

SHERBORNE u3a

Website: u3asites.org.uk/sherborne/home

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

Constitution

Sherborne u3a is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 16th March 2001 and amended on 20 October 2013, 17th October 2018, 16th October 2019 and 20 October 2021. It is an unincorporated association.

Sherborne u3a is a charity registered in the UK, with Registration Number 1085915.

Objectives

The objectives of Sherborne u3a 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, in Sherborne, Dorset and its surrounding locality.

Methodology

Sherborne u3a offers learning and new experiences in groups. New friends are made and the quality of an aging life can be improved especially for those retiring to the town who, being new to the area, may want to develop new interests.

Members volunteer to be group leaders in a subject area that are experienced in and passionate about and often well qualified.

Members can join these groups at any time throughout the year depending on numbers and availability. Waiting lists are maintained to accommodate as many as members as possible. Every effort is made to make the groups as inclusive as is reasonable.

Committee Members/Trustees

All Committee members are also Trustees of Sherborne u3a.

The principal officers for 2024/25 were:

Chairwoman	Ms Sue Thomas Peter
Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth Wills
Treasurer	Mr Douglas Fuller, Treasurer Elect

In addition to the principal officers the following were Committee members and trustees: John Dale, Membership Secretary, Brenda Newcombe, Social Secretary, Suzanne Martin, Newsflash Editor, and Diana Stephens.

The election of members of the Committee is carried out at the Annual General Meeting. The principal officers are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the AGM.

In exercising their duties the Trustees have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit considerations and all other relevant issues.

Correspondence address: 7 Castleton Court
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 3FD

Independent examiner: Mr Robin Wright
Sandford Orcas,
Dorset

Report on 2024/25

Membership numbers and group activities continue to grow and have now reached 846 members during 2024/25. This figure includes 55 group leaders. The annual membership currently remains at £20.

At the end of 2024/25, there were 66 interest groups in operation, covering a wide range of activities ranging from art, languages, literature, music, bridge, through geology, table tennis, hiking and walking with groups such as pickleball attracting many members.

Regular monthly coffee mornings open to all members and potential members continued during the year. Some successful social events were held; a Christmas Festive Tea and an extravagant Summer Showcase coffee morning with a performance by Brenda Newcombe's exercise group, while other groups presented their activities and achievements as appropriate. As usual a lunch was held for Group Leaders in recognition of the vital role they play in the success of our u3a.

The Committee met on five occasions between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.

New committee members are always welcome and are invited to approach the Secretary for a Nomination Form.

Sherborne u3a follows the guidance provided on financial matters by the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission. The Committee continues to ensure financial governance takes place in line with our overall Financial and Financial Reserve Policies and is comfortable that potential financial risks are well managed. These policies were updated during the 2023/24 academic year.

Sherborne u3a's income is derived almost solely from members' subscriptions and tax refunds under the Government Gift Aid scheme.

The financial position for 2024/25 shows a small profit of £2,624.79 held at 31 August 2025. Funds do not include advance subscriptions paid prior to the year end nor a Gift Aid claim.

We believe the annual membership fee of £20 represents good value to the individual. Having introduced the opportunity to pay by bank transfer, most members are happy to pay this way and others paid by debit/credit card at the annual Enrolment Day. A very small number still prefer to pay by cheque or cash.

The Committee has decided that the subsidy for hall hire charges should remain at 33.3% from 1 September 2025. Extra members in groups can offset this cost although the cost to individuals is relatively small.

The Committee sees no immediate need to increase the subscription rate (currently £20).

