

Preston Park U3A, Chair's Report 2023

Good afternoon, Members

At the last two AGMs I spoke of the COVID pandemic and its effect on us all. I trust this best forgotten period in our lives is well and truly behind us now.

This report is my review of this year. I am very pleased to report with optimism about the progress our u3a has made in the last 12 months

We now have more members than ever before and more interest groups as well. Our finances are in a strong position and we have adequate reserves to weather any unexpected storm.

I have also had the support of a strong committee this year and most of its members are standing for re-election. I should like to thank the committee for all its help and work this year.

Your committee is not however complacent and is constantly looking to offer you, our members, more as well as maintain and improve what we already do.

We held again a promotional exhibition in Preston Park in September during u3a week to let the locals know of our existence and what do. We have attracted a good number of new members as a result.

We are investigating, with St John's Church, a major improvement to the audio visual systems at Knoyle Hall to bring them into the 21st century.

We are constantly receiving suggestions for new interest groups and endeavouring to get new ones started. We have a strong Interest Groups Team whose aim is just this as well as maintaining existing Interest Groups and starting duplicate groups where existing ones are full.

None of this is of course possible without our Group Leaders who are the people who make our u3a work. A big thank you to all our group leaders.

On a personal note, I am somewhat frustrated that we have, like most u3as, a significant churn rate – that is new members who don't renew because they can't get into the groups they would like to join and give up on us.

I should also like to thank Roger Luther for producing the monthly update email for several years. It has been a massive help in keeping us all up to date with news.

I am sure you will agree we will approach our seventeenth year with confidence because I strongly believe our u3a has something valuable to offer.

Thank you all for your support.

John Colman, Chair 2021, 2022 & 2023, Thursday 7th December 2023

**Preston Park u3a
Report & Accounts
For the Financial Year ending 31st October 2023**

The finances of Preston Park U3A are split into two parts; the income and expenditure of the various 'interest groups' that are largely 'self funded'; and the services provided to the general membership, including the monthly meetings, that are funded by the annual membership subscriptions.

At the end of the financial year, we have reported a surplus (income minus expense) of £4,389. Most of this surplus (£3,917) is attributable to the Interest Groups and this sum will be used by those groups in the coming year.

The balance of the surplus (£472) will be added to the general reserve which currently stands at £8,013.

Our membership has grown this year to over 450 members and this has generated subscription fee income of £6,517 (10% more than the previous year).

However most of our reported income, 82%, came from Interest Group subscriptions and Heritage Visit fees.

Similarly, most of our expenditure is attributable to the interest groups in respect of hall hire, external visit costs and the cost of tutors.

We also paid a net sum of £3034 to the Third Age Trust for the provision of central services covering publications, insurance and IT services.

The consolidated Accounts are detailed on the page below.

Preston Park U3A**Financial Accounts Year Ending 31st October 2022**

Income	2023	2023	2022	2022
Membership Fees		£6,517		£5,941
Interest Group Subscription		£26,808		£20,493
Interest Group Visit fees		£7,840		£10,582
Meeting Fees		£762		£834
Other Income		£100		£391
Totals		£42,027		£38,241

Expenditure

Hall hire	£9,633		£7,122	
Speakers Fees	£392		£652	
Refreshments	£119		£178	
Postage and Printing	£1,045		£691	
Subscriptions	£3,034		£2,716	
Equipment	£402		£995	
Summer Party and Picnic	£590		£0	
Interest Group visits	£7,146		£10,803	
Tutors	£14,400		£11,805	
AGM Expenses	£99		£535	
Sundry Expenses/Donations	£778		£2,040	
Totals		£37,638		£37,537

Surplus		£4,389		£704
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Balance Sheet		2023		2022
Funds brought forward		£11,170		£10,466
Surplus for year		£4,389		£704
Total carried forward		£15,559		£11,170

Represented by

Cash at Bank	£15,559		£12,487
Less Creditors			-£1,317
Total carried forward	£15,559		£11,170

John Curwen
Treasurer
3rd November 2023

Preston Park U3A

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Council of Management
for the year ended 31 October 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (Charity Number 1162594) for the year ended 31st October 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. 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:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. 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 

Date: 16th November 2023

Name: Jenny Edgell