

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**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>
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
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>35312</b>	<b>35312</b>	<b>8406</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Third Age Trust	2828		2289
Monthly Meetings			
Hall Hire	4684		50
Speakers	1268		1876
Zoom	0		259
Group Accommodation			
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
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>38821</b>	<b>38821</b>	<b>14767</b>
Surplus/Deficit		<b>-3509</b>	<b>-6361</b>
FairFXEquals acc balance at 31 Aug 22	491	at 31/08/2021	1362
Main Account balance at 31 August 2022	6706	at 31/08/2021	10244
Membership acc balance at 31 Aug 2022	161	at 31/08/2021	30
Social acc balance at 31 Aug 22	2472	at 31/08/2021	2054
Accruals-member payments 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

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