Sue Thomas Peter
Chairwoman

2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		Note	2025		2024	
			£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Members Subscriptions - current year	4		5,774.00		3,429.00	
Members Subscriptions - next year	4		9,936.00		8,484.00	
HMRC Gift Aid	5		708.16		0.00	
Grant	6		0.00		0.00	
Sundries	7		939.64			
Hall Hire Contributions from Activity Groups	8		11,675.81		10,588.40	
Net Income from Social Events & Coffee Mornings	9		196.87		148.05	
Bank account interest	10		17.89		136.67	
TOTAL RECEIPTS				29,248.37		22,786.12
PAYMENTS						
Hall Hire Costs	11		18,433.40		21,498.80	
Third Age Trust Membership	12		3,286.00		2,992.00	
Third Age Matters magazine	12		1,148.00		1,004.20	
Beacon	12		832.00		957.50	
Postage & Telephone	2		89.00		52.55	
Printing & Stationery	2		89.22		374.94	
Equipment	13		0.00		107.59	
Net Outgo on Management Events	14		680.54		665.43	
Bank Charges	15		16.58		16.13	
Sundries	7		257.03		34.12	
TOTAL PAYMENTS				24,831.77		27,703.26
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		17		£4,416.60		(£4,917.14)
Surplus plus subscriptions for current year received before start of current year, less subscriptions for next year received before end of current year				£2,964.60		(£2,638.14)
CASH FUNDS AT YEAR END				£15,470.46		£11,053.86
Cash funds net of subscriptions for next year received before end of current year				£5,534.46		£2,569.86

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS					
Bank current account balance per statement at 31 August		1,376.09		3,017.19	
Bank deposit account balance per statement at 31 August		14,094.37		8,036.67	
LIABILITIES					
Membership fees paid a year in advance		9,936.00		8,484.00	
TOTAL NET MONETARY ASSETS			£5,534.46		£2,569.86

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with any applicable standards.

2 Committee members expenses

Administrative expenses reimbursed to Committee members during the year amounted to £178.22 (23/24 : £485.51) for postage, printing and stationery, mailing software licence fees, printing costs and sundry items. No remuneration was paid to Committee members during the year (23/24: £Nil).

3 Conflicts of interest

The Committee is not aware of any conflict of interest arising during the year. One Sherborne u3a trustee is also a trustee of one of the halls that is hired for the use of activity groups. This trustee is not an authorised signatory to the Sherborne u3a bank account and therefore does not authorise payments nor sign cheques in favour of the other organisation of which they are also a trustee. The Committee considers that this relationship is of benefit to Sherborne u3a and its members.

4 Subscriptions

The amount of membership subscriptions for 24/25 received in 24/25 is relatively low because most members paid their subscriptions before 1st September 2024.

The following table illustrates the flow of subscriptions.

Membership period Subscription rate	Subscriptions received for membership year	
	24/25	23/24
	12 months £20	12 months £20
Received before the start of the year	8,524.00	10,763.00
Received during the year	5,854.00	3,657.00
Total relating to the year	<u>£14,378.00</u>	<u>£14,420.00</u>

All figures shown are net of refunds of subscription payments made in error.

5 Gift Aid

No Gift Aid claim was made in 24/25.

6 Grant

No grant was received from National u3a in 24/25.

7 Sundries

The previous Treasurer (Peter Akers) was taken ill suddenly in November 2024, this resulted in a period when priority was placed on making payments and taking receipts rather than keeping the accounts up to date. A replacement Treasurer (Douglas Fuller) was appointed in April 2025 and a catch up exercise was undertaken. It transpired that, although the individual values could be confirmed as accurate by using the Barclays account, information on 69 payments and 175 receipts had to be categorised in order to bring the accounts up to date. It was not possible to identify all of these and a number had to be categorised as "sundries". It was also necessary to make unidentified adjustments to the receipts and payments to bring the accounts into line with the bank balance at 31st August 2025

8 Contributions to hall hire costs

The contributions to hall hire costs made by activity groups in 24/25 were as follows:

Art Talks & Trips	340.00
Botanical Art	242.66
Botanical Illustration	261.32
Bridge 1 - Assisted Play	747.00
Bridge 2 - Social 1	627.26
Bridge 3 - Improvers	601.01
Bridge 4 - Duplicate	1,044.63
Choir	709.67
Dance Pot-Pourri	94.63
Dance Tap	228.79
Drawing	238.92
Geology	140.00
Leisure Art and Crafts	544.00
Madrigals	187.00
Mahjong	286.00
Movement to Music 1 & 2	242.65
Music Appreciation	222.67
Painting Together	462.00
Petanque	240.00
Pickleball	1,260.13
Reading 1	143.00
Reading 2	190.67
Reading 3	0.00
Reading 4	0.00
Science Group	84.00
Sewcial Crafts	146.70
Spanish Intermediate	313.60
Table Tennis 1	406.17
Table Tennis 2	312.00
Table Tennis 3	322.40
Table Tennis 4	301.60
Think French	335.00
Walking Netball	400.33
Total	11,675.81

9 Social events & Coffee Mornings

Three events with a social element took place in the year

- a Quiz in October 2024
- a Coach Trip to Bath also in December 2024
- Christmas Tea in December 2024.

