



NORTH WEST REGION OF U3As

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Charity Registration no 1159091

2023-2024

On 6th November 2014 the North West Region of u3as was registered as a Charity and is administered by Trustees who are also members of the Executive Committee. The North West Region of u3as is subject to the Charities Act and associated regulations and the Trustees are accountable to the Charity Commission as well as Member u3as for the administration of this charity.

The Trustees (Executive Committee) **until AGM July 2024**

Chair : Gillian Russell

Vice-Chair : Tony Cheetham – resigned December 2023

Acting Treasurer: Alan Hough

Member: Christine Garrity became acting VC in January 2024

Ex officio Member: as NW Trustee, Neil Stevenson until October 2023 then filling a casual vacancy.

Officio member as NW Trustee: Tony Cheetham from October 2023– resigned December 2023

Co-opted member – David Findon

Co-opted member Deborah Reardon

Co-opted member Kathryn Fyfe

North West of England Trustee, Third Age Trust Neil Stevenson retired October 2023

North West of England Trustee elected October 2023 Tony Cheetham, resigned 2023

- During the period from February 2023, Gillian Russell, elected Vice Chair, became acting chair when the elected chair, Mary Waters stepped down due to health problems. No one was nominated as Treasurer and Alan Hough agreed to monitor the accounts while we tried to recruit a new officer. On the resignation of Tony Cheetham, Christine Garrity became acting Vice Chair until the next AGM.
- The region now has a public relations advisor who attends committee meetings as a guest but is not elected or co-opted to the committee.

The charitable purposes are set out and governed by the Constitution, as adopted at the AGM on 10th June 2014, amended at the AGM on 4th June 2015 and then on 14th September 2021. There are 99 u3as and around 43,000 members in the NW Region, representing approximately 10% of u3as and members in the UK.

ACTIVITIES 2022-23

The main role of the regional committee is to support the regional trustee and, under his guidance, to provide a service to the Members, the u3as and the Networks in our region to advance education. We do this in three main ways:

- Firstly, we help with the formation of new u3as and networks. There have been no new groups this year but two closures – Blackpool u3a and Blackburn u3a so we now have 97 u3as. Our membership remains over 40,000. We also help to support existing u3as. A group of Regional Contact Volunteers is responsible for maintaining contact and support to groups of u3as around the NW Region. They have kept members informed of planned national and regional activities and have also provided a focus point to channel queries.
- The second thing we do is organise and run a variety of events for members. This usually includes workshops, seminars and conferences on topics of value to u3as in the region. Several events have been held, some using Zoom as a medium, other being held face to face. These included:
 - 10th May 2023: Big Sing; a popular event which enables members to come together to enjoy singing in a variety of styles. It was attended by more than 70 members came together to enjoy singing as well as to learn some simple harmonies. Attendees expressed enjoyment of the event.
 - 4th July 2023: The 14th Annual General meeting and Conference of the North West Region It was attended by representatives from 42 u3as and the feedback was very positive. The Conference

NORTH WEST REGION OF U3As

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2022/2023 YEAR

1/04/23-31/03/24

	Income £	Expenditure £	Total £
1. North West Region Funded Activities			
Summer School (Cumbria university)	29495.00	26259.49	3235.51 -
Annual general meeting	670.00	1205.04	-535.04 -
Zoom licence/computer expenses		77.89	-77.89 -
Committee meetings		493.95	-493.95 -
Training expenses			0.00
Network ukulele event			0.00
Big Sing event	1020.00	400.60	619.40 -
Workshop - best ever AGM		470.50	-470.50 -
Workshop - fit for future		212.70	-212.70 -
2. Third Age Trust Funded			
Recruitment and retention workshop			0.00
	500.00	445.63	54.37 -
	20953.00	22736.35	-1783.35 -
	31185.00 -	29120.17 -	2064.83

AS AT 31/03/24

2064.83 -

NORTH WEST REGION OF U3As

BALANCE SHEET

31/03/2023
£

Current Assets

11953.62

Bank Account

11953.62

15485.26

15485.26

31/03/2024
£

Represented by:

Capital Account
Plus current ytd surplus

5774.26

5774.26
2064.83

7839.09

Summer school 2024 prepayments

0.00

455.00

Big Sing 2024 prepayments

30.00

15.00

Lancashire Link

597.37

597.37

Lancashire and merseyside network

461.60

366.60

Deeside and Wirrall network

90.39

90.39

Greater Manchester network

1121.81

1121.81

General Reserve

5000.00

5000.00

11953.62

15485.26

NORTH WEST REGION OF U3A's AGM FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/2024

The North West region held £15485 in the bank at 31st March 2024, £3531 higher than the balance of £11954 as at 31st March 2023.

