FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales · Charity number 1055104

Details

Other names	FLEET AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1996-05-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	1 Whin Holt Fleet GU52 7TS
Phone	07850205825
Email	treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk
Website	https://fleet.u3asite.uk/

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: The Fleet and District U3A is an educational self-help organisation. Our intention is to provide study and recreational groups within a social framework for all retired and semi-retired people within our community.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** FLEET
- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£168,732	£160,582	-	-
2024-08-31	£137,342	£119,622	-	-
2023-08-31	£125,875	£112,318	-	-
2022-08-31	£161,793	£150,213	-	-
2021-08-31	£47,437	£33,165	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
STEPHEN JOHN GROSVENOR	Chair	2019-11-22
ANNE SMITH		2024-11-20
Alan Rees Jones		2017-10-18
Anne Margaret Morley		2024-11-20
Barbara Joan Jones		2017-12-11
DIANE KAREN BALDOCK		2025-10-01
DIANNE JENNIFER SMITH		2025-12-03
JULIE ELIZABETH LYSAGHT		2024-11-20
Jennifer Mary Teagle		2018-12-05
MARK LESLIE GOODWIN		2024-11-20
Neil Morley		2018-06-06
Paddy Powell		2015-09-02
SANDRA ANNE REDMAN		2018-12-06

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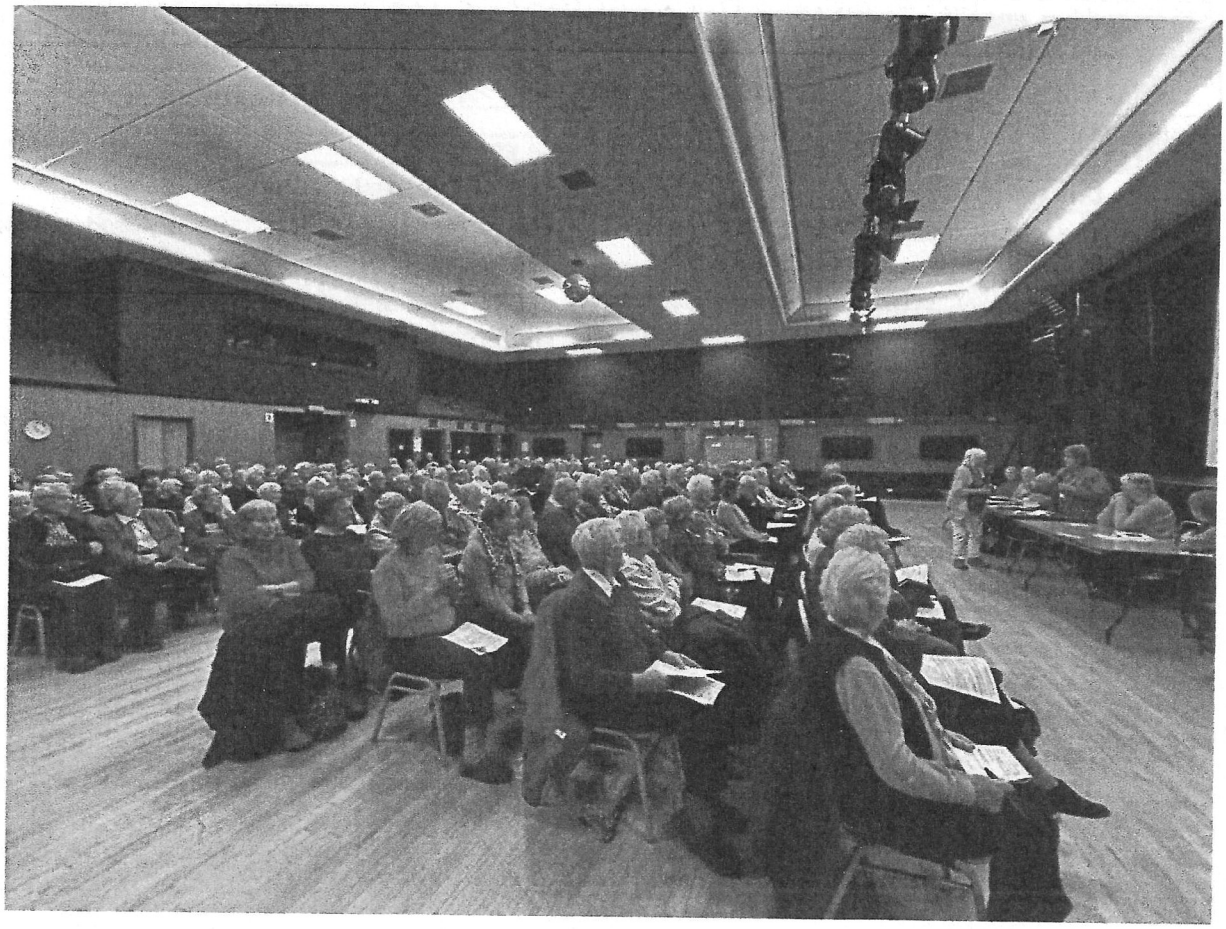
FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1055104

Accounts

Fleet & District
University of the Third Age

Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025



Charity number 1055104

Chairs' Report to the AGM on 19 November 2025

Fleet u3a enjoyed another successful year in 2024/25 with membership numbers up slightly on the previous year. Since taking on the Chair position in April from my illustrious predecessor John Gawthorpe it has been a pleasure to work with the committee, who we must remember are all unpaid volunteers, to help ensure that Fleet u3a continues to go from strength to strength. It has been great to see some new members join the committee and we are always looking for other members to come forward to support the committee and to take over positions when committee members eventually step down.

As always, I have to give a big thank you to all our group leaders. They do an amazing job and we would not be able to exist without them. We are only able to offer over 100 groups for members to join due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our group leaders. If you are a member of a group with a waiting list please do consider creating a spin off group. We must also not forget the Visits team and the Rollers group who do a wonderful job organising so many trips around the country.

Fleet u3a is one of the largest organisations in the Fleet area and also possibly one of its best kept secrets. I often meet people in the area who are only vaguely aware of the "u3a" and what it does for the community. As always, it is a question of keeping the balance right between growing the membership, encouraging new group leaders to step forward and finding venue space to hold meeting if they cannot meet in a member's home. If we can get this right going forward we will continue to thrive and to provide interesting activities and opportunities for socialising for adults no longer in full time work.

Finally, I am delighted to be able to announce Honorary Life Memberships this year to John Gawthorpe and Mike Rance. John was a committee member for some years and was my predecessor as Chair. Mike was Group Leader of the Jazz Appreciation Group for many years before stepping down this year. Both of them have made a significant contribution to the success of Fleet u3a over the years and I am sure that everyone will wish them all the very best in their retirement.

