



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01 April 2024

To 31 March 2025

Charity name: Bracknell Forest University of the Third Age

Charity registration number: 1153789

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, residing in Bracknell Forest and the surrounding locality.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open meetings addressed by an outside speaker are held every six weeks, followed by a period for refreshments and social interaction. Special provision is made to welcome new members and those who may have a disability/additional needs. Hybrid meetings are held so that members who are able to get out and about are able to meet socially face to face, whilst members who are unable to attend are able to watch in the safety and comfort of their home on Zoom.• Over seventy Interest Groups have been established. Here members pursue a wide variety of subjects on a self-teaching basis ie: all members are both teachers and learners. Such Groups are of benefit not only in an educational sense, but socially too. Members are actively encouraged to start up new Interest Groups. Many of our Group Co-ordinators keep in contact with their members by email, WhatsApp, phone calls and Zoom.• We normally offer a range of outings and social events designed to promote both educational and social benefits. <p>Taken together these activities help to combat loneliness and isolation for older members of the public. In particular we have 3 very popular</p>

		MOTO Groups for Members On Their Own to specifically address this problem and also CAMEO groups (Come and meet each other) for those who wish to undertake activities within a small group.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	These provisions show how the trustees have had regard to the requirement to provide a Public Benefit, as all activities are available to any person who chooses to become a member, provided they are no longer in full time employment.

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	
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<p>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>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>We have continued to see a further increase in membership with now over 720 members who are able to enjoy a wide range of activities including holiday breaks and many outings ranging from places of interest to shows in the West End, together with walks, playing or listening to music, sports, art, photography and many, many others. Our interest groups are varied with over 100 volunteers, including our CAMEO for members on their own who prefer company for an activity, our 3 MOTO groups for members on their own, our very popular coffee mornings which are open to all members and a monthly luncheon event.</p> <p>We have also offered talks at our Open Meetings on topics from Ageing & Fitness, Nutrition for heart health and diabetes to Mysteries and Conundrums and Gilbert & Sullivan.</p> <p>We update our membership on scams which we hope are shared through word of mouth with the wider community.</p> <p>Our New Members Secretary encourages new members to participate in our activities such that they may introduce new ideas and hopefully new groups. Our application and renewal forms now ask about any disability/additional needs that they may wish to share with us. We also now have an Accessibility Officer and a personal risk assessment for discussion with those seeking support. Carers can attend with members for which no charge is made. Open meetings include a New Members Table and a meeting was held during the year to showcase what is on offer.</p> <p>We continue to maintain a close relationship with the local council, and invited the Mayor to an event; especially with the Public Health Directorate, Social Prescription and INVOLVE. There was a meeting with a PCSO for Bracknell to enable them to tell people about the u3a on their welfare visits, and we publicize our u3a in local shops, libraries, GP surgeries who sometimes contacted us regarding their patients for social interaction, and family members who point their parents towards our organisation.</p>
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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	Our finances continue to be strong as a result of the increase in membership
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We hold reserves to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three months cover for venue hire costs • Cash flow for five months before membership income is received • Possible need to purchase or renew equipment • Provision for set-up costs for new Interest Groups • Other contingencies
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£7000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

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	Principal sources of funds arise from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership subscriptions and Gift Aid arising from these • Charges to members for participating in social events and outings • Charges to members for participating in their chosen Interest Groups to cover for example, hire of suitable venues
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We make no investments
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Our main risk relates to falling membership numbers
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	Unincorporated members association, and member of the Third Age 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	Para 1.25	Elected by the membership at the AGM

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	We have a Policies and Procedures document held on our website and reviewed regularly. We follow the recommendations of the Third Age Trust on trustee selection and induction.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	We liaise with other u3as in the Region through the Thames Valley u3a network.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	n/a
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bracknell Forest u3a
Other name the charity uses	Bracknell Forest University of the Third Age
Registered charity number	1153789
Charity's principal address	5 Bloomfield Drive Wick Hill Bracknell Berkshire RG12 2JW

