

THE EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1090644

Details

Other names	EPPING FOREST U3A
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2002-02-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address
The Third Age Trust
Unit 1
52 Lant Street
London
SE1 1RB

Phone 02084666139

Website <https://www.u3a.org.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.

Activities: (i) to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in gainful employment in Epping Forest and its surrounding locality. (ii) the provision of facilities for leisure and recreational activities for the members in the interests of their social welfare. In furtherance of these objectives we currently have over 60 groups meeting on a regular basis.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£73,727	£69,895	-	-
2024-08-31	£47,045	£45,155	-	-
2023-08-31	£51,781	£49,406	-	-
2022-08-31	£35,312	£38,821	-	-
2021-08-31	£8,406	£14,757	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Elizabeth Anne Price	Chair	2022-11-07
Geoffrey Haslehurst		2025-11-10
Gillian Postlethwaite		2014-11-03
JUDITH PATTISON		2023-11-06
Janine Navarro		2022-11-07
Nicholas Charles Andrews		2023-07-10
Sally Rooks		2024-11-11
Stephen Geoffrey William Baker		2016-11-07
Stephen Hutton		2025-11-10

THE EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Accounts

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Committee Members for their efforts throughout the past year, ensuring that our u3a has been able to continue and even expand a little.

To Nick Andrews, our Treasurer, who keeps track of our finances, deals with room hire for our groups and , together with his wife Annie, helps to keep our website up to date.

To Janine Navarro who produces your Newsletter each month – and believe me, that is by no means an easy task! Janine puts many hours of effort into ensuring that the Newsletter is varied and interesting, and most important, that it reaches you on time.

To Judith Pattison, my Vice Chair who is a solid back up for the times when I'm not able to attend meetings, and a sensible, reasoning voice in our, often lengthy and complicated, discussions. Judith also keeps us up to date with the epistles emanating from Head Office, as well as attending regional online seminars on our behalf.

To Steve Baker, who has had to deal with several last minute cancellations from pre-booked speakers recently, but has nevertheless managed to provide us with replacements who have proved to be interesting and amusing. All of this, I might add, whilst dealing with his own ongoing health issues and those of his wife Christine. Thank you Steve, and we wish you both well.

To Sally Rooks, who joined the Committee last year and who very shortly thereafter, offered to take on the huge role of Groups Co-ordinator. I'm sure you will all agree that she has done a splendid job so far.

To Gill Postlethwaite who, for more years than I have been a member of EFu3a, has held the role of Membership Secretary, ensuring that renewal subscriptions are collected each year and that new members are welcomed and provided with a list of group activities. Not only that, but Gill has been instrumental in teaching all of the Committee Members how the Beacon system operates, for which we are truly thankful.

We were a smaller Committee than in previous years and are about to become even smaller, as our Secretary Trish Lockyer has decided to stand down after six years of dedicated service, and our Events Organiser, Heather Carnera is also standing down following many years of service to the Committee, as well as heading up the Events team. We will miss them both enormously, but of course we will hopefully still be seeing them at

the monthly members' meetings, and I'm sure at various events throughout the year. Ladies, thank you for all that you've done over the years, as Committee Members and for our U3A in general, and we would like to offer you these gifts as a token of our appreciation.

All of us on the Committee, and many of you as well, were deeply saddened by the passing of Doug Pratt in July this year. Doug was a co-opted member of the Committee, which meant that he did not have a vote but was there because of his particular expertise in all things relating to the Charter and legalities of the u3a at national, as well as local level and, as such, he was a tremendous help to me when I found myself unexpectedly taking on the role of Chair two years ago. He didn't say much, unless he was asked to, but he absorbed everything and his patience and willingness to assist, not just me but the whole Committee, was generous indeed and is greatly missed.

Next, my thanks must go to all those who beaver away in the background, helping to keep everything running smoothly: our wonderful Refreshments Team who do a great job of keeping us fed and watered at all our meetings and internal events; our welcomers, who stand outside in all weathers with a cheery greeting and a guiding hand for new members; Anne Pratt and Sheila Shulton who look after the Newsletter desk at the monthly meetings, and help with the annual Afternoon Tea; Julia and Paul Wilson who run the book swap and jigsaw stalls, Chris and Val Eagles who keep us supplied with beautiful hand made cards, John Carnera, Barrie Gunter and Mark Lockyer who sign you in when you arrive. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

And then there are those who help with our internal events throughout the year – not just help but work hard to make these events a success: Chrys Hobbs and Anne Pratt who organize the annual Afternoon Tea along with Kim and the Refreshments team (although I hear that Chrys is now being head hunted as a bingo caller! So we might struggle to hold on to her); Barrie Gunter and Judith Pattison who organize the November Quiz Night; Steve Baker who books our monthly speakers and takes care of all the associated electronic equipment; Sally Rooks, our Groups Co-ordinator, who helps to organize the annual Group Convenors' lunch; and all those who help with the New Members' Coffee Morning each year. Grateful thanks to all of you.

