



BUCKHURST HILL u3a ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Buckhurst Hill u3a – Chair's report 2023

Writing this as the end of my fourth year as Chair approaches I am pleased to be able to report that the last twelve months have been very successful for Buckhurst Hill u3a. This review gives me the opportunity to look back and highlight the successes.

Membership

Our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March and at the end of March this year, the membership stood at 274 compared with a total of 237 at the same time last year. During the year we gained 70 new members, but for a variety of reasons 36 members did not renew. The good news is that we have now returned to our pre-pandemic membership level.

New members are always welcome as they can bring fresh ideas but at the same time, we are happy if our current membership is maintained. It has never been our desire to grow significantly as we believe that being a smaller group enables our members to participate in a wider range of activities without the need for too many waiting lists and for us to remain friendly and sociable.

Finances

Our finances are expertly managed by our Treasurer Sue Bird. Accompanying this report is a copy of the audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2023 which show a surplus for the year of £1,628 compared with a deficit last year of £389. Sue will report in detail on these figures at the AGM. My thanks to Sue for all her hard work.

Activities

Our monthly meetings, interest groups, outings and social events are what make us such a successful u3a but none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the small number of members who give up so much of their time to make these things happen.

The monthly meetings are an integral part of any u3a group, and we aim to provide a wide variety of interesting speakers. We cannot always cater to everyone's taste but the regular high attendance each month would suggest that our Speaker Secretary, Ann Denwood is doing an excellent job.

The subject matter of our talks ranged from "Wildlife at Copped Hall" to "The Christine Keeler Scandal", via such delights as "My Life in Radio – BBC Radio Essex" and "The Mysterious Death of an MI6 Spy (the body in the bag)". Interspersed with our talks we enjoyed a Summer afternoon tea in July and a Christmas tea in December.

Ann is already working hard to arrange the speaker programme for 2024.

We are fortunate that we have remained able to meet at Roding Valley Hall, which may be a bit run down but the car parking makes up for that. We are not aware of any further developments over the future of the hall which remains shrouded in mystery. We watch with interest to see what may develop.

We currently have 30 Interest Groups, and I must take this opportunity to thank all of our Group Leaders for their considerable efforts. Running an Interest Group can be a demanding and occasionally thankless task but generally, the positive feedback from members, does make it very worthwhile as Interest Groups are such an important part of u3a life.

We have seen a few new groups take shape during the year some of which have been shared with other local u3as. Sharing groups can make a new idea viable and we are always looking for new ideas and people to facilitate them.

I must thank Fiona, our Group Coordinator, for producing the Event Calendar each month and for her hard work supporting Groups that may have needed some assistance during the year and also helping the new Groups get properly established.

Unlike the previous couple of years, during 2022/23 we were able to arrange a full programme of outings. Both my Vice-Chairs were very busy all year, Hilary organised trips to the Canal Museum, Frogmore House, Southend on Sea (including a tour of the RNLI Lifeboat Station), Ely Cathedral & Christmas Market and a much-delayed visit to the National Stud at Newmarket originally planned for 2020. She also restarted organising theatre outings with Oklahoma and the Brick Lane Music Hall.

Meanwhile, Mary was busy arranging local "theatre" visits and entertainments, for example, Copped Hall for Christmas Carols, The Kenneth More Theatre for the 'Beauty and the Beast Ballet' and the Prince Regent Hotel for the Mamma Mia Christmas lunch.

In addition to the outings, Hilary and Mary also organised two special events during the year. Mary organised the St George's Day lunch in April and Hilary organised the Entertainment Evening in November with a surprise guest appearance by King Henry VIII who kept us entertained with stories of his wives.

All of these outings and events were well supported and enjoyed by all who attended. My thanks to both Hilary and Mary for their hard work and I know they are both busy organising outings and events for next year.

Our main line of communication with members is our monthly Newsletter which has articles and information about our Interest Groups as well as forthcoming events. Members also submit interesting articles; these and all other contributions are greatly appreciated.

The credit for the success of our Newsletter must go to our Newsletter Editor, Christine Slade, who masterminds the production and distribution each month, and who, in addition to this role, is also our Membership Secretary, and Hall Hire Secretary. My sincere thanks to Christine for all her hard work.

The Committee

The Committee is the backbone of the organisation, and I must thank all of the Committee members for their support, commitment, and the time they give so willingly to ensure Buckhurst Hill u3a succeeds. I must not forget Valerie and Chris who work in the background and have not been mentioned above. Without all of their contributions we would not be able to function.

I am grateful to Hilary and Mary who have deputised for me at several monthly meetings whilst I was out of action due to health issues. This has given rise to the idea of having different "hosts" for the monthly meeting which is something we are looking into so that members will be able to put faces to the names of Committee members.