Stephen Grosvenor
Chair
November 2025

Fleet and District U3A Charity Number 1055104 **Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Year ending 31st August 2025			Year ending 31st August 2024		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
RECEIPTS						
Membership fees	25,903		25,903	25,244		25,244
Tax reclaim			0	3,850		3,850
Members venue contributions	73,649		73,649	55,351		55,351
Tutor fees paid by members		12,385	12,385		14,651	14,651
Other member events	11,647		11,647	10,120		10,120
Bank interest	2,126		2,126	2,110		2,110
Miscellaneous income	377		377	926		926
Visits		42,645	42,645		25,091	25,091
Total receipts	**113,702**	**55,030**	**168,732**	**97,601**	**39,741**	**137,342**
PAYMENTS						
Third Age Trust - Beacon	1,771		1,771	1,764		1,764
Third Age Trust - Capitation	7,080		7,080	7,056		7,056
Third Age Trust - Magazine	2,949		2,949	2,857		2,857
Venue Hire Costs	56,992		56,992	53,527		53,527
Tutor fee payments		15,647	15,647		15,659	15,659
Monthly Meeting expenses	3,346		3,346	2,444		2,444
Other Member Events	10,965		10,965	10,499		10,499
Administration	5,826		5,826	3,778		3,778
Printing and Postage	2,946		2,946	2,768		2,768
Bank charges	1,090		1,090	1,219		1,219
Equipment	640		640	4,872		4,872
Sundry / rounding			90			-1
Visits		51,239	51,239		13,178	13,178
Total payments	**93,606**	**66,886**	**160,582**	**90,785**	**28,837**	**119,621**
Net	**20,096**	**-11,857**	**8,150**	**6,816**	**10,904**	**17,721**
Cash funds last year end			**104,935**			**87,214**
Cash funds this year end			**113,085**			**104,935**
Cash Assets at 31st August 2025						
CAF 6405			7,202			3,253
Hsbc Credit Card			4,091			2,479
CAF Gold			94,816			81,615
Paypal			259			939
Petty Cash			420			24
Caf Visits			6,297			16,625
TOTAL ASSETS			**113,085**			**104,935**

The format of these accounts follows Charity Commision recommendation CC16a and have been drawn up forllowing Charity Commission Guidelines CC16(b)

See over for Indepenent Examiners Report

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

Stephen Grosvenor, Chair, Date - 17/11/25 **Neil Morley, Treasurer, Date -** 17/11/25

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Fleet and District U3A

Registered charity number 1055104

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 August 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Fleet and District U3A 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 account 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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than those disclosed below) in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the act, or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

Cash Transactions

This voluntary organisation has a high number of low-value transactions. These transactions are often in cash. With responsibility for the collection of these monies with a large number of Group Leaders. This means there is a risk of misappropriation of the U3A's income, this appears to be unavoidable. To reduce this risk, a number of controls are in place. The audit highlighted that these controls are not always fully reconciled. The following steps should be taken:

- Group leaders' Term returns should be agreed with the U3A accounts, and any discrepancies resolved.
- Any income received into the bank accounts should be reported to the Group Leaders to ensure that this is included in the Group Leaders' returns.

An additional control should be considered:

- Reporting should be introduced to highlight changes in income and membership level of each group, comparing terms and years against each other, so that the trustees might choose to enquire into the reason for a significant change at a group level.

Assets

The current Fixed Assets register is not up to date. These assets are held and used by several volunteers. There is a risk of assets being lost, especially if personnel were to change. A register of assets and the person in possession of each asset should be maintained and reviewed regularly.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed : M Lysaght

Name : Michael Lysaght

Address : 34 Pondtail Road, Fleet, Hampshire

Date : 17/11/25

FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1055104

Accounts

Chair's Report to the AGM 20th November 2024

First, my apologies for not being able to present this report in person: when the NHS - eventually – calls to offer me a new hip, '*yes of course'* is the only answer. My thanks to my predecessor, who is left with the task of presenting what I hope will be a shorter report than last year's.

It has been another successful year; we continue to offer a wide range of popular and well supported activities, ranging from those which work very successfully in a group leader's sitting room to those which stretch some of our venues to capacity.

Venue space permitting, we aim to broaden the range of new groups so that new members can join their group of choice. We have had some success in this area this year - i*s there anybody who does not yet know what pickleball is* - but we hope to do even better.

We aspire to recruiting members to reach, then exceed, pre-COVID levels. We are getting closer, but we're not there yet. It would seem that the pandemic caused a significant shift in priorities and activities for some people. In addition, the rise in pension age has meant that there is a cohort of people still in the world of work who might well have joined our ranks by now. And then there's the need to 'spread the word': only this week I found myself answering the question *'What is the U3A*?'

What I could have said was that Fleet and District U3A is all of us. We are a shared endeavour, the best sort of partnership in which everyone plays a significant part. I hope that a member attending a U3A event for the first time will get a friendly welcome and will be encouraged to become more involved.

Nothing could happen without our Group Leadership teams. I am pleased that sharing of roles and responsibilities is becoming the norm; the 'hero model' of a lone Group Leader quickly crumbles under the impact of family, health and life events. I am pleased to applaud and recognise the hard work which keeps the groups, and hence our U3A, thriving.

Another very special team is Carole Matthews' Visits Team. You've really not experienced the best of what our U3A can offer if you've not been on one of their memorable and lively visits. You get a flavour of them in the Newsletter articles, but only a flavour.

You will have read, in our October Newsletter, contributions from the members of the committee, the trustees of our charity, and gained an insight into their responsibilities. It has been a privilege to work with such committed, hard-working and friendly people. It is their input – *not just the cake*- which has made my three years in the Chair a pleasure.

On your behalf I thank them all: when we hear that neighbouring U3As have folded through an inability to recruit trustees, we are fortunate to have people ready and willing to take their turn. Over 30 years that has been one of the strengths of Fleet and District U3A: when a job needs doing, there has been somebody to step in and take it on.

We say farewell – *again* - and thank you to Fiona Godfrey, who returned as temporary Membership Secretary to help avoid a crisis, dedication indeed. Thanks too to Adrian van Klaveren, Publicity Secretary and to Pam Openshaw who has been running the Events team.

Fleet and District U3A Charity Number 1055104 **Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Year ending 31st August 2024			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds Last year
RECEIPTS				
Membership fees	25,244		25,244	24,976
Tax reclaim	3,850		3,850	6,751
Members venue contributions	55,351		55,351	52,036
Tutor fees paid by members		14,651	14,651	10,098
Other member events	10,120		10,120	4,255
Bank interest	2,110		2,110	678
Miscellaneous income	926		926	544
Visits		25,091	25,091	26,537
Total receipts	**97,601**	**39,741**	**137,342**	**125,875**
PAYMENTS				
Third Age Trust - Beacon	1,764		1,764	1,691
Third Age Trust - Capitation	7,056		7,056	6,760
Third Age Trust - Magazine	2,857		2,857	2,651
Venue Hire Costs	53,527		53,527	49,131
Tutor fee payments		15,659	15,659	10,574
Monthly Meeting expenses	2,444		2,444	1,880
Other Member Events	10,499		10,499	4,170
Administration	3,778		3,778	4,529
Printing and Postage	2,768		2,768	2,863
Bank charges	1,219		1,219	1,587
Equipment	4,872		4,872	440
Visits		13,178	13,178	26,042
Total payments	**90,785**	**28,837**	**119,622**	**112,318**
Net	**6,816**	**10,904**	**17,720**	**13,557**
Cash funds last year end			**87,214**	**73,657**
Cash funds this year end			**104,935**	**87,214**
Cash Assets at 31st August 2024				
CAF 6405			3,253	1,367
HSBC			2,479	2,526
CAF GOLD			81,615	74,869
PAYPAL			939	
PETTY CASH			24	27
CAF VISITS			16,625	8,425
TOTAL ASSETS			**104,935**	**87,214**

The format of these accounts follows Charity Commision recommendation CC16a and have been drawn up forllowing Charity Commission Guidelines CC16(b) See over for Indepenent Examiners Report

Signed on behalf of the Management Committe

John Gawthorpe Chairman Date 12th November '24 **Neil Morley Treasurer Date** 12/11/24

Independent examiner`s report to the trustees of Fleet and District U3A
Registered charity number 1055104

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st August 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of Fleet and District U3A 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 account 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.

