



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01.09.2023

To 31.08.2024

**Charity name:** Sandbach & District u3a

**Charity registration number:** 1105144

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Sandbach and District U3A is primarily set up to provide opportunities for people who are no longer in full-time employment to further their education and/or improve their skills and abilities in a wide range of subjects and activities. This is achieved mainly by the operation of subject or activity groups which meet at regular intervals and which are led by fellow members on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Members benefit through their involvement in educational, creative and physical activities complemented by a healthy social environment.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers		

	Para 1.38	
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The u3a is the largest membership organisation in our district. It provides a wide range of social, recreational and educational opportunities for members. These focus on a wide variety of activity groups, including geology, walking football and circus skills, that meet on a regular basis. There are also less frequent events, such as Members' Mornings, visits to a range of venues, short holidays, coffee mornings and showcases.</p> <p>A major benefit of u3a is enjoying new interests and making friends in a relaxed environment. In recent research, our members reported amongst other things feeling supported in new communities when they moved house, learning new skills, feeling valued and enjoying life.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity is in a healthy financial position, with substantial reserves that are in line with our policy on reserves.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We aim to maintain financial reserves at least half the total annual venue costs and no more than half the total annual expenditure to cover any sudden increases in expenditure.  Funds above a basic working amount are transferred temporarily from a current account to a deposit account.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£36110 on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no obvious uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our funds come from membership subscriptions and group attendance fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Member of the Third Age Trust as an Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	All trustees are elected annually as trustees by members of the charity at an AGM, with up to two additional trustees co-opted by elected trustees.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Sandbach and District University of the Third Age (u3a) is part of a national and international voluntary movement which is supported by The Third Age Trust.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sandbach and District u3a
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1105144
Charity's principal address	c/o Sandbach Library The Commons Sandbach CW11 1FJ



**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Linda Bilsborrow	Chair	From 04.03.2024	
2	Ken Talbot	Vice Chair	From 04.03.2024	
3	Stuart Naylor	Secretary	From 04.03.2024	
4	Keith Saywell	Treasurer		
5	Alan Casey			
6	Paula ReillyCooper			
7	Barrie Hacking			
8	Alice Holmes			
9	Kate Ashcroft			
10	Moir Egan			
11	Jenny Haines			
12	Linda Williams			
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

Director name		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b> <b>Full name(s)</b> <b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Stuart Naylor	Linda Bilsborrow
	Stuart Naylor	Linda Bilsborrow
	Secretary	Chair
<b>Date</b>	4 May 2025	



# Sandbach & District University of the Third Age

Charity No: 110544

## Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

### Income & Expenditure Statement

Line		Notes	2023/24			2022/23		
			Main Activities		Social Activities	Main Activities		Social Activities
			£	£	£	£	£	£
	<b>Income</b>							
1	Membership Subscriptions			15 745 82		15 745 82	15 468 00	15 468 00
2	Activity Fees - Regular Groups			34 481 55		34 481 55	37 705 20	37 705 20
3	Activity Fees - Paid Instructor Groups			35 063 50		35 063 50	34 543 40	34 543 40
	Outings, Trips & Social Activities							
4	Receipts from members	A			14 803 00	14 803 00		19 557 75
5	Refunds from venues							
6	Gift Aid			2 144 68	0 00	2 144 68	2 088 77	0 00
	Other Income							
7	Miscellaneous	D	2 989 82		0 00	10 00	0 00	0 00
8	Bank Compensation & Interest		571 15		0 00	316 58	0 00	0 00
				3 560 97			326 58	
9	<b>Total Income</b>			90 996 52	14 803 00	105 799 52	90 131 95	19 557 75
								109 689 75
	<b>Expenditure</b>							
	Third Age Trust							
10	Membership Subscription	B		2 190 00			5 092 00	
	TAT Copyright			54 72			60 00	
11	Quarterly Magazine	B		1 440 00			3 063 60	
				3 684 72			8 215 60	
	Regular Groups							
12	Activities			1 408 70			1 517 49	
13	Venues			37 390 08			37 487 69	
				38 798 78			39 005 18	
	Paid Instructor Groups							
14	Instructors			18 142 50			17 897 50	
15	Venues			9 450 00			10 501 00	
				27 592 50			28 398 50	
	Outings, Trips & Social Activities							
16	Social Trip Costs				16 099 85			16 929 65
17	Event Costs				2 875 99			3 685 90
18	Equipment			127 74			861 29	
19	Administration	C			4 754 28		2 153 18	0 00
	Other							
20	SWISH website		1 020 00			1 020 00		
21	Web-hosting		137 26			158 90		
22	Paypal charges		1 143 22			974 08		
				2 300 48			2 152 98	
24	<b>Total Expenditure</b>			72 504 22	23 730 07	96 234 29	80 786 78	20 615 55
								101 402 20
25	<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>			18 492 30	8 927 07	9 565 23	9 345 22	1 057 80
								8 287 40

### Notes to the Income & Expenditure Statement

The U3a accounts are produced in accordance with the accrual concept, where expenditure on an item

A , B is shown in the year incurred, rather than depreciating over a number of years.