This increase in funds was due primarily to a surplus on the receipt and expenditure account for the year, arising primarily from a profit on the summer school; and a receipt of funds from the Greater Manchester network held in reserve on the balance sheet at the year end.

The surplus in the year on the receipt and expenditure account of £2065 compared to a deficit in 2022/2023 of £1783.

The surplus arose primarily from the success of the 2023 Summer School (£3236 profit) and the Big Sing event (£619 profit).

These profits were only partially offset by the cost of the AGM, committee meeting expenses, and workshops offered without charge.

Looking to 2024/2025 overall reserves are still healthy at £12839 at the start of the year. £5000 is held in general reserve and £7839 in accumulated revenue reserves.

The 2024 Summer School is planned to be run in August 2024 at the University of Cumbria in Carlisle. Enrolment has been taking place since the end of January. This is currently running lower than last year, and coupled with the increased costs of running the event, may lead to a deficit.

Alan Hough.

Treasurer.

30th April 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

NORTH WEST REGION OF U3A's

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST MARCH 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1159091

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

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; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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:

J. G. Smith

Date:

12.5.24

Name:

James Gerald Smith

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

Retired Banker

Address:

Flat 4, 249 Wigan Road, Standish, Wigan WN1 2RF

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

INVESTMENT REPORT

15TH MARCH 2024

Report No: 110422

(11/03/24)

Item 2

I report to the Institute the results of my examination of the accounts of the above charity (the Trust) for the year ended 31/03/2024.

As the charity's purpose, objectives and values for the preparation of the accounts is addressed with the accounts with effect from 1st April 2021 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts covered under section 45 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable standards given by the Chartered Institute of Accountants (CICA) of the Act.

I have completed my examination of the Trust's accounts and have concluded that the accounts are true and fair and comply with the requirements of the Act.

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 100 of the Charities Act 2011.
- The accounts did not comply with the accounting standards of the Act.
- The accounts did not comply with the requirements of the Act relating to the preparation and presentation of the accounts and the requirements of the Act relating to the preparation and presentation of the accounts.

I have no concerns and have concluded no other matters of concern with the accounts or with the charity. I make this statement in the report in order to enable a better understanding of the Institute to be reached.

included the following workshops in the morning: Interest groups matter; the u3a and the Third Age Trust; Shared Learning. We enjoyed a performance by a concert pianist, Andrew Wilde before the AGM took place. Those attending commented on the value of face to face discussions and the opportunity to network with members from around the North West Region.

- 20th February (zoom) and 5th March (face-to-face) meetings with national chair Liz Thackray about the future structure of the Trust Board.
- 6th October 2023: AGM workshop; a face to face event attended by 30 members representing more than 20 u3as. The purpose was to develop better understanding of the planning and process of managing an AGM
- The NW Summer School was held in Carlisle from August 15th - 18th. It was attended by 80 members from around the UK. The feedback was very positive and we plan to repeat the event in 2024.

It is recognised that the North West u3a website is an important tool to help to keep our members informed. Some of the members of the committee have continued to update and revitalise this site throughout the year. One of these developments has been to add a news page and a page for information from our Public Relations Adviser, Kelvin Rushworth.

-The third area where the committee supports our regional trustee is helping u3as who are having problems and ask for help.

RESOURCES

Between the end of March 2023 and the start of April 2024, the committee has held 5 planning meetings and attendance has averaged 95%.

FINANCE 2023-24

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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Events planned for 2024– 2025 include:

- Conference and AGM July 2024
- Residential Summer School at the University of Cumbria - August 2024
- Celebrate u3a – September 2024
- Workshops – to be decided.
- Networking event
- Look for an area to open a new u3a.

Members of the committee will continue to support the regional trustee in helping our u3as.

The trustees have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Gillian Russell.
Chair, North West Region of U3As
Dated: 6th April 2024