In 2024 the membership fee was kept at the previous year's level of £42.

Income and Expenditure

Our income is almost entirely from Members' subscriptions. In 2024 we had 430 members by the end of the year but several of these joined after June so paid the reduced membership rate of £20. The total membership payments were £17714.50. The only other significant source of income is the Gift Aid tax refund, which this year was £2958.51

By far the biggest expenditure is on room hire for all our groups. This year it amounted to £18,199.19. Other significant payments were to the Third Age Trust membership (£1532) and Newsletter publication (£1358.98). There are various other items of expenditure which are listed on the Financial Accounts statement.

When all the figures are added up it can be seen that in 2024 there was an excess of expenditure over income of £2384.96. A budget forecast of approx. £15000 had been made for room hire. The Seabank hotel closed part way through the year and new venues had to be found which were significantly more expensive. These extra room hire charges were on top of the annual increases charged by our other venues and accounts for the excess expenditure.

In spite of this we ended the year with £2134.72 in our Current Account and £12012.74 in our Savings Account. This was well above our Reserves level which is set at £10000 pounds.

In order to keep our reserves to the level decided in 2025 we will have to keep a close eye on any expenditure not in the 2025 forecast and this leaves little room for approval of new groups and activities and their associated room hire costs.

Rob Middleton Treasurer

Porthcawl U3A
January 1st – December 31st 2024

I have conducted an audit of the Porthcawl U3A's Treasurers Account and Instant Access Savings Account and I have examined all relevant financial documents including the following:-

- Bank statements
- Paying in books
- Cheque book
- Invoices
- Receipts
- Expense claims.

Based on my view, I can confirm that the accounts are satisfactory, and all transactions have been properly accounted for.

I note that it has been agreed by committee to increase membership fees by £3 for 2025 and that there will possibly be a need to increase membership fees for 2026 due to increasing costs.

In conclusion I would like to thank Rob for the way he's provided me with the information needed and answered all my questions satisfactorily.

N Clarke.

Norah Clarke (Auditor)

Porthcawl u3a

England & Wales - Charity number 1052905

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Porthcawl u3a Annual Report 2023-2024

Sometimes when I start to write reports like this it is hard to remember what I wrote last year, or even last month, when I'm writing my notes for the next newsletter. So I have to use the file of newsletters that are stored on my i pad to assist my worn out memory! The first I looked at as I started today's report mentioned a theatre visit, a coach trip, an interesting talk by a very experienced speaker, a couple of walks, a cycle ride and a lunch meeting. The announcement of a new group, a changed venue and sixty arranged meetings for our groups were all there on the eight pages of our treasured newsletter. So was I looking at April's newsletter? No, it was January 2023, the new group was Sue Lieven's Modern Art, now a fixed popular group along with Rummikub and Ceramics which started this year as well, the experienced speaker was once again Doug Jones. The comparison to our latest newsletter was really quite amazing, an illustration of the incredible amount of variety available to you all as members of our u3a. I do not need to record every achievement through this year because I know you have already been told of it's happening have seen the photos and read the write ups. We had our first Theatre trip of the year in March to Cardiff a bit of lunch and the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel! We went through a rather confusing time when we had to change many venues, this caused a lot of work for a few people, we appreciated the hard work and summer crept forward with all our activities continuing as normal. We again helped Porthcawl Comp with mock interviews and the 3rd Age Trust came to visit and see what we get up to! We sadly accepted the retirement of our wonderful Art History Group, and gave Graham and Jenny a retirement lunch party. Summer moved on with our successful study day and Andrew's series of evening talks. We only managed one trip, to St Fagans in September on a crisp autumn day, that Peter Henry said was a good day for a walk! Another popular Theatre trip was sourced and organised by Trixie and Anne to fit in a gap until Christmas when various festivities followed on from the Writing Groups' now traditional very successful Christmas Readings morning, known locally as Poems and Pints. The year crept on towards 2024 as always days full of plans for trips, for more theatre, for new groups and for coffee mornings. Porthcawl u3a moving forward!

What I do have to do is thank everyone who has been a part of our u3A and enabled us to get to this point where we are approaching our thirtieth year as the group that is now Porthcawl u3a & I do mean everyone, past and present! This includes the staff here at the Hi Tide, the staff at every venue we use, all the people who helped us with our coffee mornings this year, who served us cream teas or lunch when we were celebrating. It especially includes every Group Leader or person that has stood here in front of an audience or in a classroom somewhere or led a group on a walk or a bus trip somewhere. It certainly includes all those who stand or have stood here beside me! My team, your committee, most of whom who perform very specialist tasks without which we would not be able to continue. I thank all and everyone.

I have been heard to say many times that we are all volunteers and no one person could do what we do on their own, but thankfully no one in Porthcawl u3a has to, you just have to help us by doing your bit.

Sally A Corbett
Chair

Porthcawl u3a
Statement of Financial Accounts 2023

Treasurers Account	£
Opening Bank Balance as at 1st January	7,121.86
Closing Bank Balance as at 31st December	1,889.37
Business Bank Instant Account	
Opening Bank Balance as at 1st January	7,036.28
Closing Bank Balance as at 31st December	11,657.13
Note: We now hold most of our funds in the Business Account to maximise our interest received due to the increase in interest rates.	