Independent examiner`s statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than those disclosed below) in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

Following the issues raised in my report for the year ending 31st August 2023, which recognised the unique circumstances of a large voluntary organization processing high numbers of relatively small value transactions, I make the following points for consideration by the Trustees:

1. The proportion of accounting records complying with Section 130 of the Act is increasing. Steps should be taken to ensure that measures in hand continue that improvement.
2. Consideration should be given to carrying out a wide ranging review of accounting and financial procedures with a view to introducing a planned programme over a number of years to
   - minimize/eliminate cash/cheque transactions/paper records and move to electronic/digital systems
   - maximize the amount of information held on the accounting records and streamline the financial reporting system.
   - reduce the number of bank accounts with one exclusively used for incoming payments and one(linked to an interest paying account) exclusively for outgoing payments

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed D G. Powell Date 13th November 2024.

David Glyn Powell Fleet Hants

FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1055104

Accounts

Fleet & District

Minutes
of Fleet & District U3A AGM held on
Wednesday 15th November 2023
held at The Harlington

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

John welcomed 200 members to the AGM which means we are quorate for the meeting to go ahead.

Apologies were received from Adrian Van Klaveren, Jackie Creswell, Clive and Christine Stokes.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2023

A copy of the Minutes of last years' AGM had been sent out to all members and could also be viewed on the Fleet U3A website. Members were asked if there were any comments, there being none the Chairman asked the membership present to approve the minutes and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes, these were then signed by John Gawthorpe, Chairman Fleet U3A.

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4. Chairman's Report

John Gawthorpe presented his report:

Good morning and welcome to our Annual General Meeting, the second of the three I shall be chairing.

The fact that so many of you are here demonstrates that you did indeed 'get the email'. Fleet U3A communicates with you mainly via email, to minimise postal costs and ensure timely information. You receive our local Fleet U3A Newsletter and the National Third Age Trust newsletters, details of upcoming visits from the Visits Team, news of Monthly Meetings and other U3A events plus any important information we believe our members should see. We do not provide email addresses to any other organisations; your email address will only be used by Fleet U3A to provide you with information related to U3A activities. We have a small number of legacy members, less than 2.5% of

the total, who have not yet set up email, or found a family member or friend to be their 'email buddy'. Can I please ask you all to look out for them: with your help we might be able to get them more connected. The costs of paper, printing and postage for such a tiny number are disproportionate, hence some other local U3As have moved to an 'email only' regime. While I understand their reasons, I would deeply regret taking similar action. Can you please help us bridge the gap?

The hub of our Membership administration is in South Gloucestershire – an area notorious for poor postal service – where Fiona Godfrey continues to run a brilliantly efficient operation. She reports that despite the fact that we are still down on pre-pandemic figures, membership is currently rising, and we are ahead of last year's figure at this time of year. The number of new members is encouraging, and it is hoped that this trend will continue. Fiona famously has a very effective 'nagging hat'.
Wearing that, she adds: It is still surprising the number of people who "haven't heard of the U3A" so the best thing is word of mouth, so the task you are being set for the coming year is to 'spread the word'.

The first contact many members have with our U3A is over the phone to Jenny Teagle, Enquiries Secretary, who cheerfully and carefully responds to all manner of queries. Her wish list is simple: an inexhaustible supply of venues and infinitely expandable groups, so nobody is left disappointed. Group members and group leadership teams should be aware that in many cases, demand exceeds our ability to meet it. Tactfully managing group membership and creating opportunities for newcomers is a sensitive but necessary skill. The of our whole U3A will dwindle over time if we cannot enable new members to take part. The 'word' we wish to spread is 'you're welcome' not 'they're full'.

In her Outreach role, Jenny reports that, following the interest shown on Enrolment Morning she has been contacted to discuss with local U3As the ethos behind Strollers and Rollers, which are not "disabled groups." They are the "shop front" to promote Fleet u3a: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion through inclusive activities. The message is spreading, our members and those beyond are engaging positively, a definite sign of progress. She tells me that more people speak to her at the monthly meetings, smiley and relaxed. The wheelchair is disappearing gradually!

Alan Jones our excellent Secretary puts in the hard work to ensure communication with the Third Age Trust and the Fleet U3A membership. Other regular tasks are preparing contracts for paid tutors and checking their Public Liability insurance. Preparation for this AGM has taken a lot of time, the results are clear to see. Alan has represented Fleet U3A at the Fleet Town Council Residents' meeting, the online T-A-T AGM and at Remembrance Day. Alan is also our 'Beacon' expert. The necessary change to the email and password for Beacon logon affected us all. Luckily Alan was able to unpick any knots, so that during this year 2023 renewals more than 1240 (about 72%) of our members renewed online using Beacon.

Online renewal saved the Treasurer and Membership Secretary a huge amount of work and reduced our costs significantly by not having to process cheques, etc. We encourage all members to register for Beacon ready for renewal in 2024. If members need any help registering, they can contact Alan as Beacon Administrator via

beacon@fleetu3a.org.uk. 65 Group Leaders are now using Beacon to administer their groups: thank you, we are sure you will find it useful.

Picking up on the work undertaken by Beverley Carpenter (thank you Beverley, you did the hard yards), Alan and Mike Brown have been helping revise the GL Handbook, now in the hands of Leadership Teams. When Beverley stood down, we were very fortunate that former Events Secretary Mike Brown was ready, willing and able to step into the role of Group Leadership Liaison Secretary. It is great to have him back on the committee. He and I were delighted that at last Friday's Members' Coffee Morning, firm proposals for two new groups were drawn up. I won't steal any thunder now, just to say keep a close eye on the Newsletter for details.
The six - step process for setting up a new group is:
1. Decide on the subject.
2. Ask does it clash with an existing group?
3. Find out how popular the group will be.
4. Decide the meeting frequency and duration.
5. Select a type of venue: rented hall or private house?
6. Will there be any costs other than venue fees?

Barbara Jones is our Venue Secretary. We know there is not an inexhaustible supply of suitable venues in the area. Barbara knows all of the 34 we currently use. And as of Friday, there are two new groups looking for venues.
Can I add a reminder that we get charged for the extra time before and after meetings, mostly 15 minutes either side of the time advertised in the programme. I request all groups to ponder: do we really need this amount of time?
We are trying to control our costs, as are the managers of the venues, so please ensure you let the venue secretary know when changing or cancelling meetings. Finally, in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and higher energy costs, it falls to all of us to make doubly sure that everything is switched off when leaving a venue.
Barbara is also our long-standing Minutes Secretary, a post she is keen to hand on today.

Pam Openshaw has had a busy year as Events Secretary. The Enrolment Day held at the Church on the Heath went well, with over 200 members attending. She has helped revive our members coffee mornings, where new members, existing members and committee members can chat informally. With the help of Peter Murray and the marvellous Catering Team, we have held a lunch for Group Leaders and provided a cream tea at the Quiz.
Tickets for the next event – a Christmas Lunch on 1st December, are on sale today, at £8.
It almost goes without saying that the winning quiz team was led by Caroline Noad, not least because earlier in the year our team from Fleet had won the Inter U3A quiz as well.

Please note the date of our next Open Morning, Wednesday 17th April, right here.

