



**Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Report and Accounts**

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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

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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		<u>236</u>	<u>131</u>
		2,051	1,672
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>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</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