And speaking of Group Convenors, we now have 45 groups for you to choose from, including four new groups started this year – Theatre, History, Friendship and Spanish Conversation - all led by members just like you, who give up so much of their time and

energy to organize the groups for you to enjoy. Having recently become a group convenor myself, I truly realise the amount of work that goes into preparing the activities we offer, so my sincere thanks to all of you who continue, year on year, to provide space in your homes or here in the halls, or out in the countryside - whatever you do to lead your groups, you have my heartfelt thanks.

And if there is something that really interests you and we don't currently have a group offering it, then come and speak with Sally, and I can assure you that she will give you all the support and encouragement that she can in starting a group yourself. There is an up-to-date list of groups available in the members area of our website and Sally usually has printed copies to hand out at the monthly meetings for those of you who don't have online access.

We have just completed our annual membership subscription renewal, and have once again managed to keep the fee at £20 per member, so my thanks go to our Membership Secretary Gill Postlethwaite for handling this task, as always, so efficiently and patiently, and to Nick Andrews, our Treasurer for dealing with the financial side of the renewal process.

To date we have 601 members and there are 33 who have yet to renew their membership. I must also thank Gill for her ongoing contribution to the development of our Beacon system and her continued work in enhancing and refining it further, and I extend my appreciation to her for agreeing to remain as a Committee Member for another year.

Our Events Team have, as always provided a varied and interesting programme of outings this year, and still to come we have our annual Quiz Night on 15th November, organized by Barrie Gunter and Judith Pattison, and, what is perhaps the crowning glory of our events year, the fabulous Christmas Lights display at Kew Gardens. My thanks to Trish Lockyer for organizing this event again – it was a sellout last year and if it's not already sold out for this year, it will soon be, so speak to Trish today if you want to go.

This year, for our annual Spring Break, we took 48 members to Studley Castle in Warwickshire, and everyone agreed it was the best venue so far. So, in an effort to top that, and having listened to those who have been asking for a coastal resort, I have booked

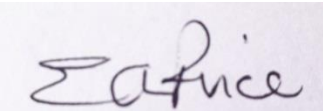
a week at Warner's Bembridge hotel and leisure centre on the Isle of Wight for May 2026. I now only have one room remaining, so if you are interested, let me know today!

And finally, but by no means least, I would ask you all to consider whether you might be able to help on the Committee in the coming year. We meet here on the second Monday of each month from 10-12am, or thereabouts, according to the agenda. You don't need any special expertise, just sound common sense really, but with Heather and Trish standing down, we now only have seven Committee members, as compared to the twelve that we had this time last year. More importantly, the Committee cannot legally function without a Secretary and if we cannot appoint one soon, there is a real danger that this branch of the U3A will be closed down. As a temporary measure, two of the current Committee members have agreed to share the Secretary's role between them – but of course they both have their own roles to fulfil on the Committee and this will be a lot of extra work for them, therefore it can only be a temporary arrangement.

So, we are relying on you, our membership, to ask yourselves whether you would be willing to step up and help us. It is not an onerous task, basically you just need to take notes at our monthly meetings and produce Minutes from them. Additionally, you would need to liaise with the Secretary here at the Village Hall regarding renewal of our annual bookings for meetings and special events.

Please think seriously as to whether you could help us, and if you are interested, we will invite you to attend a Committee meeting to observe what we do and how we do it.

I hope I haven't left anyone out of my thanks and appreciation, which is of course also extended to every one of you for choosing to be members of Epping Forest U3A, when there are plenty of other local u3as that you could have joined, or perhaps have joined as well as ours.

Signed..... Chair

**EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

INCOME	2025	2024
Annual Subscriptions	13017	12506
Hall Hire Charges		
TBVH	7691	6795
TBY & C Centre	1922	1503
Gift Aid - (£1859 Paid on 24/9/24)	1859	0
Other Income		
Social Events/Outings	49239	26241
Total Income	73727	47045
 EXPENDITURE		
Third Age Trust	3309	3150
Monthly Meetings		
Hall Hire	4792	4887
Hall Setup	685	
Speakers	1321	1067
Group & Events Accommodation		
TBVH	6220	7170
TBY & C Centre	1430	1350
Newsletter	1047	2350
Group Leader's Conference	1758	1577
Coffee Mornings (new members)	90	100
Administrative Expenses	292	928
Miscellaneous Expenses	368	166
Social Events/Outings	48583	22410
Total expenditure	69895	45155
Surplus/Deficit	3832	1890

Account Balances at 31st August 2025

Main	10990
Membership	91
Social	4571

at 31st August 2024

Main	3867
Membership	121
Social	8693

Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year 4602

at 31st August 2024 1300

Elizabeth Price *Sabice* Chairman

Date *22/10/25*

Nick Andrews *Nick Andrews* Treasurer

Date *16/10/25*

Examiner's Report: I have examined these accounts and have found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given me.