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	Robert Goddard	Chair		
2	Bruce Collins	Vice Chair	Until 11 July 2024	
3	Carol Morgan	Vice Chair	From 11 July 2024	Membership at AGM
4	Janet Russell	Admin Secretary	Until 11 July 2024	
5	Shelagh Richards	Admin Secretary	From 11 July 2024	Membership at AGM
6	Graham Clark	Treasurer		
7	Anthony Bolt	Membership Secretary		
8	Stephen Richards	New Members Secretary		
9	Carol Morgan	Speakers Secretary	Until 11 July 2024	
10	Laurayne Barber	Speakers Secretary	From 11 July 2024	Membership at AGM
11	Shelagh Richards	Minutes Secretary	Until 11 July 2024	
12	Nicola Hood	Minutes Secretary	From 11 July 2024	Membership at AGM
13	Carol Clark	Groups Support Officer		
14	Jacqueline Young	Events Secretary		
15	Dorothy Kirkham	Asst. Events Secretary	From 11 July 2024	Membership at AGM
16	Vacant	Publicity Officer		
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	none
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	none
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	none

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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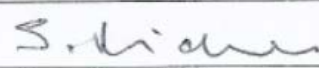
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Robert William Goddard	Shelagh Mary Richards
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Admin Secretary
Date	08 October 2025	08 October 2025

Bracknell Forest U3A Income and Expenditure Account for year ending 31 March 2025

Charity Reg. No. = 1153789

All figures in £, (brackets indicate negative)

Category	2024- 25		2023-24	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Membership subscriptions	8,879.50		7,992.00	
PayPal commission on online memberships		196.55		167.08
Gift Aid	1,376.20		1,363.03	
Bank Interest	108.19		108.11	
Commission				
Donations	454.82		23.50	
Membership Support		549.93		513.35
National Office Capitation Fee		2,608.00		2,420.00
"Third Age Matters" Magazine		1,871.12		1,692.72
Ad-Hoc Meetings		148.83		131.16
Licences, Website & Beacon Support		943.74		1,001.94
Thames Valley Network (TVN)		29.25		87.75
Committee Expenses		126.00		108.30
Training, Education				0.00
Post, stationery, printing (ex. newsletter)				5.00
Publicity		76.06		181.25
Newsletter	171.00	551.47	239.00	538.67
AGM		11.75		33.06
Miscellaneous		41.08		45.84
Purchase of Equipment		788.26		10.80
Open Meetings		1,728.37		1,370.94
Christmas Social		413.82		379.69
Group Start-up Grants/losses	60.70	96.20		55.99
Events, Outings	4,528.10	5,121.30	3,248.00	3,343.08
Sub-totals	15,578.51	15,301.73	12,973.64	12,086.62
Surplus for the year	276.78		887.02	
Brought forward	12,691.29		11,804.27	
Year-end Total	12,968.07		12,691.29	
Less transfer to Reserves	(7,000.00)		(5,000.00)	
Funds Available for General Use	5,968.07		7,691.29	
Balance Sheet	2024-25		2023-24	
Current Account	1,912.85		2,095.47	
Deposit Account	13,508.86		12,400.67	
PayPal	260.65		348.57	
Locally Held Group Cash-in-hand	2,854.12		2,985.81	
Total Funds	18,536.48		17,830.52	
Accruals and Deferrals	(2,105.27)		(1,916.94)	
Group Funds in Bank	(609.02)		(236.48)	
Locally Held Group Cash-in-hand	(2,854.12)		(2,985.81)	
Reserves	(7,000.00)		(5,000.00)	
Funds Available for General Use	5,968.07		7,691.29	

For the purposes of these accounts, subscriptions paid for the year to 30 September have been treated as coterminous with the year to 31 March.

2. Movement of group funds

Balances at year beginning	3,222.29	2,832.19
Income	50,704.64	41,056.82
Less expenditure	(50,463.79)	(40,666.72)
Balances at year end	<u>3,463.14</u>	<u>3,222.29</u>

3. Gross Income

Group	50,704.64	41,056.82
Non-group	15,578.51	12,973.64
Total	<u>66,283.15</u>	<u>54,030.46</u>

Graham Clark
06 July 2025



Report of the independent examiner

I have examined the above income and expenditure account and balance sheet and confirm that they are in agreement with the books of account and explanations given to me.

Steve Edwards
06 July 2025





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Bracknell Forest u3a

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1153789

Set out on pages

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

S R Edwards

Date:

06/07/2025

Name:

S R Edwards

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

Address:

62 Culver Lane

Reading

RG6 1DY