Also at the Harlington are our fascinating Monthly Meetings. Now back to pre-Covid-19 popularity, we regularly have about 200 members turning up at the Harlington. The pre-talk coffee and chat in the small hall is very well attended and members say they appreciate the visiting stalls supporting local charities or advertising our own U3A groups. Paddy and her Monthly Meeting Team are to be congratulated for all their hard work. The team set up the small hall and pack away each month with a smile. The jigsaw and book swap table are always popular. The team ensures new members and guests

are greeted and have someone to talk with if they are alone. They help visiting stall holders set up and feel welcomed. They answer questions and generally make everything run smoothly.
We have a full programme booked until June 2024, but we are always on the lookout for speakers for future meetings. Please let Paddy know if you have a recommendation.

Sandy Redman's work on our Newsletter has attracted attention and praise from other U3As in the region. Were this football, I'd be worried about the transfer market! She would want me to add that essentially any newsletter is only as good as the contributions received by the Editor. Consider yourselves reminded. Stephen Grosvenor has quite a task on his hands as Webmaster. He has successfully seen off phony signups to our Facebook page and is currently in the process of a major revision to the site. One unwelcome discovery was that the website is at its best on a PC, but when it comes to a tablet or smartphone what you see is not always what was intended. Watch those spaces!

The bright new publicity leaflet is the work of our Publicity Secretary Adrian van Klaveren. He is also on the board of the Third Age Matters magazine: if you opted out of receiving it through the post, please reconsider. It's a very good read. We wish Adrian a speedy return to full health.

In all innocence last year I managed to steal all of our Treasurer's best lines from his report. So, suffice it to say that Neil Morley is as hardworking, responsive and careful as anyone would wish a Treasurer to be. I do hope we will be successful in voting in an Assistant Treasurer to join the team. Glyn Powell has done sterling service as Examiner of Accounts, so I am delighted to propose him for the role for 2023 – 24.
I hand over to Neil shortly, but before I do, one important request. The list of officers shows a single Vice Chair post, but in the constitution, we can have two.
Looking ahead it would make a great deal of sense to elect a second Vice Chair, as Chair –
Elect. By so doing this meeting will have ensured that the transfer at the end of my three years is a smooth one, not a cliff edge.

5. **Financial Report**

Neil Morley presented his report:

The accounts are as you see on the sheet which has been given out to members present at the AGM.

There is more in the Gold account as the interest rate is higher and I have been moving money in and around more this year.

Venue hire costs and Tutor payments are the most significant changes. Venue fees have increased. I estimate we will take £2/3,000 out of our reserve to cover this year's venue fees. The Tutor fee changes are due to the different method of payment whereby some Tutor Groups are paid direct and some via U3A account.

The Visits account is dependent on what trips are imminent. E.g.: since these accounts were closed the Potters trip took place and a coach load of refunds had to be made due

to cancellation. On that note if you have not received your payment let me have your details asap.

Note: A member of the audience had not received her refund as she does not have email, so Neil gave her his address and she is sending her bank details to him.

I expect expenditure to increase this year because of the increase of TAT fees, postage and some of our computers/laptops need replacing as they are not Windows 11 compliant.

I would like to thank Glyn Powell who came forward at last years' AGM to act as examiner. I am delighted to say he has agreed to continue to examine the accounts for 2024. In addition to examining the accounts he also did some of the background work on the format in front of you whilst I was on holiday.

Thanks also go to Ann Guerin who does all the banking for me, which actually means visiting the Fleet Post Office which has been currently closed so has had to go further afield.

A thank you gift was given to both Glyn and Ann.

Any questions: A member asked what the Tree Copse item was, Neil explained and then another question was asked about what Unrestricted funds meant, Neil explained that restricted funds were given for a specific purpose and can only be used for that one purpose e.g., Visits.

There being no further questions Neil asked for a Proposer and Seconder for the approval of the accounts.

Proposed: Paddy Powell Seconder: Peter Dunkerley

The meeting then approved the accounts.

6. **Resolution 1: - To elect the Committee members and Officers for academic year 2023/2024**

This was put to the members and the vote was unanimous in favour.

John asked if anyone present was willing to volunteer for Vice Chairman and Minutes Secretary, no-one came forward. John asked the meeting if members would consider the request after the meeting and hoped people would come forward to help.

7. **Resolution 2: - To appoint the Account Examiner for the financial year 2023/2024**

The vote of those present was unanimous to re-appoint Glyn Powell.

8. **Resolution 3: - Starting Autumn term 2024 to increase the Venue Contribution (to cover increasing venue costs) as follows:**

Up to 1 hour - £1, up to 2 hours - £2, 2.5 Hours £2.50, 3 Hours - £3

A show of hands of members present resulted in this resolution being passed.

9. **Resolution 4: - to adopt the following on Life Membership into our Fleet U3A Constitution.**

   "Honorary Life Membership is defined as follows: A member whose voluntary contribution to Fleet and District U3A, other than financial contribution, has been both exceptional and sustained over a period of years, whether that contribution has been by way of Interest Group leadership, administration, or management, may, on the recommendation of the Committee, be awarded Honorary Life Membership by a majority vote at a Committee meeting. Beginning at the start of the next membership year after the vote, the recipient will receive free annual membership of Fleet and District U3A. For the avoidance of doubt Venue Contribution and any Paid Tutor fees are payable by all classes of membership, including Honorary Life members."

   A show of hands of members present resulted in this resolution being passed.

10. Business declared urgent by the Chair.

    There being no further business the AGM was closed at 11.22 am.

…….
John Gawthorpe, Chairman

Date: 13th November 2024

Independent examiner`s report to the trustees of Fleet and District U3A
Registered charity number 1055104

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st August 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Fleet and District U3A 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 account 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.

Independent examiner`s statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than those disclosed below) in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting record

Recognising the particular circumstances of a large voluntary organization processing high numbers of relatively small transactions, I make the following points for consideration by the Trustees:

1. In a number of cases, individual receipts from members were covered by the same accounting record without individual names being recorded. It is doubtful whether such records meet the requirements of section 130 of the act set out above.
2. The practice of collecting individual cash payments from members over an extended period of time and forwarding them to the Treasurer as a single payment via personal bank accounts puts those monies belonging to the charity at risk(excluding individual dishonesty)
3. Consideration should be given to using Charity Commission recommended proceduures and forms for all aspects concerning finance and governance of the charity.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed D. G Powell Date 10/11/2023

Name David Glyn Powell

The format of this letter is letter is based on recommendations in Charity Commission guidelines CC32

Fleet and District U3A Charity Number 1055104 **Receipts and Payments Accounts**

cc162022final

	Year ending 31st August 2023			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds Last year
RECEIPTS				
Membership fees	24,976		24,976	23,450
Tax reclaim	6,751		6,751	2,937
Members venue contributions	52,036		52,036	44,324
Tutor fees paid by members		10,098	10,098	29,389
Other member events	4,255		4,255	4,498
Bank interest	678		678	31
Miscellaneous income	544		544	233
Tree copse				1,434
Visits		26,537	26,537	55,497
Total receipts	**89,240**	**36,635**	**125,875**	**161,793**
PAYMENTS				
Third Age Trust - Beacon	1,691		1,691	1,662
Third Age Trust - Capitation	6,760		6,760	6,684
Third Age Trust - Magazine	2,651		2,651	2,974
Venue Hire Costs	49,131		49,131	40,588
Tutor fee payments		10,574	10,574	29,749
Monthly Meeting expenses	1,880		1,880	1,510
Other Member Events	4,170		4,170	4,147
Administration	4,479		4,479	2,296
Printing and Postage	2,863		2,863	2,666
Bank charges	1,587		1,587	1,358
Equipment	440		440	954
Tree copse		50	50	1,382
Visits		26,042	26,042	54,250
Total payments	**75,652**	**36,666**	**112,318**	**150,220**
Net	**13,588**	**-31**	**13,557**	**11,573**
Cash funds last year end			**73,657**	**62,084**
Cash funds this year end			**87,214**	**73,657**