Raj Koria *R*.....

Date *16 October 2025*

THE EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Accounts

1. CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Committee Members for their efforts throughout the past year, to ensure that our u3a has been able to continue and flourish.

I would also like to thank the Committee for the enormous support they have given me in my first year as Chair; I still find it hard to believe that I am standing here, when I'm much more at ease in a pulpit preaching sermons! But these amazing people have nurtured me through the past 12 months with great patience and understanding, for which I am extremely grateful.

Next, I would like to give huge thanks on behalf of all our members to our Group Convenors, for the commitment, enthusiasm and time that they willingly offer in order to keep all our groups and classes running smoothly. They all work very hard to make our u3a the success that it is today and we are indebted to them. In particular I would like to mention Cath Shipley, who has been leading our London Walks group for many years and who has decided to stand down after the November walk. I know that those of you who have accompanied Cath on these walks have enjoyed them immensely and that's all due to Cath's diligent research and planning.

We currently have 45 groups available to members, compared to 47 last year since two Tai Chi groups which we shared with BHU3A were unable to continue. However, we have one new group this year which is History of Art run by Maggie Stockton and I hear it's progressing very well. And perhaps at this point I can encourage you to join a group wherein you might develop a new interest. Last year, I tentatively ventured into the complete unknown with Looking at Art and, I kid you not, it was a revelation and an education – so much so that I can now walk into a gallery and recognize a Monet from a Manet, a van Gogh from a van Eyck, a Gainsborough from a Goya, a Rembrandt from a Rubens. It's a whole new world for me, and I absolutely love it. So, thank you Jackie Pam for providing such a varied and interesting programme, and to Maggie Stockton for her in-depth art history courses. It just goes to show that if you step out of your comfort zone as I did, wonderful things can and do happen! I'm even looking at the gardening groups for next year, even though I don't have a garden, nor a balcony or window box!

So, if there is something that really interests you and we don't currently have a group offering it, then come and speak with our Groups Co-ordinator, and I can assure you that she will give you all the support and encouragement that she can – and on that note I would like to introduce Eileen Spink to you, who has volunteered to take over from Jill Gunter as Groups Co-ordinator. Eileen will not be a Committee Member, as the role of Groups Co-ordinator does not require her to be.

Each year we hold a Group Convenors' Conference, when we focus on day to day issues involved in running groups, developing new ones and outlining the kind of support that the committee is able to provide. There is always an up-to-date list of groups available in the members area of our website or, if you would prefer to have a copy emailed to you, then let us know and we will organize it.

Thanks, are also due to everyone who helps out at our Monday meetings each month. In particular, John Carnera on reception, ably assisted by Stephen Cowan, Mark Lockyer and Doug Pratt; my thanks to Chris and Val Eagles for the beautiful charity cards that you make and sell to us, Julia and Paul Wilson who run the very popular book and jigsaw swap – and who, thanks to storage space found here, do not now have to take them all home to their garage and haul them back again each month. To Sheila Shulton and Anne Pratt who look after the Newsletter desk, and last but certainly not least, to Kim and the refreshments team who provide us with tea and coffee every month and help out at our in-house events and are absolute stars.

Our Welcome Team is sadly depleted to just one person, so my very grateful thanks go to Judith Pattison who stands at the door in all weathers with a cheery greeting. If anyone would be willing and able to help Judith with this very important role, which is usually the first contact for new members, and if you don't mind wearing a brightly coloured sash and smiling a lot, then please speak to any member of the Committee and be assured that your input will be greatly valued.

We have just completed our annual membership subscription renewal, and, due to savings on postage for the Newsletter, we have managed to keep the fee at £20 per member, so my grateful thanks go to our Membership Secretary Gill Postlethwaite for handling this task, as always, so efficiently and patiently, and to Nick Andrews, our Treasurer for dealing with the financial side of the renewal process.

To date we have 620 members and there are 25 who have yet to renew their membership. I must also thank Gill for her significant contribution to the development of our Beacon system and her continued work in enhancing and refining it further, and I extend my appreciation to her for agreeing to remain as a Committee Member for another year. -

Every year in June we hold an Open Morning for new members and we also advertise this locally for people who might be interested in joining us.

Our Events team have, as always, provided a varied and interesting programme of outings this year, and even if the weather isn't favourable, there are always places to explore and interesting things to see. For instance, we went to Broadstairs a few months back. It rained all day, but thanks to Heather and John Carnera, we managed to find a fabulous Italian restaurant for lunch where we indulged ourselves for several hours and learned from John that it's the quality of the pasta, preferably home-made, with just the right amount of sauce - not too much - which makes for a great spag bol. We also found the tiniest cinema in the world, a Charles Dickens museum, and lots of little shops with a rather superior quality of mementos.

