

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 - is *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.

	Year ending 31st August 2024			Total Funds Last year
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
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 Commission recommendation CC16a and have been drawn up following Charity Commission Guidelines CC16(b) See over for Independent Examiners Report

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

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