Cash Assets at 31st August 2023				
CAF 6405			1,367	869
HSBC			2,526	3,989
Hsbc credit card				
CAF GOLD			74,869	59,179
PAYPAL				1,789
TREE COPSE				51
PETTY CASH			27	334
CAF VISITS			8,425	7,446
TOTAL ASSETS			**87,214**	**73,657**

The format of these accounts follows Charity Commision recommendation CC16a and have been drawn up forllowing Charity Commission Guidelines CC16(b) See over for Indepenent Examiners Report

Signed on behalf of the Management Committe

John Gawthorpe Chairman Date 8/11/23 **Neil Morley Treasurer Date** 8/11/23

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Signed on behalf of the Management Committe

John Gawthorpe Chairman Date 8/11/23 **Neil Morley Treasurer Date** 8/11/23

FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1055104

Accounts

Chair's report

Good morning, thank you for attending our AGM, my first as your Chair.

And before that fact gives you undue concern, can I express our thanks to **Paddy Powell**, who ensures as Vice Chair that I don't somehow drive Fleet and District U3A off the road!

I joined the U3A to enjoy French, Shakespeare, Jazz and Music. I became Group Leader of the Music Appreciation Group after accepting one too many chocolate biscuits from my predecessor, Janice Gray. It therefore gives me the greatest pleasure to announce now that, in recognition of over 25 years commitment to the U3A, the Committee has granted Janice Life Membership. Richly deserved.

The Trustees and I – your committee – see continuing to make our U3A even more friendly, open and inclusive as our key aim. **Jenny Teagle**, our Outreach and Enquiries Secretary is always looking to see how we might remove any barriers to members' participation that may appear. We have made good progress but are not complacent.

Our committee meetings have reverted to a more normal pattern, with our recently acquired Zoom skills enabling us to involve a Membership Secretary in Bristol and to respond to occasional COVID outbreaks. Thankfully COVID's frequency and severity have reduced during the year. Unfortunately, there are no vaccinations available to protect the U3A from the impact of soaring energy costs and the cost-of-living crisis.

As Trustees we have a duty to keep our Charity solvent, and to have sufficient reserves to ride out unpredictable financial storms. We are ever mindful of the impact our decisions have on you the members but lacking a crystal ball I am sure you understand that we must always err on the side of caution.

We are very lucky to have the reassuring presence of **Neil Morley** as Treasurer and are very glad to see him returning to good health.

All the current committee members have agreed to submit themselves for re-election this year, although some have given notice that they have identified an end to their term of office. We are hopeful that equally committed and hardworking members will step forward when the time comes.

I welcome **Beverley Carpenter** as your new Group Leaders' Secretary: as a Group Leader herself she brings great experience to the role. **Chris Porter** has stepped down as webmaster (*I think so he can do even more Pilates)* having worked hard to keep us all in touch during the pandemic. **Stephen Grosvenor** has stepped into the role. *(Inevitably he would wish me to remind Leaders and their groups to send him any updates on what their groups are doing including photos whenever possible).*

Jan Glasscock gave us great service – initially as the voice of Fleet U3A, answering every kind of question as Enquiries Secretary – and latterly as Secretary. Sadly, she was not able to continue in that role, and we thank her for all her hard work.

Alan Jones has resumed the role of Secretary pro tem, in addition to being our Beacon guru, *Beacon being our financial and membership IT management system*. (I would suggest that each ***group leadership team*** has a person responsible for managing group records and communication on Beacon. It is pretty straightforward and saves hours of work). Alan is our point of contact with the Third Age Trust; the acronym *TAT* is unhelpful: our umbrella organisation provides support, advice and guidance, as well as the various licences and permissions which help us run smoothly and legally, as well as saving local committees hours of work.

We all benefit from Alan's knowledge, expertise and quiet efficiency, and wish him a speedy recuperation from his recent surgery.

We would not survive and thrive without our dedicated and enthusiastic Group Leaders: they are the backbone of the organisation. In thanking them publicly, those who have stood down and those who are continuing, may I suggest a subtle change in the way we describe the tasks they undertake. I would like us, as I did a few minutes ago, to refer to Group **Leadership** and look to move away from a model where one individual takes on all the tasks, to one where responsibilities are shared.

We have three new groups**.** Photography started this month, led by Danny McDermid and Pat Bussy; Modern Jive, (sadly for me a spectator sport) led by Kevin Druce, will be advertised in the next newsletter and will start in January, and we will have a second Outdoor Bowls group, led by Jenny Keyte, starting in April. At the last count we had 114 groups and are always looking to facilitate more.

New groups, new opportunities, yet membership continues to be of concern. Pre-pandemic we were looking forward to welcoming our 2,000th member. Unfortunately, numbers fell dramatically during the 2020-2021 academic year and have only just started to creep back up again, but we are still woefully short of that magic 2,000 figure.

Fiona Godfrey, our indefatigable Membership Secretary, has set up a cottage industry in Bristol, where all aspects of membership are efficiently managed. It's a great pleasure to be able to thank her in person today.

Fiona reports that we currently stand at just over 95% of last year's total figure. We are, however, still attracting new members and to date we have had 146 new members this year. This is a wonderful organisation for our generation to be involved in so, please, "get out there and spread the word".

Adrian van Klaveren, whom we quietly recruited from the board of the Third Age Matters magazine, leads our publicity efforts. From the publicity perspective, the late Queen's jubilee celebrations in Calthorpe Park last June saw us set up a U3A stand with leaflets handed out and new members able to sign up.
Fleet U3A members were invited to donate towards buying trees for the National U3A 40th Anniversary Wood. We were overwhelmed with support and have purchased two copses with 100 trees in each and 24 individual trees. Over £1,400 was donated by members of Fleet U3A.

On social media, our Facebook members group has grown to 322 members, and given the crash course in IT we all took during lockdown, there should be few challenges for the remaining 1300 in signing up.

Our lively and successful Enrolment Day was advertised to good effect on 5 different local social media sites. Finally, we are planning for another event next year similar to the stand we had in the Hart Centre a couple of years ago. Come and say hello, bring a friend who has not yet joined!

Perhaps the easiest way to show people our U3A at its best is through our flagship event, the **monthly meeting**. This has been another year of successful meetings with increasing attendance each month, latterly approaching pre-pandemic numbers. This year Paddy has increased the Monthly Meetings team to ten members, each with specific responsibilities. They have successfully encouraged more members to attend the pre-meeting in the small hall and set up a welcome table in the foyer. Guests have been welcomed and (with some success) invited to join Fleet U3A. Group Leaders and other members are now able to book a table for display purposes or charity sales, and the book swap has, by popular demand, expanded to include a jigsaw swap.

On a personal note, my fellow Groundlings and I hugely enjoy participating in the **Quiz** each year, challenging but not quite threatening the supremacy of Carol Noad's in-house quizzers. As it's probably the only chance I'll get to hold the trophy, it is my pleasure to present it to Carol now.