C Additional expenditure incurred in the year: 25th Anniversary Celebrations; Group Leaders' meetings; and purchase of an additional Zettle card reader for members card payments.

D This includes the £2000 legacy that was earmarked for the anniversary celebration and brought forward from the previous year.

# Sandbach & District University of the Third Age

Charity No: 110544

## Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

Line		Notes	2023/24		2022/23	
			£	£	£	£
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	A				
	<b>Current Assets</b>					
	<b>Debtors:</b>					
1	Prepaid Venue Expense		539 70		317 33	
2	Prepaid Group Expense					
	Prepaid Admin	D	5 084 00		720 00	
3	Prepaid Social Expense	D	1 248 50			
4	Prepaid Copyright Licence					
5	Prepaid PayPal Charges		423 69		211 22	
				7 295 89		1 248 50
6	Cash at Bank & In Hand	B		41 832 17		42 407 90
7	<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>49 128 06</b>		<b>43 656 40</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year</b>					
	<b>Creditors:</b>					
8	Subscriptions prepaid for 2023/24	C	6 858 00		12 555 82	
9	Outings, Trips & Activities Prepaid for 2023/24		2 253 05		2 000 00	
10	Venue Fees Accrued		469 00		1 654 00	
11	PT Tutor Accrual		870 00		651 50	
12	Prepaid Regular Groups	D	1 429 60			
13	Prepaid Tutor Groups	D	1 050 00			
14	Social Trip Refund Cheques to be Banked					
15	Group Speaker Accruals					
16	Administration Expenses to be Paid		88 00		250 00	
17	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>13 017 65</b>		<b>17 111 32</b>
18	<b>Total Current Assets Less Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>36 110 40</b>		<b>26 545 08</b>
	<b>Funded By</b>					
	<b>General Reserve:</b>					
19	Balance Brought Forward			26 545 17		18 257 70
20	Net Income / (Expenditure) in Year			9 565 23		8 287 40
21	Balance Carried Forward			<b>36 110 40</b>		<b>26 545 10</b>

### Notes to the Balance Sheet

- A Fixed Assets are treated as expenses and charged within the year of acquisition
- B Cash includes cash at bank and PayPal payments received. All funds are designated as "Unrestricted"
- C Reflects the reduction in subscriptions to £6.00
- The U3a accounts are produced in accordance with the accrual concept, where expenditure on an item is shown in the year incurred,
- D rather than depreciating over a number of years.

Examined By:

Signed By:

Andrew Sparkes, Independent Examiner

Linda Bilsborrow, Chair

Date:

Date:

## Analytical comparison of account

[illegible]

## Independent Examination of Sandbach and District U3A Charity as required by The Charities Act 2011 for the Year 2023-24

### Introduction

For each set of annual accounts charity law requires an Independent Examiner's report to comment on three specific things: the accounting records kept, whether the accounts agree with those records, and whether the format of the accounts is correct. The examiner is also required to comment on the accounts if they have other concerns about them.

Full guidance for the independent examination of charity accounts is given in the Charity Commissions document 'Independent examination of charity accounts: Directions and guidance for examiners (CC32)'. This independent examination therefore follows the guidance in CC32 where it is applicable to Sandbach U3A. Where Directions and text from the guidance are used in the report these are shown in *Italics*.

### ***Direction 1: Check whether the charity is eligible to have an independent examination.***

1.1 The U3A income is made up of £69,545 main activities and £14,803 social activities, with other income and member's subscriptions giving a total income of £105,799. This income is less than £250,000 maximum for income without formal audit and an Independent Examination is therefore appropriate.

1.2 *Is an audit required for any other reason?*

The Inspection is required solely for the annual accounts and there is no other reason for an audit/inspection.

1.3 *Confirm that the charity is eligible for independent examination.*

Notwithstanding the fact that this is a small charity the accounts have always been prepared on an accruals basis to give better financial control.

However, Charity Commission Appendix 5 of GUIDANCE - Independent examination of charity accounts: Directions and guidance for examiners (CC32) seems to indicate that accountancy qualifications are expected for accruals accounts.

*For accruals accounts the examiner should have a good understanding of accountancy principles, accounting standards and knowledge of the applicable SORP.*

*Trustees who have had the charity's accounts prepared on an accruals should select a person who is a member of one of the accountancy bodies listed in the 2011 Act as amended by the 2015 Order.*

However the requirement for a member of one of the accountancy bodies is qualified by the CC's definitions of 'should' and 'must'. 'Must' means something is a legal or regulatory requirement or duty that the independent examiner must comply with or must follow in the conduct of their examination.