Still to come this year, we have the spectacular evening Christmas Light show at Kew Gardens which sold out almost as soon as it was advertised, the Foundling Museum and our annual Quiz Night at the end of this month, which is also sold out.

Likewise, our annual Spring Break. Last year we took 28 people to Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire, this year we took 35 people to Littlecote House in Hungerford, and next

year is already sold out to 48 people who will be accompanying me to Studley Castle in Warwickshire.

So, if you like the look of something on offer, don't hesitate for too long, otherwise you will be disappointed.

All of our outings sell out very quickly, so the team must be doing something right and for that my sincere thanks go to Heather for heading up the team, as well as the redoubtable Linda Cohen, who, despite ongoing health problems and several stays in hospital this year, has nevertheless managed to organize our Group Convenors' lunch and Afternoon Tea; also Chrystine Hobbs, Anne Pratt, Beverley Swift, Judith Pattison, Trish Lockyer – all of whom are members of our events team, and, once again our refreshments team who do a grand job in serving tea at most of our events.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank the remainder of the Committee for their hard work, much of it carried out behind the scenes, week in and week out, throughout the year.

Huge thanks to Steve Baker who is responsible for booking our wide and varied range of guest speakers and ensures that each talk runs efficiently on the day. We certainly have had an interesting mix of excellent speakers this year, which I am sure will continue today.

Then we have Janine Navarro who does a sterling job in producing our Newsletter each month, which can't be easy when her native tongue is French; Nick Andrews, our Treasurer, who keeps us on the straight and narrow with our finances, and also Nick's wife Annie who beavers away behind the scenes helping to develop and maintain our website;

Then there's Doug Pratt whose knowledge, expertise and common-sense approach ensures that the Committee works within the legal framework. Doug has continued on the Committee through some serious health issues this year and it most certainly has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated, so thank you Doug for all that you continue to do for us.

Huge thanks to Trish Lockyer - our Secretary who can't be with us today, but who deals with all sorts of admin tasks, as well as making sense of our discussions at Committee and somehow translating them into coherent Minutes. She really is my right hand – (even though I'm left-handed)

I've already thanked Judith Pattison for being our Welcomer at the Monday meetings, but I must also thank her for offering to join the Committee last year and for now agreeing to be my Vice Chair for the coming year. I hope she knows what she's letting herself in for as she takes over from the awesome Barrie Gunter.

And finally, where do I begin with my thanks and appreciation to Jill and Barrie Gunter who, along with Linda Cohen, will be stepping down from the Committee

today after many years of valued service. To say that I don't know what we'll do without them all is a gross understatement.

Jill and Barrie both run groups for us, and will continue to do so, and they have both undertaken the role of Groups Co-ordinator over the past few years. In addition, Jill stepped in as interim Treasurer last year when Ralph Rosen was no longer able to continue, and Barrie turns his hands to so many tasks that I've lost count, but they include liaising with the U3A Head Office on all matters of policy and development, helping with the improvement of our website and offering his considerable knowledge and expertise to our members, as well as to the Committee on a wide range of subjects. Linda ensures that each year our Group Convenors' Lunch and Afternoon Tea run smoothly and efficiently and I've rarely met her match for simple common sense.

So, to Linda, Jill and Barrie, our deepest gratitude for all your years on the Committee and we would like to offer you these small gifts as a token of our appreciation. We will miss you enormously.

Elizabeth Price

INCOME	2024	2023
Annual Subscriptions	12506	13145
Hall Hire Charges		
TBVH	6795	5131
TBY & C Centre	1503	1241
Gift Aid - (£1859 Paid on 24/9/24)	0	3879
Other Income		89
Social Events/Outings	26241	28296
Total Income	47045	51781

EXPENDITURE

Third Age Trust	3150	2732
Monthly Meetings		
Hall Hire	4887	4962
Speakers (10)	1067	1426
Group & Events Accommodation		
TBVH	7170	5849
TBY & C Centre	1350	1350
Newsletter	2350	5917
Group Leader's Conference	1577	1369
Coffee Mornings (new members)	100	84
Administrative Expenses	928	354
Miscellaneous Expenses	166	516
Social Events/Outings	22410	24846
Total expenditure	45155	49405
Surplus/Deficit	1890	2376

Account Balances at 31st August 2024

Main	3867
Membership	121
Social	8693

at 31st August 2023

Main	5182
Membership	40
Social	5461

Accruals - member payments held in Social

A/C against events up to April 2025 at 31st August 2024 1300

at 31st August 2023 1450

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on its behalf by

Elizabeth Price *Elizabeth Price*Chairman
Date *7/10/24*

Nick Andrews *Nick Andrews*Treasurer
Date *06/10/24*

Examiner's Report: I have examined these accounts and have found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given me.