Under Events Secretary **Pam Openshaw**, the event went very well, not least due to the work of Peter Murray and the Catering Team in producing an excellent cream tea. We now send out invitations to surrounding U3As for their participation in the Inter-U3A Quiz on 17th March, which we host.

Today Pam is selling tickets for the Christmas lunch and will do so up to Friday 25th of November; if you prefer, cheques can be sent, and tickets picked up at the lunch.

Pam also represented the U3A at the Remembrance Day parade and wreath laying ceremony.

With 114 groups and a finite number of venues we can use, **Barbara Jones'** role as Venues Secretary is critical. She is currently monitoring at first-hand how the various venues are responding to higher energy costs.

We rarely hear from Barbara in Committee, not because she has nothing to say, but because she is currently Minutes Secretary, an absolutely vital cog in the wheel.

Sandy Redman is the Editor of our very readable and informative newsletter; thanks to the contributions and articles she receives over the year. She relies on the Group Leadership to provide articles but would equally welcome articles from any members who would like to point pen to paper. Is there anyone who can provide a crossword or quiz? These don't need to be provided every month.

We still have a few *legacy members* who have not embarked onto email – or found a younger member of the family to do so for them - so it remains important for someone within the group leadership to bring a hard copy of the current newsletter to share with members.

Fleet & District U3A continues to be outward-looking: we have members serving as a National Adviser, chairs of regional committees and members of a number of national and regional U3A groups. As one of the largest and most successful U3A's we gladly respond when other U3As approach us for help and advice.

I will finish by returning to a theme I began in a Chat from the Chair in the newsletter. *No, not Emperor penguins.* I want to stress again the founding principles of the U3A, those of mutual aid and self-help. Like me, I know that most of you joined to explore new interests, revisit and share previous interests, learn new skills and meet new people. After a while, the bigger picture becomes apparent: membership of a movement of volunteers, all of us with something to contribute. Please make your contribution count during the next year:

- Encourage people you know to join
- Offer support to your group leader to form a leadership team
- Share what you know, can do and enjoy with others
- Look for opportunities to establish new groups (for example it's still; '*not yet*' for an Italian group)

- **And when the time comes**, consider how you might join the committee

Thank you for all you do and continue to do.

John Gawthorpe, Chair, Fleet & District U3A 16th November 2022

Fleet and District U3A Income & Expenditure, 1st September - 31st August					
	2021		*2020*		
Category	***In***	***Out***	*In*	*Out*	
Administration	**£9.55**	**£1,081.30**		£536.63	
Attendance fees	**£44,324.48**	**£2.60**	£414.33	£7.86	
Bank charges	**£5.00**	**£862.43**		£200.00	
Bank interest	**£31.23**		£4.13		
Bowls income & Expense				£26.05	
Capital expenditure		**£616.04**		£700.27	
Deposits (key, damage)	**£15.00**				
Donations	**£1.70**		£1,373.00		
Equipment & Supplies		**£338.34**			
Error corrections	**£2.00**				
Expenses		**£203.49**		£171.48	
G L Functions		**£439.87**			
Gift Aid income	**£2,937.00**				
Membership	**£23,450.00**		£23,590.00	£28.00	
Monthly meet hall hire		**£1,161.00**			
Monthly meeting speaker	**£50.00**	**£348.99**		£551.00	
non email member costs				£444.53	
Other Income	**£150.00**		£275.00		
PayPal commission		**£495.53**		£425.56	
Postage		**£951.91**		£1,576.49	
Printing		**£1,713.63**		£1,114.78	
Quizzes	**£577.00**	**£509.54**			
Rollers visits	**£1,801.95**	**£1,577.00**			
Special events see detail Sonning Mill refund			£1,890.00		
Storage sites		**£123.07**		£78.34	
TAT Beacon		**£1,662.00**		£3,652.00	

TAT inv Capitation fees		**£6,684.00**		£5,901.00	
TAT Inv magazine		**£2,973.80**		£1,556.82	
Tree Copse	**£1,433.88**	**£1,382.50**			
Tutor fee invoices		**£29,749.00**		£4,347.00	
Tutor fees paid by members	**£29,389.35**		£4,375.34	£66.04	
Venue hire costs		**£40,588.11**	£540.00	£2,580.72	
Walking Football	**£1,542.85**	**£1,542.85**	£877.00	£817.00	
Website & database costs		**£314.42**		£154.95	
Xmas Lunch	**£575.30**	**£517.78**			
Zoom licence		**£124.78**		£743.90	
Sub-totals	**£106,296.29**	**£95,963.98**	£33,338.80	£25,680.42	
Visits see details	**£55,497.20**	**£54,249.88**	£9,997.00	£7,485.50	
Total	**£161,793.49**	**£150,213.86**	**£43,335.80**	**£33,165.92**	
As a Registered Charity, the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the recommended practices issued by the Charity Commission					
The Statement of Income and Expenditure has been prepared from the Fleet and District U3A Computerised accounting records, which I have					
examined in conjunction with the necessary Bank Statements, relevant invoices and other supporting data.					
I have reviewed all the data presented to me, and consider the income and expenditure account to be a true record of the financial					
situation of the Fleet and District U3A as of the 31st August 2021					
Kenneth James Account Examiner	**Date:**				
Signed on behalf of the Management Committee					
John Gawthorpe Chairman	**Date**	**Neil Morley Treasurer**		**Date**	

Balance Sheet					
6405 CAF	£869.08		£13,213.45		
Gold CAF	£59,178.88		£35,001.21		
HSBC	£3,988.52		£8,209.04		
HSBC credit card	£0.00		£0.00		
PayPal	£1,789.09		£225.62		
Petty Cash	£334.26		£12.97		
Tree Copse	£51.38				
Sub-totals	£66,211.21		£56,662.29		
Visits CAF	£7,446.25		£5,421.55		
Total	**£73,657.46**		**£62,083.84**		

31 Primrose Walk, Stockton Park, Stockton Avenue, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4SS

10th

November, 2022

REPORT TO: Trustees/Committee of the Fleet and District University of the Third Age.

SUBJECT: Independent Examination of the Accounts for 2021/2022 (academic year)

1. I have completed my examination of your accounts in respect of the year 1

st September, 2021 to

31st August, 2022.

2. I am pleased to report that I have found no significant matters in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that the accounts have not been produced within the requirements laid down by the Charity Commission.

3. I have focussed my review this year on reconciling the produced accounts and the associated records with the entries made through the Beacon financial control system. This did result in a number of queries which I have addressed – and resolved satisfactorily – with the Treasurer.

4. I have no specific recommendations to make following the examination of the accounts.

5. However, on a general note I believe (for no other reason than that it ought to be done) that it would be appropriate for someone independent of the visits team to select - at random - three visits and conduct an audit of all aspects of the financing associated with those visits. This should include an analysis of how the pricing was calculated as well as a reconciliation to match income to expenditure.

6. I understand that, in the current year (2022/23), a decision has been made to vary the way in which tutor fees are collected and paid. It is not my role to comment on this decision but, from an accounting and accounts inspection point of view I would say that this places a burden of responsibility on the Group

Leaders greater than they should be expected to bear and, also, that accounting properly to you and to the

Members for this area of activity becomes a particularly onerous task. I would recommend, therefore,

that the accounts for 2022/23 are subjected to a more wide ranging and professional audit than the current

'Independent Inspection of Accounts' system allows and should include the records maintained by the

relevant Group Leaders of the monies collected from members and paid over to tutors.

