



COUNTESTHORPE u3a

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

COUNTTESTHORPE u3a

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1084302

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: 4 Southfield Close
Countesthorpe
Leicester
LE8 5UZ

WEBSITE: www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk

CONTACT TELEPHONE: 07854 799136

TRUSTEES:	David Hebblewhite	Chair
	David Hetterley	Treasurer
	Janine Tibbles	Secretary
	June Hawkins	Information & Publicity Officer, Groups Co-ordinator
	Barry Hillyard	Membership Secretary, Vice Chair
	Jill Clayton	
	Beryl Lishman	
	Gillian Brown	
	Dorothy Ivatt	
	David Norris	
	Barbara Talbot	

Barbara Talbot joined as a committee member. All other committee members and officers continued in post from 2022-23.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT:

Constitution adopted on 11 November 2000 with amendments on 9 May 2017 and 8 May 2018

BANK: HSBC
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester
LE1 1DA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Peter Holdridge

COUNTESTHORPE u3a

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF COUNTESTHORPE u3a

I report to the trustees on my examination of the Countesthorpe u3a (u3a) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Countesthorpe 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 Countesthorpe u3a's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the u3a as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Name: Peter Holdridge

Address: 25 Linden Avenue, Countesthorpe, Leicester, LE8 5PG

Date: 31 January 2025

COUNTESTHORPE u3a

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies as set out by charity law. The report includes the information given in the Reference and Administration section, see page 1.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Countesthorpe u3a is controlled by its governing document which was adopted on 11 November 2000 with its various revisions. The latest version of the Constitution, dated 8 May 2018, which was adopted at the AGM on that date and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The elected Executive Committee Officers shall be the governing body of the u3a and its board of trustees.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are recruited from the general membership to be appointed at an Annual General Meeting.

Non-Officer members retire after their period of two years to assure a degree of rotation of membership whilst providing continuity. Executive Officers retire at the end of the period specified in the constitution.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 14th May, 2024. The Committee Officers announced their decisions to continue and were duly re-elected by the membership present.

OBJECTIVES, AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the u3a as stated in its constitution are:

"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."

Public Benefit

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the u3a's goals and continue to deliver benefits to the public.

Countesthorpe u3a is dedicated to providing a supportive learning and development environment for those people in the locality who are no longer in full-time employment. We are conscious of the need to do what we can to alleviate the issues faced by those living alone, who have suffered life-changing events such as loss of employment or bereavement.

We publicise the health and wellbeing benefits of u3a membership to the community by themed articles in the local newspaper (The Countesthorpe Herald). We advertise widely, having our own website (www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk), as well as an entry on the local parish website. In previous years we have undertaken an 'outreach' campaign to raise awareness of the u3a and its many benefits.

We have also approached the local Health Centre where referrals might be forthcoming for those people who could benefit from our offerings. We produce twice yearly Newsletters, and a monthly What's On bulletin, which are available to all members and the general public in the local library and charity shop.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's activities provide a wide public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Membership is open to individuals who are in their "Third Age" and are interested in participating in and helping to further the work of the u3a. Membership, is still recovering slowly post pandemic with many members coming from outside the Countesthorpe/Blaby area (numbers now stand at around 340).

The ethos of the u3a has continued to benefit from the work of those members who act as Group Leaders and are prepared to share their skills and knowledge with other members to encourage everyone to personally develop. We have a range of more than thirty-six different activity groups covering creative activities/the arts, learning, music, physical activities, games and outings - all with the focus on personal development and supportive companionship.

Monthly meetings are held in the local village hall to enable members to meet up to listen to a wide range of speakers and to access information on current activities. A monthly bulletin informs members of "What's On" and a twice-yearly newsletter gives an overall update on the Countesthorpe u3a. These are supported by a widely used website.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The General account direct income was £7793 with expenditure of £7,983 giving a small loss on activity of £190. However, the Groups bank account was closed during the year and the History group ceased to operate and the balances added to the General account (see details below).

Cash held in the bank account was £10,176 and petty cash held was £137.

The main source of income is through membership subscriptions (now set at £20 p.a. for full members and £10 for associate members) and Gift Aid. In 2023/24, this amounted to £6831 and £945 respectively.

Additionally, a grant of £200 was received from Countesthorpe Parish Council to assist with the purchase of equipment for the new Pickleball group.

Reserves policy

In 2019 the basis of the preparation of the accounts was changed by an agreement between the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission. The financial activities of groups are now included in the annual accounts as their finances are all part of the u3a. The groups continue to be self-financing but with assistance from the main u3a for specialised equipment and start-up costs if required.

The u3a's policy on reserves is to maintain these at a level roughly equal to twelve months of outgoings. As stated, a small surplus was recorded for the year and the reserves remain at a satisfactory level. As there are no known contingent liabilities, the trustees are satisfied that the Countesthorpe u3a is in a stable financial position and can continue operating for at least twelve months from the signature date on the Balance Sheet.