Raj Koria *R*
Date *05/10/24*

THE EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1090644

Accounts

Chairman's Report November 2023

I would like to express thanks to all the Committee for the time and effort they have put in on your behalf to ensure that our u3a has remained successful as some u3as in these difficult times have not fared so well and have been forced to close. I would also like to thank the Committee Members for the continued support they have given me as Chairman; I have really appreciated it.

Next I would like to give our thanks on behalf of all our members to our Group Convenors, for their commitment, enthusiasm and more importantly, their time. They all work very hard to make Epping Forest u3a the success it is today. We currently have 47 groups available to members compared to 46 last year. Unfortunately, three groups were unable to continue and closed during the year but we also welcomed four new groups, a second wine tasting group, board games and two discussion groups; one about football and the other cricket. We have at least one more still at the planning stage. Other local u3as have also opened up a few of their groups to our members. During the year we also established an IT Support Group that provides basic-level support to members with limited IT skills. This team has helped members to use basic computer functions and smartphone applications. It does not provide computer repairs or advise about which products or brands to buy. This support has proved very helpful to those members who have used it.

I and the rest of the Committee would like to give a huge thank you to the Group Convenors who have stayed committed to keeping their groups going as well as those who have come forward and set up new groups. Hopefully with the support of new members joining us we will achieve our on-going objective of having more groups in the future. However, it is up to you our members, to be active and help to initiate the development of new groups. I can assure you that your Committee will give you, new Group Convenors and members alike, all the support they can.

We held our annual Group Convenors Conference in the summer, when we focused on day to day issues involved in running groups, developing new ones and outlining the kind of support that the committee is able to provide. A key focus of the Conference was Contingency Planning, looking at ways in which a group or activity may continue if a Group Convenor cannot run it any more or if the current venue is no longer available. My thanks to Barrie Gunter (our Groups Co-ordinator) for leading on the Conference. An up to date list of groups is always available; it can be accessed in the members area of the website or I am happy for you to contact me if you would like a copy.

Moving on, I would like to thank everyone who has helped out at our Monday meetings, not just the Committee but also others who lend a hand each month.

In particular, John Carnera on reception, ably assisted on an ad hoc basis by Stephen Cowan, Mark Lockyer and Doug Pratt; Sheila Shulton, and Anne Pratt who help out on the newsletter desk, Terry and Val Eagles for their charity cards and Julia and Paul Wilson who run the book and jigsaw swap. And last but not least, the team who provide the tea and coffee service.

Our Welcome Team also has a noticeable presence at our monthly meetings, showing new members where everything is and helping them to find out more about the opportunities and activities on offer. My thanks to Mary Terry, Judith Pattison and Beverly Swift, a recent addition to the team.

We have just completed our membership subscription renewal so my thanks go to Gill Postlethwaite for handling this task so efficiently and patiently and to Nick Andrews, our new Treasurer for dealing with the financial side of the renewal process.

Although our reserves have fallen to the level agreed in our Constitution, our costs have increased and our outgoings remain slightly higher than our income. This means that we can no longer continue to run at a slight loss each year. As a Committee we have analysed our finances and have looked for ways to cut costs rather than put up the overall subscription for everyone.

The fee we pay to the Third Age Trust for each of our members now accounts for just over 20% of our subscription income and it is likely that this fee set by the Third Age Trust may well increase in the near future. At the same time our other costs such as postage and stationery go up every year. As a consequence, one of our biggest expenses is the monthly newsletter, of which postage is the major part. As you know, members were asked to complete a survey a few weeks ago asking about their willingness to receive the newsletter, where possible, by email in future, thereby making a considerable saving in our overall budget. The results of the survey which are detailed in this month's newsletter indicated that of those of you with email, the majority would be willing to receive it electronically or would be willing to collect a hard copy from the Village Hall at the monthly meeting. However of those who responded and have an email address, 106 members (comprising 78 households) would still prefer to have a copy posted to them.

We discussed the preliminary survey results at Committee and also inspected our finalised accounts for the year 2022 to 2023 and came to the decision that to continue with a postal service to all members at no additional cost was no longer viable.

We have therefore decided that from January 2024, **all** members with an email address will have a Newsletter emailed to them each month; hard copies of the Newsletter will still be available for collection at the main meeting, on the first Monday of each month, irrespective of whether an electronic copy has been mailed out. However, for those of you with an email and who still want a copy posted to you, we have decided that we have no alternative except to charge you at a cost of £1.00 per month. This charge will be payable in advance, starting in January 2024.

Many of you may find the electronic copy far easier to read as it will be in a much larger font and any pictures will be in colour. I appreciate that some of you may find these changes difficult but the alternative is to raise our annual subscription quite significantly for all members. The Committee was unanimous in deciding that the above was the best way forward at this time. Thank you again for responding to the survey which has helped us when making our decision.

Our hall hire costs are also due to increase, albeit only slightly, so we will still need to keep our annual fees under review.