Summary of Actual Income and Expenditure for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023				
	2023		2022	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest received	98.93			
BAVO	450.00			
Membership	16,906.00		15,991.00	0.00
Dontations	8.00		25.94	0.00
Gift Aid	2,780.08		797.49	0.00
Group Leaders Events		630.00	34.95	250.00
Group Leaders Events and New Members coffee Mornings			0.00	525.45
Open Day			291.80	260.27
Visits and Events	6,250.00	6,601.15	6,898.40	6,665.00
Replacement Badges	12.00		9.00	0.00
Members Overpayments			0.00	0.00
TAM Magazine	41.79	140.74	0.00	100.50
Other		145.78	74.00	220.53
Card Reader Fees			0.00	0.65
Newsletter		1,465.65	0.00	1,832.04
Printing			0.00	67.74
Room hire		15,901.13	0.00	16,398.70
Postage			0.00	46.20
Equipment			0.00	10.11
Fee: Beacon		379.00	0.00	386.00
Fee: TAT Membership - Previously known as Capitation charges		1,516.00	0.00	1,544.00
Fee: Domain		85.04	0.00	0.00
Group Running Costs		24.99	0.00	43.53
Recruitment Costs			0.00	60.00
Speakers Fees		120.00	0.00	0.00
Zoom License		143.88	0.00	143.88
Actual Income and Expenditure	26,546.80	27,153.36	24,122.58	28,554.60

Note: Income from visits is restricted income and not a part of the core u3a funds.

Accruals - items that need to be accounted for across the years.				
Outstanding Items				
Room Hire - Kenfig Nature Reserve		360.00		
Pre Paid the coach hire for the New Year Vienna Concert	(280.00)			
Total	(280.00)	360.00		

Assets as at 31st December 2023	
Cash in Hand.	
	£
Treasurers Account	1,889.37
Business Bank Instant Account	11,657.13
Total Assets	13,546.50
Liabilities as at 31st December 2022	
	£
Outstanding payments	360.00
Pre paid coach hire for the New Year Vienna Concert	(280.00)
Total Liabilities	80.00

Monies available to spend	
	£
Total cash in hand	13,546.50
Minus liabilities	(80.00)
	13,466.50



Financial Report for the Period 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2023

Bank Balances as of 31st December 2023

Treasurers Account	£1889.37
Business Account	£11,657.13
Total Cash in Hand	<u>£13,546.50</u>

Outstanding Accruals for 2023.

Outstanding Expenditure.	£360
Prepaid coach	£280

Total Adjustments Across the Years £80.00

Adjusted Opening Cash Flow Position as of 1st January 2023 £13,466.50

We have a reserve/contingency budget of £10,500 to cover unforeseen circumstances, leaving a balance available to spend of £2,966.50.

Summary for 2023

As you can see our largest item of Expenditure is Room Hire, totalling £15,901. They are lower than forecast due to the unexpected changes made by Porthcawl Rugby Club, our hourly rate was increased by 100% but we had previously been charged per room, this then change to hire for the whole venue, we consolidated groups where we could and found alternative venues for those we couldn't. Porthcawl Rugby club then raised the hourly rate again in September 2023, so we now only have one group remaining there for 2024. We are still in flux with a couple of our groups, but this will hopefully be resolved shortly. We're very grateful to our new venues for accommodating us so well.

Due to the decisions taken by your committee post pandemic, we have been able to hold our membership fee at £42 for 2024, this is due to a managed reduction of our bank accounts, and avoiding reducing membership fees too low thereby causing a huge raise in a later year if membership didn't return to its post pandemic level. We also had to plan for all the unknown variables around the rising cost of living and the energy crisis our society has experienced.

Comments.

Our economy thankfully appears to have stabilised at the moment, but 2024 needs to be the year we all concentrate on recruiting new members to join us.

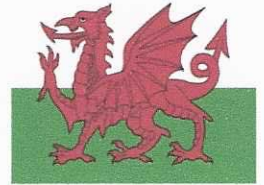
As in the minutes of the committee meeting held on 18th November 2019, we had a total membership of 532. As at the 31st December 2023, we had a total membership of 409, this is a gradual reduction each year since 2019 of approximately 23% overall.

Every u3a in the UK has experienced a drop in membership post pandemic, we differ from the majority in that they dipped by various percentages and are now once again increasing their numbers, while we have experienced a gradual, year by year, decline. We all need to work together throughout 2024 and beyond to reverse this decline. Remember our ethos is 'by the member, for the members' pulling together we can all do this, **please don't expect someone else to do it for us... we are all the 'someone else'**.

Jaci Russell

Treasurer

5th January 2024



Audit of Accounts 2023.

I, Jeffrey Shell, have examined the accounts for the period of 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 for Porthcawl u3a in accordance to the Charities Act of 2011 ("the Act") and I find them to be in order.

Signed: Jeffrey Shell

Date: January 25th 2024

The accounts were prepared by Jacqueline Russell, treasurer Porthcawl u3a.

Signed: Jacqueline Russell

Dated: 5th January 2024