The Countesthorpe u3a maintains a current bank account with HSBC for General income and expenditure. The second current account for the Internal Groups (those coming under the responsibility of the Treasurer) was closed on 22/08/23 and the balance of £752.62 transferred to the General account. The rationale for this decision was to reduce the effect of account charges (introduced by HSBC in December 2021), which at the time included both a monthly fee of £5 and transaction costs for both credits and cheques. This decision gave an immediate saving in costs of £60 per year. Transactions for the Internal Groups are now recorded through the General account.

The Theatre, Travel and Outings groups have their own bank accounts. Their figures are audited and verified by the Treasurer at the year end and incorporated into the final accounts (shown as External Groups).

The History group also had its own bank account but the group ceased to operate on 18/03/24 and the balance of £1785.51 was transferred to the General account, along with an additional £53.70 in cash.

Taken overall, a surplus of £552 was recorded for the year, with the total fund balance as at 31/03/24 standing at £17186.

Groups, both internal and external are self-financing and we are happy that all are operating viably.

The General account is checked by an external examiner, who also helps in the preparation of the Trial Balance, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The trustees will keep this risk under review on a regular basis.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:



Mr D Hebblewhite, Chairman

Date: 31/01/25



Mr D Hetterley, Treasurer

Date: 31/01/25

COUNTESTHORPE u3a

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Direct charitable income			
Membership	1	7,793	7052
Groups	2	57,399	60,329
Miscellaneous		322	
Sub Total		65,514	67,381
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		65,514	67,381
 RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Groups	3	56,979	56,652
Monthly meetings		2,626	2,439
Newsletters, printing		656	573
Group support costs (equipment)		428	54
Stationery & misc costs		67	261
TAT Capitation fee		1,376	1,648
TAT Beacon Licence		353	411
TAT License		0	60
TAT Magazines		813	885
TAT Network News		5	5
Website costs		384	608
Bank charges - General a/c		246	128
Miscellaneous - Group a/c		1,029	1,365
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		64,962	65,089
 Net incoming resources		552	2,292
 Fund balance 1 April 2023		16,634	14,342
 Fund balance 31 March 2024		17,186	16,634

COUNTTESTHORPE u3a

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible Assets			
Website at cost		3,015	3,015
Depreciation to date		<u>3,010</u>	<u>3,010</u>
		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Current Assets			
Bank accounts	4	23,646	17,257
Cash	5	<u>1,699</u>	<u>1,814</u>
		<u>25,345</u>	<u>19,071</u>
Debtors and prepayments			
Prepayments		566	610
Group funds paid in advance		<u>2,890</u>	<u>15,809</u>
		<u>3,456</u>	<u>16,419</u>
Total current assets		<u>28,801</u>	<u>35,490</u>
Creditors-amount falling due within one year			
Accruals		636	262
Group funds received in advance		<u>10,984</u>	<u>18,599</u>
Total liabilities		<u>11,620</u>	<u>18,861</u>
		<u>17,181</u>	<u>16,629</u>
Net Assets		<u>17,186</u>	<u>16,634</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		<u>17,186</u>	<u>16,634</u>
		<u>17,186</u>	<u>16,634</u>

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
1 General Income		
Subscriptions	6,831	6,376
Gift Aid	945	347
Monthly visitors	3	17
Diaries	0	60
Donations	14	23
Amazon Smiley	0	5
Group A/C transfer in	0	203
Group A/C contra	0	22
	<u>7,793</u>	<u>7,052</u>
2 Groups Income		
Internal Groups Bank	12,649	10,468
Internal Groups Cash	591	203
External Groups	42,598	48,308
External Groups Cash	1,561	1,350
	<u>57,399</u>	<u>60,329</u>
3 Groups Expenses		
Internal Groups	12,575	11,060
	0	0
External Groups	44,404	44,293
	0	1,299
	<u>56,979</u>	<u>56,652</u>
4 Bank		
General Account	10,176	5,759
Internal Groups	0	962
External Groups	13,470	10,537
	<u>23,646</u>	<u>17,258</u>
5 Cash		
General Account	138	106
Internal Groups	1,272	1,556
External Groups	289	152
	<u>1,699</u>	<u>1,814</u>

COUNTTESTHORPE U3A

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Accounting policies

- a. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts are in accordance with the Charities SORP 2005 (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 2011.
- b. The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis.
- c. Tangible fixed assets are capitalised where expenditure exceeds £500 and are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Any assets over £500 are depreciated on a straight-line basis over three years.
- d. Fund accounting - unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees: restricted funds represent funds for a specific object and can only be expended on the specific object for which they were given.

Payments to trustees and related parties

Out of pocket expenses are refunded to trustees for costs incurred on behalf of the U3A which have been allocated to group support, membership and miscellaneous costs.

No remuneration was paid to any trustees.