

STANSTED MOUNTFICHET UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1148073

Details

Other names	STANSTED U3A
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-07-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address 1 Crossways
Station Road
Elsenham
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM22 6LA

Phone 07881095898

Email stanstedu3a@gmail.com

Website stansted.u3asite.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: Provide access to and funding for activities and educational groups for members of our association. Provide social activities for members of our association.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£40,421	£35,622	-	-
2024-03-31	£32,550	£30,856	-	-
2023-03-31	£23,733	£28,412	-	-
2022-03-31	£19,635	£15,622	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,132	£3,524	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Pauline Green	Chair	2023-01-19
Alison Garrard		2023-06-15
Carol Procter		2024-08-15
Gaynor Mordcovich		2022-06-16
John Oldman		2022-06-16
Jonathan Samuel Hopewell		2024-08-15
Stephen Philip Riley		2024-06-20
Susan Mary Bradbury		2021-10-14
Susan Sedgebeer		2021-10-14

STANSTED MOUNTFICHET UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1148073

Accounts



**Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Report and Accounts**

For the year ended 31 March 2025

**Stansted Mountfitchet University of the Third Age
Registered Charity Number 1148073**

Contact Details:
Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
c/o Stansted Free Church
Chapel Hill
Stansted, CM24 8AG
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
Tel: 07881 095898

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2025
Trustees Report

List of Trustees	
Trustee	Office
Pauline Green	Chair
Sue Bradbury	Vice Chair
Jon Hopewell	Secretary
Gaynor Mordcovich	Treasurer/Group Co-ordinator
Alison Garrard	Committee Member/Membership Secretary
Steve Riley	Committee Member/Speakers' Co-ordinator
John Oldman	Committee Member/Webmaster
Carol Proctor	Committee Member/Assistant Treasurer
Susan Sedgebeer	Committee Member/Publicity &Marketing Officer

Who we are.

Stansted Mountfitchet u3a is an unincorporated members' association and a member of the Third Age Trust. We were founded in 2009 and our constitution, which was last revised on the 15th June 2023, is available to view on the Stansted Mountfitchet u3a website. The Objects of the charity are the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Stansted Mountfitchet and its surrounding locality.

Committee members (Trustees) of the charity are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The four Trustees elected as Officers ie: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, hold office for a fixed term of three years. No officer can be re-appointed after the end of the three-year term. The number of trustees shall be not less than 5 and not more than 15. Vacancies on the committee can be filled during the year by the committee but must then be subject to election at the next AGM.

Highlights of the past year and future plans

At the last AGM, we elected a full complement of nine members on the committee for the first time in some years. This follows the development of an active succession policy during the previous year. The AGM also saw us change Chair, Treasurer (end of fixed term), Secretary (retired) and Speaker Secretary. We expressed our appreciation to that team that had picked up the reins of leadership, brought us out of the covid period and began a period of growth in terms of membership and group activity. None of the members of the current committee are expected to retire at this AGM.

Growth has continued during this year and our membership has now reached 341 and our functioning groups now stand at 33 Last year's Trustees' Report made comment on the growing number of members who attend the monthly general meeting. This trend continued and it became clear that we were rapidly exceeding the capacity of our monthly meeting venue. After an extensive consultation and vote of members, it was agreed that we would move from St. John's Hall to The St. Theresa's Centre as of December 2024. This was a wrench

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2025
Trustees Report

for some members as, since our inception in 2009, we had always met at St. John's. Some of our group activities continue to be held at St. John's, so the tradition is not entirely lost. The planning and execution of the move was carried out over several months in order to ensure a stress free and seamless transition for our members. Our first event in the St. Theresa's Centre was a very successful Christmas Tea for 80 members with carols from our Stansted u3a Singers.

At last year's AGM, our retiring Treasurer presented our annual accounts that showed our u3a to be in a solid financial position. I am pleased to report that during the year to March 2025, we have continued to build on that excellent position.

As reported, our membership has continued to grow over this year, increasing the membership income that represents the largest element of our funding. In summary, our total income in the year was £40,421 and our total expenditure was £35,622. Excess income from Group Activities is ring-fenced and retained for the individual groups. Excluding income and expenditure on group activities, our income was £13,311 and our expenditure was £12,011. Therefore, we ended the year with a General Activity surplus of £1,300. Our general reserve at the end this financial year is now £6,741. So, we were able to make the decision that the membership fee for 2025-26 should remain at £14 per person. Our financial stability has also allowed us to make the transition to the slightly higher cost at St. Theresa's with ease.


The generally accepted rule of thumb for the size of the general reserves of a charity, is between 6 and 9 months of its running costs. I can confirm that now, at 56% of our running costs, our general reserve meets that criterion.

Also, the work that was done in the previous year to reclaim the Gift Aid available to charities, is now showing an annual income stream of just under £500 pa. This has allowed us to build further our activities programme and to develop events to welcome new members in person twice a year. Personal contacts of this sort are crucial in building relationships with new members and sometimes finding volunteers to help in the running of our u3a. These welcome meetings and several of our group activities are now being housed in a local pub, allowing us to support the local economy by purchasing teas and coffees and light refreshments at its quieter times.