Groups that use hired premises are also required to keep their costs under review. The recommended charge for each member attending an activity in hired premises, such as here in the Village hall is £1.50 per member per meeting. However, if the numbers in the groups are not large enough to cover the cost of the hall hire, then members are asked to pay a higher charge such as £2.00 per meeting or even more. The requirement is that the cost of the hall should be met by the group using it, otherwise other members not attending the group are, in practice, subsidising the group. Nick, as part of his Treasurer's role will be monitoring hall hire costs during the year to try and ensure that they remain cost neutral.

We continued with a publicity drive earlier this year with the aim of increasing our membership. We held an Open Morning for new members as well as members of the public at the beginning of June and advertised this in local publications and on Council notice boards. However, our membership numbers are still lower than they were before the pandemic; currently they stand at 626; the comparative figure at this time last year was 645. Prior to renewal, we had a membership of

691. As reported last year, many u3as saw a significant decline in membership during the pandemic with some unable to continue as a result. At our peak, prior to the pandemic, we had just over 800 members.

Although we have had a steady stream of applications from people wishing to join us, there are always some members who do not renew their membership when the time comes. Some members leave due to a change in personal circumstances but a few decide not to renew because they have determined that what we have to offer is not for them.

This means that we do need to ensure that we have a wide range of groups and activities to offer members; if we don't have enough to interest new people, then we cannot expect to maintain a healthy membership. It is also important that new members as well as existing members realise that we are a volunteer organisation and that the availability of a wide range of groups and activities is only possible if members come forward and volunteer their services to help run them.

Members of our events team have been very active in the past few months having organised several art and museum trips and days out, including a trip to Canterbury, a behind the scenes look at Wimbledon as well as a short stay at a Warners Adult Hotel in the Cotswolds. This proved very popular with our members, and Elizabeth Price who has organised this trip has now organised another break at a Warners venue for next Spring. This is already sold out.

My thanks to all of those members of the Events Team who have been pro-active in arranging and supporting these outings especially Heather Carnera, Chrystine Hobbs, Trish Lockyer, Jackie Pam, Anne Pratt, Elizabeth Price and Beverley Swift.

As a Committee, we also 'did our bit' by running our Afternoon Tea last month which, if you attended, I am sure you will agree, was a great success. The Elvis impersonator who entertained us at the event proved to be a great hit. We are hoping that you will also enjoy our Fun Quiz Night which is taking place at the end of this month.

We have also enjoyed some joint trips with other local u3as and expect this trend to continue. The price of outings, particularly if coach hire is involved has inevitably increased so it is important that trips of this nature are fully supported and sharing places with other u3as is one way of keeping the costs down. I hope that you try to support these events as much as you can and don't forget that we are always open to new ideas for activities and events.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank the remainder of the committee for their hard work, much of it carried out diligently behind the scenes, week in and week out, throughout the year.

Thanks to **Steve Baker** who is responsible for booking our wide and varied range of guest speakers and ensures that each talk runs efficiently on the day. We certainly have had an eclectic mix of excellent speakers which I am sure will be proven today.

I would also like to thank **Linda Cohen**, our Vice Chair; she has been a general support to myself and the rest of the Committee. The same is true for **Trish Lockyer**, our Secretary who deals with a range of admin as well as making sense of our discussions at Committee and somehow translating them into coherent minutes. **Janine Navarro** who took over the Newsletter last year and has done a sterling job in ensuring its successful continuation. My particular thanks go to **Nick Andrews** who stepped into the breach when our Treasurer stood down unexpectedly due to health problems. This proved a life saver to me as initially I took on the temporary role of Treasurer as well as continuing as Chairman, albeit only for a relatively short period. I would also like to thank **Heather**

Carnera, who is very much our “Jill” of all trades, helping to organise events, stuffing newsletters into envelopes each month as well as distributing them, running her own groups and so much more. I would have found it very difficult to manage without her. And then we have **Doug Pratt**, whose knowledge, expertise and common-sense approach has ensured that I along with the rest of the Committee work within the legal framework.

My final thanks as well as that of the Committee go to all of you who volunteer your help in so many other different ways. Thank you all.