At the AGM all Committee members have to stand down and I must thank all those who have agreed to stand for re-election including Cathy Tredgett who, despite having taken her one-year sabbatical required by our constitution, acted as our ex-officio Minutes Secretary. She is also offering herself for re-election to the Committee.

Members will recall that at the AGM in 2022 I was re-elected for a fourth year as Chair, our constitution having previously been amended to allow me to serve this additional year. I now have to stand down and am not eligible for re-election.

I have on several occasions issued a plea for members to come forward to join the Committee and help run our u3a and I am delighted to report that three members have put their names forward. In addition, Sue Meredith has been persuaded to come out of retirement to re-join us and stand as a Vice Chair.

Hilary Wrightman has agreed to stand for the role of Chair, and I am very grateful she has agreed to do so. I wish her well and will support her in any way I can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those members who help each month with the setting up of the hall and help with refreshments. Every bit of assistance is appreciated.

The Future

Whilst I am confident that the next twelve months will see Buckhurst Hill u3a go from strength to strength it really does rely on you, the members, to continue embracing the u3a ethos of 'run by the members for the members'.

Your u3a needs you !

Finally, I must reiterate my thanks to the Group Leaders and the Committee for everything they do and also to the membership whose enthusiasm and support make the whole thing worthwhile.

Kevin Lucas
Chair

17/08/2023

Buckhurst Hill U3A

Accounts

Year to 31st March 2023

all figures £

		2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022
Income			
Membership subscriptions		4,970.00	4,305
		4,970.00	4,305
Expenditure			
Hall Hire		(432.00)	(252)
Third Age Trust Costs	Note 1	(1,567.56)	(1,132)
Administration expenses	Note 2	(623.36)	(1,579)
Interest Group support		(204.79)	-
Speakers		(1,058.00)	(325)
Equipment purchases		(77.45)	(1,047)
Refreshments - net expense / (income)		(147.05)	-
		(4,110.21)	(4,335)
Net income		859.79	(30)
Social Account	Note 3	768.32	(359)
Total net income		1,628.11	(389)
Branch funds			
Opening balance		2,569.33	2,958
Surplus for the period		1,628.11	(389)
Balance carried forward		4,197.44	2,569
Represented by:			
Bank balance		10,712.10	7,077
Cheques & cash to be banked		500.00	240
Amounts receivable / paid in advance	Note 4	885.34	-
Amounts payable / received in advance	Note 5	(7,900.00)	(4,748)
		4,197.44	2,569

Kevin Lucas (Chair) 

Date 15/8/2023

Sue Bird (Treasurer) 

Date 15/8/23

Examiners report: I have examined these accounts and found them to be in accordance with the accounting records and explanations given to me

Edgeline Jovero Meredith 

Date 15/08/2023

Accounts

Year to 31st March 2023

		2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022
		Year to Date	Full year
Note 1:	Third Age Trust Costs		
	Capitation costs	(948.00)	(644)
	Third Age Magazine	(619.56)	(488)
		(1,567.56)	(1,132)
Note 2:	Administration expenses		
	Stationery	(176.95)	(150)
	Stamps	(314.44)	(330)
	Printer Ink	(96.37)	(673)
	Postage supplement	425.00	384
	Membership Cards	(39.39)	(42)
	Publicity material	(78.00)	(160)
	E-mail / Zoom costs	(273.60)	(331)
	Sundries	(69.61)	(277)
		(623.36)	(1,579)
Note 3:	Social Account		
	St George' Lunch	293.39	-
	Ladies who Lunch (Jubilee - Afternoon tea)	50.11	-
	Ladies who Lunch (Blue Boar)	27.50	72
	Ladies who Lunch (Halloween)	35.00	-
	Ladies who Lunch (Red Rose lunch)	70.20	-
	Xmas afternoon tea	(260.87)	(309)
	Canal Museum	45.00	-
	Ely	277.00	-
	Entertainment Evening	299.28	-
	Thank you lunch	(287.76)	-
	Royal Albert Hall	70.00	-
	Southend	87.00	-
	Summer Afternoon tea (2021 - AGM)	(90.28)	(354)
	Formans Lunch	54.50	-
	Newmarket	98.25	-
	Quiz Night	-	105
	Ladies who Lunch (Marygreen Manor - Afternoon tea)	-	(116)
	Highclere	-	243
		768.32	(359.00)
Note 4:	Amounts paid in advance (or receivable)		
	Third Age Trust - credit note	30.34	-
	Goldsmith visit deposit	100.00	-
	The Clink - deposit	225.00	-
	Entertainment Evening 2023 deposit	130.00	-
	Coronation Event 2023 - deposit	250.00	-
	Prince Regent deposit (Xmas 23)	150.00	-
		885.34	-

