

**Annual Report
Pershore & District u3a
1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023**

The 2022-23 financial year has been another successful one for Pershore & District u3a with membership rising, the number of Interest Groups increasing and finances in good shape.

At the beginning of the year, the number of Interest Groups stood at around 80. One of our main goals, and an important priority for a u3a with a growing membership, has been to increase this number. A membership survey in 2022 showed strong enthusiasm for several new groups, which became the focus of our planning. I am delighted that we have made solid progress with the most popular suggestions from the survey, with new Art Appreciation, Theatre Trips and Tai Chi groups opening, and planning for coach trips next year well underway. I am most appreciative of those members who have come forward to start these and several other new groups, covering activities as varied as reading, walking, driving, exercise and sewing. Due to those efforts, we now have over 90 Interest Groups, with more in the planning stages. All of this has meant a busy year for our Groups Coordinator, John Wright, who has done a fantastic job over the last year, supporting Group Leaders and encouraging new groups to get off the ground.

Interest Groups remain the central core of our u3a, offering an amazing range of activities. Huge thanks go to our wonderful Group Leaders, passionate people who selflessly give their time to organise their groups and activities for the benefit of other members. I was very pleased to put on a well-deserved Group Leaders' "Thank You" lunch for them in June, when around 50 Group Leaders came together to enjoy lunch and spend some time socialising. It was a welcome chance to say a very grateful "Thank You" to all our Group Leaders and volunteers.

Another focus area this year was to ensure that new members feel welcomed and well integrated. My thanks go to Ingrid Fox for running a series of New Members' meetings throughout the year and for recruiting an enthusiastic team to resume the "Buddies" system for Monthly Meetings. Our friendly team of Buddies do a great job of making new members and those on their own feel at ease.

We introduced some new events to the u3a calendar this year. Our CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) meetings provide opportunities for new members to chat with Committee members and find out about the u3a, and for established members to meet in a social environment. Meetings have proved fruitful for swapping experiences and ideas, and gathering suggestions for new Interest Groups.

An enjoyable addition to the calendar has been the u3a Quiz, organised by Quiz Master Ian Smith. The events are always lively, with much debate over points issued and fierce rivalry between teams. Thank you to Ian for the fiendish questions, and for keeping us in order!

We have had some exceptional speakers at our Monthly Meetings this year, thanks to the sterling efforts of our Speaker Coordinator, Sally Whyte, who has delivered a varied, stimulating and entertaining programme of talks. In October 2022, attendance numbers were already beginning to climb and have now returned to and even surpassed pre-pandemic totals. Mindful that there are those who find it difficult to travel to attend meetings in person, we continue to offer members the choice of joining Monthly Meeting via Zoom whenever possible, or instead we record meetings and make the recording available online. We feel this is an important provision that helps members remain connected with our u3a and are grateful to Peter Burnham for his technical proficiency in running our online Zoom sessions. Monthly Meetings are open to the public and advertised locally, with visitors regularly

attending. This has proved to be an effective way of raising the profile of the u3a locally and even recruiting new members.

The AGM is an important event each year and has to be run in a manner that complies with our constitution and with the requirements of the Charity Commission. Jill Wilson, our Business Secretary, not only ensures that our AGM activities are fully compliant, but also that all our Committee documentation is in good order. Thanks go to Jill for her tireless efforts, competence and the attention to detail needed for this vital task.

After last year's AGM, Rosie Chandler took over as editor of our monthly newsletter - quite a challenge as she had no previous knowledge or editing experience. In true u3a style, Rosie set her mind to learning how to use the software and developing new skills, doing a tremendous job of producing our newsletters over the year. The newsletter remains an important form of communication for us and it has been especially interesting to see the lovely photos and read news of our Interest Groups' many and varied activities.

We started the financial year with 697 members and ended it with 763, achieving another year of growth. It is quite remarkable that we have gained such high membership numbers in a town and area the size of Pershore. Our Open Day at St Andrews in March was very successful, thanks to Ingrid's brilliant organization and the efforts of everyone who contributed. In September, we once again supported the national "u3a Day" campaign with a stand in Chapman court and an exhibition in the Town Hall. Our thanks to Mary Greer for her efficiency in setting up new memberships and organizing and managing our membership subscriptions over the last twelve months.