*'Should' means guidance that is good practice which the Commission expects the independent examiner to follow when carrying out their examination. 'Recommended' or 'May' means a recommendation or practice that the Commission believes that independent examiners may find helpful in carrying out their independent examination. The examiner has discretion to exercise their own judgment and follow different practices where they consider that these are more suitable for the charity's circumstances.*

1.4 *If the charity has one or more subsidiaries confirmed that group accounts are not required by law.*

The charity has no subsidiaries.

***Direction 2: Check for any conflict of interest that prevents the examiner from carrying out their independent examination***

2.1 *Confirm that there are no close personal relationships with the trustees that compromise independence.*

I have no family, business or other close relationships with the trustees or day to day involvement with the administration of the charity. I provide no services to the charity other than this independent examination and as far as I am aware there are no circumstances that I judge would reasonably lead to the perception that as the examiner I am not independent.

2.2 *Consider whether sufficiently skilled to carry out the examination and, where required, confirmed membership of a listed body.*

FCCA Membership number 1203080

***Direction 3: Record your independent examination***

3.1 *Direction 3 lists the records to be kept by the Independent Examiner. This report, its attachments and references and retained working documents fulfil the requirements of Direction 3.*

***Direction 4: Plan the independent examination.***

*In order to plan the specific examination procedures appropriate to the circumstances of the charity, the examiner must review:*

- *the charity's constitution*
- *the way the organisation is controlled and managed*
- *whether action has been taken on any previous recommendations for improvement*
- *the accounting records and systems*
- *the charity's structure, its funds and how fund balances changed in the year*



- *the charity's activities in the year and spending and the financial risks the charity faces*

4.1 The Guidance requires the examiner to have an understanding of what the charity is aiming to do and how it goes about doing it and that examiner should know about the structure and objectives of the charity and the activities undertaken. I have reviewed the Constitution of the Sandbach U3A, Ref.1, and can confirm that the current year activities as detailed in the accounts, fully meet the Constitution's objectives of 'The advancement of education and, 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'.

The advent of the Covid 19 pandemic and the introduction by the Government of rules restricting social gatherings and social interaction stopped or heavily curtailed the majority of U3A activities in the financial year 2020-21. However, since the lifting of restrictions, group in-person activities have resumed almost to pre Covid levels.

4.2. The examiner is required to vouch some transactions as a way of testing whether the accounting records have been kept to the required standard (see my response to Direction 5 below) and to check that one or more significant items shown in the accounts agree with the accounting records kept (see my response to Direction 6 below).

**Direction 5: Check that accounting records are kept to the required standard.**

*5.1 The examiner must ensure that accounting records have been kept in compliance with the relevant legislative requirements The trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records to fulfil their legal obligations. The records of the charity must include those of any branch that is part of the charity. The examiner must review the accounting records to identify any material failure to maintain such records in accordance with the trustees' legal duty.*

5.2 The accounting records.

I have reviewed a sample of the accounting records kept by the charity, References, 2, to 7, and can confirm that;

- Account details are kept of all income/money received and payments/expenditure made.
- The dates, and the nature of income/money received, or payments/expenditure made are recorded and a record of assets held is kept.
- Details of any assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period are stated.
- The accounts are up to date at the time the accounts are prepared and are readily available.

- The accounts provide the basic information from which the charity's financial position can be understood on any selected date and at the end of the reporting period (financial year).

5.3 For membership fee payments and groups' income and expenditure, the accounts are computerised and managed by the SWISH system ['Sandbach WebIntegrated Support & Help']

#### **5.4 Membership Income**

Membership fees are collected and recorded in three ways;

- Membership Secretary, with SWISH system transactions entered by and money paid into Natwest Bank branch by Membership Secretary, SWISH system transfer then created by Membership Secretary.
- Cash and cheques received in library with SWISH system transactions entered by, and money paid into Natwest Bank branch, by Membership Secretary, SWISH system transfer then created by Membership Secretary.
- On line card payments with system transactions created automatically [less PayPal and Zettle fee]. Online bank transfer by Treasurer and system transfer created by Treasurer.

#### **5.5 Activity Groups Income;**

- Cash and cheques paid direct to Group Leaders [over a hundred groups] who access the group finance system to record attendances and payments received then pay into bank branch or by online transfer, accessing the finance system to record the payment.
- Each group has a bank paying in book with transaction serial numbers recognised by SWISH to allocate the payment to the relevant group.
- Some groups now take payment for a number of sessions upfront via email to group members.