Jill Gunter

EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023


INCOME	2023	2022
Annual Subscriptions	13145	13399
Hall Hire Charges		
TBVH	5131	4977
TBY & C Centre	1241	1615
Gift Aid Recoverable 2022		0
Gift Aid Recoverable 2023	3879	
Other Income	89	105
Social Events/Outings	28296	15216
Total Income	51781	35312

EXPENDITURE

Third Age Trust	2732	2828
Monthly Meetings		
Hall Hire	4962	4684
Speaker	1426	1268
Group Accommodation		
TBVH	5849	5312
TBY & C Centre	1350	1410
Newsletter	5917	5728
Group Leader's Conference	1369	1435
Coffee Mornings (new members)	84	0
Administrative Expenses	354	91
Miscellaneous Expenses	516	1126
Social Events/Outings	24846	14939
Total expenditure	49406	38821
Surplus/Deficit	2375	-3509


Main account balance at 31st August 2023	5182	at 31st August 2022	6706
Membership a/c balance at 31st August 2023	40	at 31st August 2022	161
Social account balance at 31st August 2023	5461	at 31st August 2022	2472
Accruals - member payments held in Social A/C against events up to April 2024 at 31st August 2023	1450	at 31st August 2022	0

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on its behalf by

Jill Gunter Chairman
 Date 20-10-23

Nick Andrews Treasurer
 Date 20-10-23

Examiner's Report: I have examined these accounts and have found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given me.

Raj Koria 
 Date 18/10/23

THE EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1090644

Accounts

I would like to express thanks to all the committee for the time and effort they have put in on your behalf to ensure that our u3a has kept viable during the past few months. I would also like to thank them for the support they have given me as your new Chairman. I have really appreciated it.

When I first took over as Chairman, we were in full lockdown, so we were still running twice monthly Zoom meetings with speakers for our members.

I would therefore like to give particular thanks to Christine Hobbs for managing our Zoom software and helping members to get on line when necessary as well as Gill Postlethwaite for organising the Zoom invites and Steve Baker for booking a range of very interesting speakers. None of these Zoom presentations would have happened without all three of them leading the way. Thanks should also go to those Committee members who helped with emailing out the invites to these presentations

All newsletters were sent out by post during this period, so I am very grateful as I'm sure all of you are for the time and effort made by Terry Carter, ably supported by Mary McElarney, who continued to produce interesting and lively editions each month. My thanks go to Heather and John Carnera who did a sterling job ensuring that you all got your copies in a timely fashion as they filled and stamped the envelopes and then went out and posted them. This work still continues after lockdown, although we are now back to normal with newsletters distributed at these meetings for those of you who collect them in person. My thanks to all of those involved.

Huge thanks must also go to all our Group Convenors, who in so many different ways sustain the life of our U3A with their commitment, enthusiasm and more importantly, their time. Some went above and beyond during lockdown and kept their groups going via Zoom. Once we were able to open up again, the remaining group convenors were very quick off the mark to get their activities up and running as well. We held a successful Group Convenors conference in August, when we were able to discuss our ideas for the future, including a re-vamping our website and updating the Group Convenors' handbook. My thanks to Barrie Gunter (our Groups Co-ordinator) for leading on the Conference. Unfortunately, some groups were lost during lockdown with a few Convenors unable to continue for various reasons but others have come forward and some new groups are now beginning to emerge.

Barrie has produced an up-to-date list of groups so please contact him if you would like a copy. Hopefully with the support of new members joining us we will achieve our on-going objective of starting more groups in the future. I would like to point out however that often when we have tried to set up new groups that have been suggested by our members, or keep original groups going, we have met with a poor response. It is up to you

our members, to be active and take up the challenge. I can assure you that your committee will give you, Group Convenors and members alike, all the support they can.

Now that we are able to meet up again, I would like to thank everyone who helps out at monthly meetings, not just the Committee but also others who lend a hand each month. In particular, John Carnera on reception, Sheila Shulton, Sandra Carter and Anne Pratt who help out on the newsletter desk, Trish Haslehurst and her team for the refreshments, Terry and Val Eagles for their charity cards and Julia and Paul Wilson who have now taken over the book swap from Terry and Jean Cave who ran so it ably for the past few years. I am sure that Julia and Paul will be just as successful. We are also getting our welcome team up and running again. We are always looking for people to help us with this, so if you would like to and help new members feel welcome and are willing to don a sash at monthly meetings then please contact Mary Terry. I would also like to thank Elizabeth Price who maintains our events diary and Sue Carter who takes the lead on hall bookings.

Ralph Rosen, our new and efficient Treasurer took on the role officially in February but the handover took much longer than anticipated due to the bank officials that we had to deal with who were working from home. We renewed our membership in February instead of the previous September but agreed that we would only charge half the fees partly because of cutbacks in the service we were able to offer during lockdown but also to ensure that we would keep our reserves down to the level agreed in our Constitution. As we remain financially secure, we have decided that there is no need to increase our membership subscriptions for the current year.

However, the fee we pay to the Third Age Trust for each of our members is due to rise by an additional 50p from next April and it is likely that other costs such as postage, stationery and perhaps hall hire might also rise during the coming months so we will need to keep our annual fees under review.

Before lockdown we had also identified that some of our groups who were using hired premises were making a loss whereas others were making a profit, we therefore began looking at ways of making this more equitable as we are obliged to ensure that the costs of activities in halls should break even. This may mean that in some groups during the coming year, members may be asked to pay slightly more to attend if they cannot increase their membership to meet the cost of the hall hire, where others who maintain a healthy membership may be offered a reduction in fees. Ralph will be looking into the best way to carry this forward once we move into 2022.

