



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 November 2023 To 31 October 2024

Charity name: OSWESTRY UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity registration number: 1127329

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	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.	To meet this objective, Oswestry U3A operates a number of study groups which concentrate on particular subject matters embracing interests in the arts, science, culture, heritage, the environment, conservation, new technology, physical health and recreational activities. We also provide regular educational talks on a wide variety of topics. These are open to all members, and a small fee is charged for attendance, to cover the hire of the hall or refreshments (dependent on where the meetings take place)
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	In pursuing these activities, the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

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.	<p>Oswestry U3A is a thriving organisation with 290 members. It positively welcomes new members who frequently comment on the friendliness that they have encountered at their first and subsequent visits. Member numbers recovered following the reduction seen during the time of the coronavirus shutdown in 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>Over the last year we have been actively improving our on-line presence through both our website and Facebook which has had the result both engaging existing members and attracting new ones.</p>

	<p>The U3A has increased its number of study groups to 27 involving 520 members who organise for themselves how they undertake studies and manage their affairs. Many of our members belong to more than one group and the scale of involvement in a wide range of study activities shows how successfully Oswestry U3A is meeting its commitment to lifelong learning. We have a Groups Coordinator who provides a link between the Committee and individual study groups and actively promotes interest in new groups. The Committee has set aside funds to help new interests get off the ground and support any particular requirements of existing groups.</p> <p>In excess of 60 members regularly attend the bi weekly educational talks and there is a positive atmosphere during the thirty minutes before a presentation starts as members chat over a cup of tea/coffee. Our speakers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and often comment favourably on the interest shown in their talks. In addition to invited speakers, we follow the self-help principle that underwrites our existence by having presentations from our own members.</p> <p>The impact of the coronavirus shut down has now been seen to be mitigated. When face to face meetings became viable again in 2021 unfortunately, we had lost our regular weekly Tuesday morning slot for educational talks at our venue. Initially the talks restarted on a Tuesday afternoon on a bi-weekly basis, however, this did not prove popular with the members and in January 2022 the meetings were moved to a Thursday morning and attendance started to improve to a point that turn out has nearly returned to pre COVID levels.</p> <p>Our U3A has now adopted 'Beacon' the administration software package made available by The Third Age Trust which has greatly improved the record keeping, communication and record keeping of the organisation including financial reporting.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Income = £46,120 Expenditure = £44,857 Income over expenditure = £1,263						
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The monies held at the end of the financial year total £21,710. This will fluctuate from year to year but we need to ensure that we have sufficient monies in reserve in order to meet all our debts.						
Amount of reserves held	<table> <tr> <td>Set aside for future asset replacement</td><td>£7,500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Set aside for specific future use</td><td>£2,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Working balance</td><td>£8,937</td></tr> </table>	Set aside for future asset replacement	£7,500	Set aside for specific future use	£2,000	Working balance	£8,937
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Set aside for specific future use	£2,000						
Working balance	£8,937						
5Reasons for holding zero reserves	n/a						

Details of fund materially in deficit	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	n/a

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Oswestry U3A is governed by a Constitution that was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 4th November 2008. The Constitution was amended at the Annual General Meeting on 13th November 2018 to reflect the change to the Purposes Clause recommended to all U3As by the Third Age Trust.
How is the charity constituted?	Oswestry U3A charity is an unincorporated association which is independently managed. We are a member of the Third Age Trust which represents the interests of all U3As in the UK and embrace its Principles of the U3A Movement. We comply with the governance requirements of the Trust.
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	Trustees are selected from the membership, are elected/re-elected at each AGM, and serve a fixed term, as laid down by the constitution.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	<u>OSWESTRY UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE</u>
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1127329
Charity's principal address	C/o The Memorial Hall Smithfield Street Oswestry SY112EG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date of original appointment to role	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Steven Watts	Chair	27 February 2024	Oswestry u3a board of trustees, but ratified by u3a membership at AGM
2	Paula Zielinski		23 April 2024	
3	John Quine	Treasurer	12 November 2019	
4	Marina McGuffie		23 April 2024	
5	Colin Henderson	Secretary	13 November 2018	
6	Sherrie-Jane Jackson		23 April 2024	
7	Alyson Skaife		23 April 2024	
8	Janet Siddall		27 February 2024	
9	Frederic Hugh Clare		27 February 2024	
10	Margaret Elaine Jones		27 February 2024	
11	Philip Pointon		27 February 2024	

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details


n/a

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full name(s)	John Quine
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer



Date

29. 11. 24

Oswestry U3A

Accounts for the year end 31st October 2024

2023		2024
3859	Annual subscriptions	4112
440	Group Reimbursement	444
129	Interest earned and sundry income	92
12558	Money raised by study groups	37851
2355	Entry charge for Tuesday educational talks	3596
0	Donations	26
19340	Total income raised for charitable purposes	46120
-908	£4.00 per member paid to Third Age Trust	-1048
-622	Money spent to support study groups	-484
-2067	Cost of Thursday meetings	-3462
-12343	Money spent by study groups	-28733
-45	Welfare expenses	-49
-132	New Members meetings	
-56	Cost of social activities	
0	IT expenses	-359
-848	Administration costs	-903
-125	Fee for independent examination of accounts	-125
-270	Beacon	-281
-17416	Total money spent on charitable purposes	-35443
1924	Net position on year	10677
18523	Total Funds 31st October 2023	
0.00	Cash at bank after allowing for unrepresented cheques	20432
	Cash in hand	15
18523	Total	20447
20447	Total funds as at 31st October 2024	31124
	Accumulated balance consists of	
20432	Cash at bank after allowing for unrepresented cheques	30773
15	Cash in hand	15
	Travel Group Cash Float	337
20447		31124
	Receipts in advance	
	Payments in advance	
	Sums due to be received	
-1475	Sums due to be paid	-9414
18972		21710
1939	Amounts belonging to Study Groups	3273
7500	Sums set aside for future asset replacement	7500
1550	Other amounts set aside	2000
7983	Working balance	8937
18972		21710

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE OSWESTRY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO MEMBERS

I have audited the financial statements of the U3A (Oswestry) including those for the Travel Group for the year ended 31 October 2024 and it is my opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Association and of the Association's income and expenditure for the year in question.

All accounting records from the Association have been supplied to me and these have been reconciled with the financial records supplied by the Bank.



Stephen M Tudhope
Independent Auditor

Date 14/11/2024