We are in a good financial position and have continued to support Interest Groups, both with equipment and with contributions to cover initial room rental to help new and restarting groups get established. Continuing in the role of Treasurer, Ian Smith has provided the Committee with clear reports and forecasts on which to base our financial decisions, ensuring that we are in good shape for the future. Please read the Annual Accounts, which form part of the Annual General Meeting paperwork, where Ian provides an explanation of the reasons behind the headline numbers and in particular, the year-on-year differences.

The success of this financial year is due to each and every member that stepped forward to contribute in whatever way, large or small. It is volunteers that make the u3a such a wonderful organization, so if you have given your time and energy this year, then everyone in our u3a owes you a debt of gratitude.

Jackie Jolley, Chair, December 2023

The team behind the every-day workings of our u3a deserves a special mention. My fellow Committee members, who are also our Trustees, work quietly behind the scenes to make sure all the administrative functions needed to run a charity are carried out efficiently and effectively. They are a dedicated and conscientious team and I am grateful for their commitment and support. "Thank You" to all of you.

Sally Whyte – Vice Chair and Speaker Coordinator

Ian Smith – Treasurer

Mary Greer - Membership Secretary

Jill Wilson – Business Secretary

John Wright – Groups' Coordinator

Ingrid Fox – New Members' Facilitator

Peter Burnham – Beacon Administrator and Zoom Technical Support

Rosie Chandler – Newsletter Editor



Income and Expenditure	Year to 30/09/2023			Year to 30/09/2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income</i>						
Groups - u3a managed		5,105.08			2,506.50	
Groups - self managed		11,391.89			10,256.48	
Donations		74.08			69.10	
Membership		9,458.77			7,797.50	
HMRC		2,377.93				
Functions		89.00				
Bank Interest		94.47			4.31	
Total Income		<u>28,591.22</u>			<u>20,633.89</u>	
<i>Expenditure</i>						
Groups - u3a managed		3,788.29			2,659.12	
Groups - self managed		11,476.77			9,830.53	
Group Contributions		171.41			87.43	
New Members Meetings		196.54			79.50	
Stationery		117.09			100.30	
National		5,348.82			4,386.90	
Postage		194.38			219.72	
Printing		255.11			331.20	
MM - Room Hire	655.60			987.60		
MM - Speakers	844.70			789.20		
MM - Zoom	<u>181.08</u>			<u>268.68</u>		
Monthly Meetings		<u>1,681.38</u>			<u>2,045.48</u>	
Room Hire		256.00			106.40	
Bank Charges		125.19			143.00	
Miscellaneous		120.23			262.92	
Functions		705.75				
21st Celebration		50.00			522.87	
Training		330.00				
Equipment		26.98			455.10	
Total Expenditure		<u>24,843.94</u>			<u>21,230.47</u>	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		<u>3,747.28</u>			<u>(596.58)</u>	
Net Group Income/(Expenditure)		1,231.91			273.33	
Net Retained Income/(Expenditure)		<u>2,515.37</u>			<u>(869.91)</u>	
Balance Sheet						
<i>Cash at Bank and in hand</i>						
Savings		9,281.34			6,086.87	
Current		518.14			78.46	
Cash held by Groups		1,668.83			1,753.71	
Petty Cash		<u>577.59</u>			<u>315.18</u>	
		<u>12,045.90</u>			<u>8,234.22</u>	
<i>Retained Funds</i>						
Brought Forward		6,155.13			7,025.04	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		<u>2,515.37</u>			<u>(869.91)</u>	
		8,670.50			6,155.13	
Renewals		87.40			23.00	
<i>Held for Groups</i>						
Brought forward		2,056.09			1,782.76	
Net in year movement		<u>1,231.91</u>			<u>273.33</u>	
		3,288.00			2,056.09	
		<u>12,045.90</u>			<u>8,234.22</u>	

Signed:

Jackie Jolley, Chair Pershore & District u3a
Date 10th March 2024

Date

Ian Smith, Treasurer Pershore & District u3a
Date 10th March 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of		Pershore & District u3a	
On accounts for the year ended		30 th September 2023	
Set out on pages		1	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2023.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives 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

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.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Name:

Mary Kingdon

Signed:

Mary Kingdon

Date:

10.8.24

Address:

4 Huntsman Close

Drakes Broughton

WR10 2BQ

Disclosure

Section B

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.

None