The combined net gain from these social activities events was £324.57 (23/24: £206.19) .

Coffee Mornings were held each month from September 2024 to August 2025 inclusive, except for October 2024 when the AGM was held, making a total loss of £127.70.

10 Bank account

An interest bearing deposit account was opened during 23/24 producing interest of £17.87 in total.

11 Hall hire costs

The amounts paid in 24/25 to hire halls for meetings held by activity groups were as follows:

Art Talks & Trips	652.00
Botanical Art	364.00
Botanical Illustration	392.00
Bridge 1 - Assisted Play	1376.00
Bridge 2 - Social 1	940.80
Bridge 3 - Improvers	646.00
Bridge 4 - Duplicate	1568.00
Choir	784.00
Dance Pot-Pourri	187.20
Dance Tap	228.80
Drawing	358.40
Geology	210.00
Leisure Art and Crafts	1296.00
Madrigals	560.00
Mahjong	384.00
Movement to Music 1 & 2	426.40
Music Appreciation	334.00
Painting Together	993.00
Petanque	360.00
Pickleball	2466.00
Reading 2	286.00
Reading 3	100.00
Reading 4	0.00
Science Group	54.00
Sewcial Crafts	150.00
Spanish Intermediate	479.40
Table Tennis 1	436.40
Table Tennis 2	468.00
Table Tennis 3	483.60
Table Tennis 4	452.40
Think French	578.00
Walking Netball	419.00
Total	18433.40

12 National u3a charges

A membership fee of £3,286.00 was paid to the Third Age Trust (the national u3a body). In addition a separate payment of £1,148 was paid to provide the u3a national magazine to those Sherborne u3a members who requested it

The national u3a IT system "Beacon" has been adopted by Sherborne u3a at an annual cost of £832.00

13 Equipment

No equipment has been purchased during 2024/25

14 Management Events

The annual Enrolment Event took place in September 2024, at a cost of £171.43 (23/24: £135.00). No expense has been incurred in 24/25 for the Enrolment Meeting to take place in September 2025

The Annual General Meeting took place in October 2024 at no cost

The annual Group Leaders meeting and lunch took place in April 2025, at a cost of £413.98 (23/24: £436.59).

A Summer Showcase event was held in July 2025 to promote the activities of Sherborne u3a, at a net loss of £81.53 (23/24: a net loss of £67.84).

15 Bank Charges

Sherborne u3a's Barclays bank accounts did not suffer any charges during the year. A charge is made by Barclaycard for use of the card reader required to accept payments made by deposit or credit card. This charge is 1.6% of the amount paid and is made in the month after the relevant card payment. The total of such charges arising during the year is £16.58 (23/24: £16.13).

16 Sundry Payments net of Receipts

There were no sundry payments net of receipts in 2024/25

17 Interpretation of results

Care should be taken in the interpretation of the overall financial results because the subscriptions for 25/26 received in 24/25 are required to finance Sherborne u3a's activities in 24/25.

18 Ancillary Income and Expenditure

In addition to the income and expenditure detailed above, some group leaders collect and hold income from their group members to finance their group activities. The total balance of these amounts carried forward into 23/24 at 1st September 2024 was £1,891.66. Group leaders collected a total of £16,689.30 and spent a total of £16,994.36 during 24/25, leading to a balance carried forward at 31st August 2025 of £1,586.68 in total. The balances held by group leaders at 31st August 2025 ranged from a deficit of £57.00 to a surplus of £431.79. Group leaders are encouraged to collect sufficient from their members to finance their group activities fully, so that negative balances do not arise at the year end, and to ensure that any balance carried forward is reasonable in the context of group activities and relevant costs.

Douglas Fuller
Treasurer

For and on behalf of the Committee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF SHERBORNE USA
(CHARITY NO 1085915)

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF SHERBORNE USA ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED :
AUGUST 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

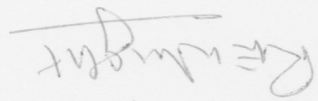
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement : My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement : In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Name : Robin E Wright, FCA

Address : Cottage Farm, Sandford Orcas, Dorset, DT9 4RU

Date : 25/9/25