Buckhurst Hill U3A*all figures £***Accounts****Year to 31st March 2023**

	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022
Note 5: Amounts received in advance (or payable)		
2023/24 Membership fee and P&P paid in advance	(4,670.00)	(3,820)
Xmas Lights - Kew	(1,120.00)	
Coronation Lunch	(1,200.00)	
Wimbledon	(210.00)	
Newmarket - 2023	(700.00)	
Ladies who lunch	-	(28)
St George' Lunch costs & sundries	-	(900)
	(7,900.00)	(4,748)

Buckhurst Hill U3A

Reconciliation of gross income and expenditure to the audited accounts

Year to 31st March 2023

Appendix

all figures £

	Gross income	Gross expenditure	ADJUSTMENTS				Surplus / deficit	Accounts
			Monies rec'd in prior year	Cash / cheques to bank	Monies rec'd in advance	Monies paid in advance		
Income								
Subscriptions 2022/2023	1,740.00	(50.00)	3,280.00		(4,360.00)		610.00	
Subscriptions 2023/2024	3,962.00	(2.00)		400.00			4,360.00	
								4,970.00
Expenditure								
Hall hire								
Main	-	(432.00)					(432.00)	
Craft	351.00	(351.00)					-	
Tai Chi	408.00	(408.00)					-	
								(432.00)
Third Age Trust Costs								
U3A Capitation	-	(948.00)					(948.00)	
U3A Magazine	-	(649.90)				30.34	(619.56)	
								(1,567.56)
Administrative expenses								
Stationery	-	(176.95)					(176.95)	
Stamps	-	(314.44)					(314.44)	
Printer Ink	-	(96.37)					(96.37)	
Postal supplements 2023/2024	270.00			40.00			310.00	
Postal supplements 2022/2023	125.00		300.00		(310.00)		115.00	
Membership Cards	-	(39.39)					(39.39)	
Publicity Materials	-	(78.00)					(78.00)	
E-mail	-	(273.60)					(273.60)	
Sundry	23.00	(92.61)					(69.61)	
Donations	109.14	(109.14)					-	
								(623.36)
Interest Group support	-	(204.79)					(204.79)	
Speakers	-	(1,058.00)					(1,058.00)	
Equipment purchases	-	(77.45)					(77.45)	
Refreshments net expense	-	(147.05)					(147.05)	
								(4,110.21)
Net Income								859.79
Social account								
St George's lunch - 22/4/22	18.00	(624.61)	900.00				293.39	
Ladies Who Lunch - Jubilee Tea	765.61	(715.50)					50.11	
Ladies Who Lunch - Blue Boar 16/2/2022	-	-	27.50				27.50	
Ladies Who Lunch - Halloween	735.70	(700.70)					35.00	
Ladies Who Lunch - Red Rose Lunch	699.40	(629.20)					70.20	
Xmas afternoon tea	-	(260.87)					(260.87)	
Canal Museum	450.00	(405.00)					45.00	
Ely	1,314.50	(1,037.50)					277.00	
Entertainment Evening	1,447.98	(1,148.70)					299.28	
Thank you lunch	-	(287.76)					(287.76)	
Royal Albert Hall	560.00	(490.00)					70.00	
Southend	675.00	(588.00)					87.00	
Summer Afternoon Tea	-	(90.28)					(90.28)	
Formans visit	975.00	(975.00)					-	
Formans Lunch - 2023	825.00	(770.50)					54.50	
Newmarket	1,760.00	(961.75)			(700.00)		98.25	
Frogmore	1,260.20	(1,260.20)					-	
Brick Lane Musical	829.50	(829.50)					-	
Copped Hall Concerts	160.00	(160.00)					-	
Copped Hall Carol Concert	144.00	(144.00)					-	
Roding Players	270.00	(270.00)					-	
Oklahoma	550.00	(550.00)					-	
Temptations	1,087.50	(1,087.50)					-	
Wimbledon	210.00	-			(210.00)		-	
Beauty & The Beast	224.00	(224.00)					-	
Goldsmiths - 2023	-	(100.00)				100.00	-	
Coronation Event - May 2023	1,140.00	(250.00)		60.00	(1,200.00)	250.00	-	
We Will Rock You	450.00	(450.00)					-	
Xmas lights - Kew	1,120.00	-			(1,120.00)		-	
Prince Regent - Xmas 2023	-	(150.00)				150.00	-	
Prince Regent - Xmas 2022	1,628.00	(1,628.00)					-	
Entertainment Evening - 2023	-	(130.00)				130.00	-	
Macmillan Coffee morning	48.00	(48.00)					-	
The Clink Lunch October 23	-	(225.00)				225.00	-	
								768.32
Total net income								1,628.11
Totals	26,335.53	(22,700.26)	4,507.50	500.00	(7,900.00)	885.34	1,628.11	