Kenneth James

FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1055104

Accounts

Fleet and District U3A

Chair's report for 2021 AGM

Good morning, thank you for attending our AGM. This is the opportunity for your committee to tell you what we have been doing in your interests over the last year. Sadly, it is my last Chair's report. I have had a great time as chair of Fleet U3A for the last four years. I have been fortunate to work with some very hardworking and committed volunteers on the committee and elsewhere in this super organisation. Thank you all for your support and encouragement over my time in office. It has made the difference between what could have been an onerous responsibility and what has been a busy and gratifying honour. As your chair I set out to make our U3A even more open, friendly and inclusive but I couldn't do any of that on my own. It is your backing and acceptance of change that has made any improvements possible.

We began our U3A year in the second national lockdown when everything we did was online or out of doors. The committee tried to steer a course through the crazy times of confusing and often contradictory messages about Covid rules in late 2020 and the 'shall we/ shan't we?' be able to start up our group meetings again in the spring of 2021 leading to the 'four tier system' of covid restrictions and yet another postponement of our plans. The committee met at least once every month during this time and everyone was in constant touch with each other as rules and advice changed with alarming speed. We attempted to keep you informed at every stage and are very grateful for your understanding and support especially as we had to go back on some decisions because the ground unexpectedly shifted under us at the last minute.

One important decision made by the committee this year has been to increase what used to be termed 'Attendance Fee' but is better described as 'Venue Contribution' and also to collect the contribution at the start of each term where possible. We made this tough choice when we realised that we had maintained the same number of groups, post pandemic but our venue costs were about to rise and our membership had shrunk. Our finacila security was at risk. We are all very appreciative of your understanding of and compliance with this new way of managing our finances.

We would like to thank, again, all our excellent volunteers, especially our Group Leaders (GLs), who have ensured that Fleet U3A has survived the pandemic reasonably intact. They all reacted as quickly as possible whenever there was a change in government advice and adapted their working practices rapidly to guarantee that we would continue to meet our promises to you, our members.

We have to say thank you and farewell to several Group Leaders at this AGM. They have all been thanked personally but this is an opportunity for a public note of appreciation for all that they have done to encourage new learning and just having fun in their groups over many years. They are:

- Peter Lucas from Art 2, Acrylics
- Evelyn Dansey, John Dansey and Michael Spicer all from Art 10, Painting

- Craig Handyside from Indoor Bowls
- Helen Newman from Italian
- David Pinder and Marion Simpson from Philosophy
- Sheila Arthur from Scrabble
- Lyn Hodges from Tai Chi
- Ann Bauer from Talking Poetry
- Renny Skelton from Walking C
- Alan Hayward from Wine Appreciation and
- Barrie England from Philosophy

We wish them much pleasure in their newfound free time.

Brian Robinson, who stepped down before the SGM and who led Financial Affairs for more than 20 years, was nominated to become a Life Member of Fleet U3A. This nomination was discussed in committee and I am delighted to report was agreed unanimously. Brian was delighted to be offered this accolade and was very gracious about Fleet U3A in his acceptance of it.

Sadly, we have lost members to Covid 19 and, where we were informed, we sent condolences to family members and, if possible, representatives of Fleet U3A lined the route as the funeral party left their home. This mark of respect was much appreciated and strangely comforting as we all reverted back to customs that I am sure we remember from our own youth. The pandemic has certainly given us cause to rethink some aspects of behaviour from our past that we may want to revive. We have to hope that a more respectful, inclusive and caring society emerges as we move back to normality.

We have managed to keep a full-strength committee throughout the various lockdowns and are inviting you to approve the appointment of 12 elected members as set out in the AGM papers you received recently. We also have one co-opted member. There are no new faces on our committee this year but we are always keen to welcome new volunteers. We are a hard-working team, helping each other to manage the various elements of the work we do while enjoying the fun and friendships that have emerged from our time together.

Fiona, our Membership Secretary, reports that membership has continued to fall for this second renewal period of the pandemic and we currently stand at 1,694 members. On a more positive note, the number of new members we are enrolling is currently at 231% of last year's total and we hope that this number will increase over the next six months. Last year at this time we had enrolled 42 new members and to date this year we have enrolled 97. Please do all you can to encourage your friends and family to join our U3A. Remember, there is no age or status restriction, you just have to be available to attend group meetings during the working day.

During the membership renewal round this year there was a mix-up at the post office and some 'couple' members were asked to pay extra postage to claim their printed programmes from the collection office in Fleet. The committee and I apologise for any inconvenience this caused and did offer to reimburse members affected by this fiasco. On investigation it transpired that the dispatching post office accepted the envelopes with the customary postage without demur. But unknown to us they were actually too heavy by a small amount for a second-class stamp as the printer had used heavier paper. The receiving post office spotted this shortfall and proceeded to hold up delivery of the programmes until extra postage was paid. I can assure you we will be super vigilant next year to make sure we put the correct postage on each envelope. At the time some members suggested sending only an e-copy of the programme to all members thereby saving postage altogether but far more members said they wanted to continue to receive a paper copy as they used it for reference and to scribble on during the year! From next year we will re-introduce hard copies of your membership cards, also due to popular demand.

Adrian, our Publicity Secretary, tells me that much of his year has been spent preparing for reopening after lockdown and thinking of ways to attract new members. The biggest event was U3A Day in June of this year where we had a well-visited stand in the Hart Centre, walkabouts by committee members, displays by different interest groups in shop windows around Fleet and lots of members dressed in U3A blue and yellow to advertise our charity. We did sign up some new members on the day and posters and leaflets around the town will have contributed to our healthy tally of new members. Adrian has also had articles published in a number of free magazines locally. Online the Facebook members' page has steadily grown during the year and now has almost 300 members, do sign up if you're a Facebook user as we use the page to advertise our events even before they appear in the newsletter. Adrian's plans for next year include trying to secure a booking at Fleet's Pop-Up shop so that we can advertise our U3A and offer a coffee and a chat to anyone who calls in. He also plans more local advertising in local magazines and taking part in the second national U3A Day which is going to be in September 2022.

Talking of the newsletter, Sandy, our Editor, writes that over the past year she has tried to keep you all informed and entertained with the Newsletter and our interim publication, Between Times. Some members were very generous with sharing reports of meetings or writing stories and memoirs. She is very grateful to all the contributors so far and hopes they will continue to submit regular articles. She also hopes that in future more members will feel able to submit articles so that she is able to continue the rich array that is our monthly newsletter.

Alan, our secretary, has kept us on the straight and narrow all year, ensuring we meet all legal requirements as a charity. He has also set up and managed our two Zoom accounts uploading Zoom recordings, where available, to our YouTube account. He is our point of contact with the Third Age Trust and forwards newsletters etc. to all members. (Please remember that you can subscribe directly to TAT newsletters, details are in our programme booklet.) Alan is also our Beacon guru. Beacon being our financial and membership management IT system. Alan is stepping down as Secretary at this AGM but will remain on the committee as our Beacon and Programme Secretary. I know you will all join with me in thanking Alan for all he has done to manage the business of our U3A. Personally, I owe him

an enormous debt of gratitude for all the support and encouragement he has given to me. He is handing the Secretary's role over to Jan and I know we all wish her well in this new post.