The Trustees agreed, at its meeting on the 14th May 2025, that the report and annual accounts should be presented to members for their approval at the AGM.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees,


Dame Pauline Green **Chairman**
14th May 2025

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2025
Income and Expenditure Account

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31/03/25</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31/03/24</u>
		£	£
Income			
Membership Subscriptions	1	4,606	3,948
Income from Groups		27,110	19,726
Income from Raffles		1,281	1,334
Income from Fund Raising Events		1,060	898
Donations		16	51
Gift Aid received		578	2,014
Social Events income		5,670	4,499
Other Sundry Income		100	80
		<u>40,421</u>	<u>32,550</u>
Expenditure			
The Third Age trust Capitation Fee	2	1,320	1,244
U3A Beacon Costs		26	636
Committee expenses		377	598
Copyright		67	64
Expenditure by Groups		23,611	19,866
Expenditure funded for Groups		-	246
Raffle prizes		353	357
Fund Raising Events expenses		756	678
Social Events Expenses		5,854	4,549
Overheads:			
Rent of hall for general meetings		878	475
Speakers for general meetings		937	1,066
Stationery, postage and other admin expenses		236	131
		<u>2,051</u>	<u>1,672</u>
New members social		144	56
Publicity		-	215
Group leader meeting expenses		81	65
Third Age matters		648	391
Other sundry costs		334	219
		<u>35,622</u>	<u>30,856</u>
Net Income less Expenses		<u>4,799</u>	<u>1,694</u>

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
As at 31 March 2025
Balance Sheet

	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/25</u>	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/24</u>
	£	£
Assets in hand		
Balance at Bank Current Account	17,247	14,120
Cash held by Groups	90	76
Petty Cash	30	30
	<u>17,367</u>	<u>14,226</u>
Liabilities and Reserves		
Membership fees paid in advance	2,422	3,360
Trips paid in advance	-	720
Amounts held on behalf of groups	8,204	4,705
General Reserves Brought forward	3 5,441	3,603
Group Adjustment	(3,499)	144
Add deficit/surplus for year	<u>4,799</u>	<u>1,694</u>
Current General Reserves	<u>6,741</u>	<u>5,441</u>
	<u>17,367</u>	<u>14,226</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 14 May 2025



Dame Pauline Green

Chairman



Gaynor Mordcovich

Honorary Treasurer

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

As at 31 March 2025

Notes to the Accounts

1 Membership Subscriptions

As at 31 March 2025 there were 341 (2024:330) members of the Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.

2 Third Age Trust Capitation Fee

The Third Age Trust is the umbrella organisation for all U3As to which the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A pays an annual capitation fee of £4.00 per member. The fee is payable every year based on the maximum number of members during the year.

3 Reserves

The general reserve represents monies available to the Trustees for the promotion and administration of the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A. The group reserve consists of monies held at the bank on trust for the benefit of individual groups and represents monies paid in by their members specifically for their group's activities.

	<u>2025</u>			<u>2024</u>		
	General Reserve	Group Reserve	Total Reserve	General Reserve	Group Reserve	Total Reserve
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,441	4,705	10,146	3,603	4,849	8,452
Excess /(Deficit) income in year	<u>1,300</u>	<u>3,499</u>	<u>4,799</u>	<u>1,838</u>	<u>(144)</u>	<u>1,694</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>6,741</u>	<u>8,204</u>	<u>14,945</u>	<u>5,441</u>	<u>4,705</u>	<u>10,146</u>

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
As at 31 March 2025
Independent Examiner's Report

**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 31 March 2025.

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").

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.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

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.

Signed



14th May 2025

Sally Rich

28 Rainsford Road, Stansted, CM24 8DU

STANSTED MOUNTFICHET UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1148073

Accounts



**Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Accounts**

For the year ended 31 March 2024

**Stansted Mountfitchet University of the Third Age
Registered Charity Number 1148073**

Contact Details:
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Chapel Hill
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Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
Tel: 07881 095898

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2024
Trustees Report

List of Trustees	
Trustee	Office
Susan Sedgebeer	Chairman
Pauline Green	Vice Chair
Louise Da Costa	Secretary
Eric Fidell	Treasurer
Sue Bradbury	Committee Member/Speakers Co-ordinator
Gaynor Mordcovich	Committee Member/Assistant Treasurer/Groups Coordinator
John Oldman	Committee Member/Webmaster
Alison Garrard	Committee Member/Membership Secretary

Who we are.

Stansted Mountfitchet u3a is an unincorporated members association and a member of the Third Age Trust. The amended constitution was adopted on 15th June 2023 and is available to view on the Stansted Mountfitchet u3a website. The Objects of the charity are 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 in Stansted Mountfitchet and its surrounding locality.

Committee Members (Trustees) of the charity are appointed at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and hold office for a fixed term of three years. The Charity should have the following officers:- Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. No officer can be re-appointed after the end of the three year term. The number of trustees shall be not less than 5 and not more than 15. Vacancies on the committee can be filled during the year by the committee, but they then may stand for election at the next AGM.