This year saw a double membership renewal. My thanks go to Gill Postlethwaite who worked so diligently on this. I'm sure that during her tenure as membership secretary she did not expect to have to deal with a

double renewal yet again but she has stayed smiling in spite of the extra work load. Nationally, during lockdown, many u3as saw a significant decline in membership; unfortunately, there were a few that decided to close as a result. Our membership also declined during this period. Prior to lockdown we had just over 800 members; this fell to 630 in April this year.

Because of our concern over a declining membership, we embarked on a publicity drive during the spring and summer months, with articles in local publications, posters on Council notice boards and a stall at the Epping Town Show. This exercise seems to have paid off as our numbers have begun to rise again; between April and August this year our membership increased to 692 and further enquiries from potential new members have been received since then.

We are in the process of renewal at the moment, so we should have some more up to date figures soon. But as mentioned earlier, we do need to ensure that we have a wide range of groups and activities to offer members; if we don't have enough to interest new people, then we cannot expect to maintain a healthy membership.

Members of our new events team have been very active in the past few months having organised several art and museum trips and days out as well as the Autumn break. Previously activities of this nature were run by just a couple of people which took up a lot of their time and placed a lot of responsibility on them. Now that we have a larger group of people willing to help out, future events and trips of this nature will be less arduous for those involved as they can share the organising between them. My thanks to all the members of this team who have helped out so far especially Jackie Pam, Anne Pratt, Beverley Swift and Annette Chesher.

Next in the pipeline, is the Quiz evening at the end of this months. My thanks to Heather Carnera, Chrystine Hobbs and Linda Cohen who have taken the lead on this; I am looking forward to a very successful evening.

Again, I ask you to support these events and if you choose not to go on them because they are not what you are interested in, please come and speak to us as we welcome your suggestions but to act on them we need to know what you want

Over the next few months, we will be looking at our website and our general communication strategy. A small sub- Committee has been set up, led by Steve Baker. If any of you feel that you have some ideas to contribute to this initiative, then please contact me or Steve.

I would also like to thank Linda Cohen, our Vice Chair; she is a good sounding board for me and always there with helpful advice and support when needed. The same is true for Trish Lockyer, our Secretary who deals with a range of admin as well as making sense of our discussions at Committee and somehow translating them into coherent minutes. Chrystine Hobbs has also proved invaluable in answering my numerous

queries as I have begun to get to grips with my new role. And then we have Doug, whose knowledge, expertise and common-sense approach has ensured that I along with the rest of the Committee work within the legal framework.


My final thanks as well as that of the Committee go to all of you who volunteer your help in so many other different ways. Thank you all.

EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022


INCOME	2022		2021
Annual Subscriptions	13399		6480
Hall Hire Charges			
TBVH	4977		0
TBY&C Centre	1615		124
Victory Hall	0		0
Gift Aid Recoverable 2021			966
Other income	105		322
Social Events/Outings	15216		514
TOTAL INCOME	35312	36312	8406
 EXPENDITURE			
Third Age Trust	2828		2289
Monthly Meetings			
Hall Hire	4684		50
Speakers	1268		1876
Zoom	0		259
Group Accomodation			
TBVH	5312		0
TBY & C Centre	1410		0
Victory Hall	0		0
Newsletter	5728		7357
Group Leader's Conference/ Committee Dev & Training	1435		1313
Coffee Mornings(new members)	0		0
Administrative Expenses	91		429
Miscellaneous Expenses	1126		471
Social Events/Outings	14939		713
Total Expenditure	38821	38821	14767
Surplus/Deficit		-3509	-6351
FairFXEquals acc balance at 31 Aug 22	491	at31/08/2021	1362
Main Account balance at 31 August 2022	6706	at31/08/2021	10244
Membership acc balance at 31 Aug 2022	161	at31/08/2021	30
Social acc balance at 31 Aug 22	2472	at31/08/3021	2054
Accruals-member paymennts held in Social A/C against events up to jan 2023 as at 31st Aug-22	0	at 31/08/2021	142

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on its behalf by

Jill L Gunter  Chairman
 Date 2nd OCTOBER 2022

Ralph Rosen  Treasurer
 Date 2nd OCTOBER 2022

Examiner's Report: I have examined these accounts and have found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given me.


LA Baird 
 Date 5th OCTOBER 2022

EPPING FOREST UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022


INCOME	2022		2021
Annual Subscriptions	13399		6480
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TBVH	4977		0
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Jill L Gunter  Chairman
 Date 2nd OCTOBER 2022

Ralph Rosen  Treasurer
 Date 2nd OCTOBER 2022

Examiner's Report: I have examined these accounts and have found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given me.

LA Baird 
 Date 5th OCTOBER 2022