Stephen, our Group Leaders' Liaison Secretary reports that he is just completing his second year in the role and so has spent most of his time in post during the pandemic. He says that during the last year it has been wonderful to see so many group leaders keeping their groups going, whether through the use of zoom or in person where possible. He also celebrates all the new groups that started up and is pleased that only a few groups decided to close due to Covid. We currently have about 110 groups running, and Stephen is hopeful that this total will continue to grow in the next few years as we return to a post-pandemic world. Stephen spent most of 2021 talking to Group Leaders and others on the phone and via email. Sadly, he had to miss the annual Group Leaders' meeting due being in self-isolation. Hopefully, the 2021/22 year will allow him to meet many more members in person, starting with this AGM!

Jenny, our Outreach Secretary, says her role is to "reach out" to all our GLs and members to ensure everyone is included as much as possible in activities, groups, venues, gatherings and outings. At National level the U3A is working to encourage every local U3A to seek greater diversity within their membership. In the next year Jenny is planning to "reach out" to local communities who are under-represented within our current membership. She will begin by establishing a link with the local Gurkha Community. She asks that you contact her with your suggestions for future planning. Jenny is also taking up the role of Enquiries Secretary and is hoping the overlap between her two jobs will be beneficial to everyone.

Chris, our Webmaster, reminds us that our website provides information on our U3A's activities for members and the public. It is our shop window, showing those who are not yet members the benefits they will gain from joining us. It needs to reflect the range of U3A experience, and to do that depends on input from members. He is always on the lookout for new content especially any helpful advice for new members, especially those who may be concerned about joining already established groups. Photos of members enjoying their activities are particularly needed - remember that picture is worth a thousand words.

Chris is in the gradual process of altering the layout of the website to make it more succinct and also easier to view on smaller screens e.g., tablets and smart phones. As a result, some menu items will change their positions, but they will still all be there.

Barbara is not only our Minutes Secretary but is also our Venues Secretary, a very hardworking lady! She says that the last year has been challenging, the Covid pandemic resulting in ever changing rules being implemented by venues. Many of our venues are staffed by volunteers who have often been working from home so difficult to contact, therefore it has been hard for her to answer questions from GLs in a timely manner. In spite of the challenges, venues have been very helpful trying to get all groups to restart in September in a safe environment. Perhaps due to the lack of revenue over the last 18 months some venues are raising their hire costs and imposing stricter conditions. Barbara and her deputy Venues Sec, Anna White, continue to look for new venues as new groups

start up and in order to swap venues around if groups require larger spaces due to Covid concerns.

Thanks and appreciation must go to Carol Howlett who had to step down from being Events Secretary for family reasons and to Sue Dee who stepped into the breach to organise such a successful quiz afternoon in October.

Andy, previously our Programme Secretary, has taken on the Events role and his baptism of fire is fast approaching; the Christmas Lunch. I am pleased to say it is proving very popular and the last few tickets are on sale today. Andy has a good team to support him in his role, especially Peter Murray our Catering Team Leader. I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas lunch soon.

Jan is our Enquires Secretary, the first contact anyone has with our U3A. She tells me she has had a particularly busy time recently with the increase in interest from people wanting to join our gang. Jan is stepping down from Enquiries and stepping up to the important role as Secretary of our U3A. I know she will be her usual hard-working and conscientious self in her new job.

Neil, our hardworking and very accommodating Treasurer will be delivering his own report to you very soon.

Last but by no means least, I come to John. He has been our top-notch Monthly Meetings Secretary and is about to become Chair, if you vote for him! He describes how the constraints of the pandemic obliged us to investigate technology that could enable us to proceed with a programme of monthly meetings online. We began by seeking inspiration from our own members starting with the history of cinema in Fleet by local expert Maurice Kent. Maurice still holds the record for the number of viewings on YouTube of any Fleet U3A recording! Two other members, Yvonne Hockey and Dr Ann Bauer re-started our in-person programme this autumn. Yvonne revealed how very few of us could recognise Chanel No 5 given a chance to smell it! Ann Bauer's passionate championing of youngsters with additional needs was inspiring to hear. John is passing the Monthly Meting role to me so I am delighted that he has planned the 2022 programme, again inviting our own members to display their expertise. Beginning in January we will be addressed by broadcaster, Alan Grace. He will be telling the story of the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) and the well-known presenters who started their careers there.

The past 18 months have been difficult for all of us as we have found ourselves living in ways we never expected. As U3A members, we have benefitted enormously from our membership of Fleet U3A. Without the enormous amount of voluntary effort by so many people, our U3A might not have survived. As U3A members, we belong to a movement built on principles of mutual aid and self-help. Although we may join in the first place to learn a new skill or to enjoy meeting new people, we also join a movement where we are all volunteers with something to contribute. Now is the time to make that contribution. We need new Group Leaders to take over existing groups and to set up new ones. We need innovative ideas on the committee. We need you to step up to the mark if we are to continue to live, laugh and learn together post Covid 19.

As John F. Kennedy said, ‘Every person can make a difference, and every person should try.’

Good bye and thank you,

Paddy Powell

Balance Sheet		
6405 CAF	£ 13,213.45	£ 6,376.81
Gold CAF	£ 35,001.21	£ 42,440.08
HSBC	£ 8,209.04	£ 136.87
PayPal	£ 225.62	£ 284.18
Petty Cash	£ 12.97	£ 7.97
Total	**£ 56,662.29**	**£ 49,245.91**
Visits CAF	£ 5,421.55	£ 3,915.05

Notes to the Accounts

Gift aid is outstanding whilst a software error in Beacon is resolved

Sonning Mill refund relates to Covid 19 cancellation

1. As a Registered Charity, the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the recommended practices issued by the Charity Commission
2. The reserves carried forward include a Reserves Policy sum of . 20% of Expenditure - £30,000

The Statement of Income and Expenditure has been prepared from the Fleet and District U3A Computerised accounting records, which I have examined in conjunction with the necessary Bank Statements, relevant invoices and other supporting data.

I have reviewed all the data presented to me, and consider the income and expenditure account to be a true record of the financial situation of the Fleet and District U3A as of the 31st August 2021

Kenneth James Account Examiner **Date:** 0.1/11/21

Kenneth James

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee **Date:**

Paddy Powell Chairman

PA Powell

November 3rd 2021

Neil Morley Treasurer **Date:**

3/11/21

24 Primrose Walk, Stockton Park, Stockton Avenue, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4SS

1sr November, 2021

REPORT TO: **Trustees/Committee of the Fleet University of the Third Age.**

SUBJECT: **Independent examination of the accounts for 2020/2021 (academic year)**

1. I have completed my examination of your accounts in respect of the year 1st September, 2020 to 31st August, 2021.

2. I am pleased to report that I have found no significant matters in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that the accounts have not been produced within the requirements laid down by the Charity Commission or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

3. The year under review was a very different year from those previous and, indeed, a number of temporary arrangements were put in place which deviated somewhat from traditional recording methods. I understand that most of those arrangements have now ceased (or are now ceasing). However, if any need to become more permanent some thought would need to be given to aligning the recording systems more in line with traditional principles.

4. I did make one firm suggestion (in relation to reflecting the gift aid position in the balance sheet) and I did raise a number of queries with the Treasurer and the Chairman which were all resolved for me.

5. I have no specific recommendations to make following the examination of the accounts.

6. On a general note I believe (for no other reason than that it ought to be done) that it would be appropriate for someone independent of the visits team to select -at random – one visit and conduct an audit of all aspects of the financing associated with that visit.

Kenneth James