Highlights of the past year and future plans

In 2023/4 we have continued to reap the benefits from our marketing efforts of the past two years. Our membership has risen considerably since the immediate post-pandemic levels and prior to renewals, at

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2024
Trustees Report

time of writing, has reached 330. A consistently rising number of members also now attend the monthly, general meeting.

Since the last AGM each person who joins our u3a receives a "New Member Pack" comprising a welcome letter together with a badge containing their membership card, an activities leaflet, a page showing the committee members and their contact details, as well as up-to-date reports from a variety of activity groups. Each pack is hand delivered by a committee member at which point, wherever possible, the new member is engaged in conversation about the u3a ethos of giving as well as receiving benefit from membership with a view to identifying those who may wish to take a future role as a committee member, group leader, or to help in other ways. This is yet another method of ensuring good succession planning which is key to our future security.

This year will see the retirement of a number of committee members but we are confident we have the plans in place for those vacancies to be filled. I am happy to reiterate the words I used in last year's report: we view the future with enthusiasm and hope.

Our Finances

The main source of funds is from membership subscriptions, associated Gift Aid and group activities. Group funds are ring fenced so that money paid in by any group is available for that group to use. With acceptable reserves, future annual trading is budgeted to break even.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees,

Susan Sedgebeer
15th May 2024

Chairman

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Year ended 31 March 2024
Income and Expenditure Account

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Year ended</u>		<u>Year ended</u>	
		<u>31/03/24</u>		<u>31/03/23</u>	
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income					
Membership Subscriptions	1		3,948		3,729
Income from Groups			19,726		12,543
Income from Raffles			1,334		1,185
Income from Fund Raising Events			898		876
Donations			51		104
Gift Aid received			2,014		-
Social Events income			4,499		4,946
Grants received					350
Other Sundry Income			80		-
			<u>32,550</u>		<u>23,733</u>
Expenditure					
The Third Age trust Capitation Fee	2		1,244		1,128
U3A Beacon Costs			636		287
Committee expenses			598		
Copyright			64		60
Expenditure by Groups			19,866		13,756
Expenditure funded for Groups			246		2,474
Raffle prizes			357		314
Fund Raising Events expenses			678		726
Social Events Expenses			4,549		4,961
Equipment					220
Overheads:					
Rent of hall for general meetings			475		342
Speakers for general meetings			1,066		908
Stationery, postage and other admin expenses			131		544
			<u>1,672</u>		<u>1,794</u>
New members social			56		26
Publicity			215		1,494
Group leader meeting expenses			65		538
Third Age matters			391		436
Other sundry costs			219		198
			<u>30,856</u>		<u>28,412</u>
Net Income less Expenses			<u>1,694</u>		<u>(4,679)</u>

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
As at 31 March 2024
Balance Sheet

	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/24</u> <u>£</u>	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/23</u> <u>£</u>
Assets in hand		
Balance at Bank Current Account	14,120	11,825
Balance at Bank Social Account	-	
Cash held by Groups	76	130
Petty Cash	30	30
	<u>14,226</u>	<u>11,985</u>
Liabilities and Reserves		
Membership fees paid in advance	3,360	2,616
Trips paid in advance	720	917
Amounts held on behalf of groups	4,705	4,849
General Reserves Brought forward	3,603	7,039
Group Adjustment	144	1,243
Add deficit/surplus for year	<u>1,694</u>	<u>(4,679)</u>
Current General Reserves	5,441	3,603
	<u>14,226</u>	<u>11,985</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2024

Susan Sedgebeer

Chairman

Eric Fidell

Honorary Treasurer

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

As at 31 March 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1 Membership Subscriptions

As at 31 March 2024 there were 330 (2023:311) members of the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A.

2 Third Age Trust Capitation Fee

The Third Age Trust is the umbrella organisation for all U3As to which the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A pays an annual capitation fee of £4.00 per member. The fee is payable every year based on the maximum number of members during the year.

3 Reserves

The general reserve represents monies available to the Trustees for the promotion and administration of the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A. The group reserve consists of monies held at the bank on trust for the benefit of individual groups and represents monies paid in by their members specifically for their group's activities.

	<u>2024</u>			<u>2023</u>		
	General Reserve £	Group Reserve £	Total Reserve £	General Reserve £	Group Reserve £	Total Reserve £
Balance brought forward	3,603	4,849	8,452	7,039	6,092	13,131
Excess /(Deficit) income in year	<u>1,838</u>	<u>(144)</u>	<u>1,694</u>	<u>(3436)</u>	<u>(1,243)</u>	<u>(4,679)</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>£5,441</u>	<u>4,705</u>	<u>£10,146</u>	<u>£3,603</u>	<u>£4,849</u>	<u>£8,452</u>

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
As at 31 March 2024
Independent Examiner's Report

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

15th May 2024
Sally Rich
The Old Laundry, Stansted, CM24 8TJ