5.6 Flow diagrams showing the processes for membership income and activity groups income are shown at Appendix 1.

5.7 Financial records including vouchers (invoices, receipts, claims and similar paperwork) have been kept by the charity to support the accounts (see Direction 6). The Trustees have ensured that the accounting records kept are a complete record by use of the SWISH system which can be interrogated to provide management reports.

#### **5.8 Social Activity Income and Expenditure**

Social activity income and expenditure is recorded in the SWISH summary.

5.9 Clarification on the treatment of the social income/expenditure within the accounts was sought in 2019 by the Trustees from the U3A National Office and the accounts are normally prepared in line with U3A National Office guidance.



## **5.9 VAT**

Advice from the National U3a has been sort as to the VAT position of the U3a.

## **5.10 Accounting Records Conclusions**

Whilst not intended to identify every omission or insignificant error in the keeping of accounting records this examination of a sample of the records has found no significant failure to maintain records in a manner consistent with the legal requirements. The accounting records are well-kept and well organised, capable of ready retrieval.

### **Direction 6: Check that the accounts are consistent with the accounting records.**

*The examiner must compare the accounts of the charity with the charity's accounting records in sufficient detail to reasonably conclude that the accounts are not materially inconsistent with the accounting records.*

6.1 I have compared the accounts with a sample of the underlying accounting records to establish whether the accounts have been prepared properly and show what income the charity has received and how it has spent its charitable funds. I have checked that the accounting records kept include source documents such as invoices, purchase orders, Gift Aid records etc.

6.2 I have compared a number of transactions, to check the accuracy of the transactions entered against the source record or documentary evidence.

In addition to the income and expenditure statement and the balance sheet at 31st August 2024 the accounts include monthly summary tables showing the breakdown of Subscriptions, Yearly Bank Reconciliation, NatWest Bank Reconciliation, PayPal income/transfers, Admin Expenses to be paid, Income and Expenditure. I have not reviewed in detail the makeup of these summaries but the output from each summary can be seen to support the individual entries in the final Income and Expenditure statement.

### **Direction 7**

*If the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and one or more related party transactions took place the examiner must check if these were properly disclosed in the notes to the accounts.*

7.1 There are no related party transactions recorded in the accounts.

### **Direction 8**

*Check the reasonableness of the significant estimates and judgments and accounting policies used in accounting for the types of fund held and in the preparation of the accounts.*

## Sandbach and District U3A Charity | No. 1105144

- 8.1 The two separate funds of the charity, [Main Activities and Social Activities] have been correctly accounted for and reported correctly in the accounts.
- 8.2 The estimates or judgments that have been made in preparing the accounts are considered to be reasonable.
- 8.3 Fixed assets are treated as expenses and are charged within the year of acquisition.
- 8.4 To the best of my knowledge the accounting policies adopted in preparation of the accounts on an accruals basis are consistent with the applicable Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) and are appropriate to the activities of the U3A.

### Direction 9

*The examiner must check whether the trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the charity at the end of the reporting period and, if the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, check whether the trustees have made an assessment of the charity's position as a going concern when approving the accounts.*

*Where accruals accounts are prepared, the examiner must ensure that the disclosures about going concern required by the applicable Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) are made and that the trustees' assessment of going concern is reasonable given the available information. In particular the examiner must check if any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.*

*Where either receipts and payments or accruals accounts are prepared, the examiner must consider whether the trustees have assessed what invoices, bills and commitments remain outstanding at the end of the reporting period and whether the trustees have identified if they can settle these as and when they fall due.*

- 9.1 The charities funds come from membership subscriptions, events and group attendance fees. The charity aims, as a reserves policy, to maintain financial reserves level at least half the total annual venue costs and no more than half the total annual expenditure to cover any sudden increases in expenditure.

- 9.2 Because the Charities funds come from membership subscriptions and group attendance fees, and nearly every group's fee income covers its venue and activity costs, the groups in the main are self financing. Regular reviews of each groups financial position is undertaken by the Fees Committee. If an activity does not take place the loss of activity fee income is usually matched by a much reduced or zero venue cost.



## Sandbach and District U3A Charity | No. 1105144

The charity is therefore able to settle its bills and meet its liabilities in a timely way and in the ordinary course of events without recourse to the reserves.

9.3 The trustees consider that they have adequate reserves and I have found no material discrepancy between the accounts and the level of reserves referred to in the trustees' annual report. Accruals accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis and the level of reserves and provision for bills as they fall is considered adequate.



Andrew Sparkes  
Independent Examiner

Date 17/11/2024

Appendix 1 Chart showing Membership income flow in SWISH and Activity Groups income flow in SWISH.

### References

1. Constitution of Sandbach U3A
2. U3A Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024.
3. U3A Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023.
4. Check of invoices v payments for months of February 2024, June 2024 and August 2024.
5. Random check of invoices v payments, all months
6. Check of Cash at Bank.



