

Gravesend, Northfleet & District U3A Annual Report 2023

Chairman's Report

2023 was again a very successful year for our u3a and we thank all Group Leaders and Committees for your leadership and encouragement for our Members. Over 80% of our groups had spaces, with many new groups starting. Our Social Committee held a full programme of varied, interesting, and well-supported events, both local and further afield.

Our Editors continue to produce an excellent monthly newsletter, which is of use to all members and sent via email to most members. Our monthly CPC meeting continues to have a wide and varied range of excellent speakers, with numbers at meetings continuing to increase. Only around 25% of Members are attending the monthly meeting, though the CPC has seating for over 50%. In addition, we have negotiated extra parking at North Kent College.

We completed our first full year using the Beacon u3a Membership system, with most Members joining or renewing on-line, (thereby drastically reducing administration time as well as Members' postage costs), viewing the calendar of events and also joining groups with just one click. Some Members are still accessing information using our Newsletter, but the Committee is always available to assist with IT skills. Potential members are also viewing limited Beacon information about our Groups and trips via our website.

We formed a working partnership with Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) and its initiative "Getting Gravesham Moving". The Council provided a grant for 25 free half-year Memberships, part-funded the Tai-Chi group and is supporting advertising our u3a via their publicity department. We also presented to local charities, GBC and NHS to encourage a reduction in social isolation, increase mobility and aid Mental Health and Wellbeing for local residents. Some GP's are now showing a presentation of our u3a on surgery TV screens.

To survive and thrive we need a steady stream of new Members to bring fresh ideas and skills, start up new groups, arrange different activities, volunteer for Committee posts etc. Group Leaders were asked to hand out leaflets at group meetings to actively distribute to family, friends, and neighbours to encourage them to join our u3a. We are also using Social Media including Facebook to increase awareness. This all keeps our u3a vibrant and successful for the benefit of all our Members.

Treasurer's Report

Please refer to the accounts for 2023.

The balance carried forward to 1/1/24 was £4863.85, which represents a decrease of £315.80 from the £5179.65 at the start of 2023. This decrease was planned for, with the intention to reduce our reserves to approximately £4500 by the end of 2023, a more appropriate level.

Despite inflation resulting in price increases for printing, hall hire, etc., this has been mitigated by our drive to attract new members, so that we finished the year slightly ahead of our projected target.

We were able to obtain a grant of £200 from GBC which was used to provide free trial memberships to help promote health and mental wellbeing via u3a membership.

As at 31st December 2023 our Social Account showed a balance of £1699.80, an increase of £92.75. Our aim is to break even on social activities but there are inevitably 'winners and losers' depending on the level of take-up, particularly where coach travel is involved. It is helpful to have a sizeable float in this account, as on some trips, significant sums have to be paid in advance which, without the reserves, could leave the account temporarily without funds.

The membership fee for 2024 is £16, a £1 increase on the 2023 rate. This is still one of the lowest membership fees in the country and represents very good value for money. Maintaining this low membership fee is dependent on high levels of membership and recruitment of new members as inevitably a proportion of members will not renew their membership for a variety of reasons.

These accounts were independently examined and approved on 14th February 2024.

Sally Spellman has been our independent examiner for the past three years, but has decided to step down from this role. We are very grateful to her for her assistance.

Gravesend, Northfleet District U3A - Accounts 2023

Income and Expenditure 2023 - Main Bank Account

Bank Balance bf from 31-12-22

Current Bank Account	10426.09
Less 2023 subscriptions pd in 2022	4773.29
less Gift Aid on 2023 subscriptions	475.59
Plus Cash in Hand	2.44

Total	<u>£5,179.65</u>
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Income

Subscriptions 2023 bf from 2022	4773.29
Subscriptions 2023	2736.84
Gift Aid refunded	1177.12
Group theatre	2248.00
Printing	47.24
Grant	200.00

Total Income	<u>£11,182.49</u>
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Expenditure

Beacon	448.00
Expenses	245.71
Gifts	143.27
Hall Hire	2226.00
Printing	1583.97
Refreshments	615.07
Speakers	1424.10
Subscriptions 2023 Refunds (duplicate)	15.00
TAT Capitation (Third Age Trust 1/4/23-31/3/24)	1760.00
TAT Postage	789.17
Group theatre	2248.00

Total Expenditure	<u>£11,498.29</u>
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Net surplus for Yr	<u>-£315.80</u>
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Balance bf	5179.65
Less deficit 2023	-315.80

Balance c/f 2023	<u>£4,863.85</u>
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Bank balance c/f to 2023

Current bank account 31/12/22	5082.91
Less 2024 subscriptions	15.58
Plus 2023 printing invoice (paid 2024)	205.92
Cash in hand	2.44

Balance c/f 2023	<u>£4,863.85</u>
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Gravesend, Northfleet District U3A - Accounts 2023

Income and Expenditure 2023 - Social Bank Account

Bank Balance bf from 31-12-22

Social Bank Account	2514.85
Less balance of Crossness	907.80
Total	<u>£1,607.05</u>

Income from Activities	14851.45	<i>inc theatre transferred to Main</i>
Less 2024 trips income	151.00	
2023 income	14700.45	
Expenditure on Activities	14882.20	<i>inc theatre transferred to Main</i>
2024 trips expenditure	274.50	
2023 expenditure	14607.70	
Net Surplus for Yr	£92.75	

Balance b/f	1607.05
plus surplus 2023	92.75
Balance c/f 2023	<u>£1,699.80</u>

Bank balance cf to 2024

Social bank account at 31/12/23	1576.30
Less 2024 trips income	151.00
Plus 2024 trips expenditure	274.50

Total £1,699.80

Completed Trip Summaries 2023			
Trip	Inc	Exp	Balance
Greenwich/Crossness	1902.37	1852.00	£50.37
Orchard - La Boheme	765.61	837.00	-£71.39
Kelvedon Nuclear Bunk.	142.59	125.00	£17.59
Medway River Trip	1423.59	1431.00	-£7.41
Amberley	1295.39	1363.50	-£68.11
Whitstable	1015.47	961.00	£54.47
Cobham Hall	604.77	607.20	-£2.43
Murder Mystery	1290.84	1232.00	£58.84
Ambassador Cruise	3234.82	3174.00	£60.82
Moulin Rouge*	1170	1170	0
Theatre trips*	1855	1855	0
Totals	£14,700.45	£14,607.70	£92.75

*Not social committee activity

Summary

	Main Acct	Social Acct	Total
Balances b/f 31/12/22	5,179.65	1,607.05	6,786.70
Income	11,182.49	14,700.45	25,882.94
Expenditure	11,498.29	14,607.70	26,105.99
Balances c/f 01/01/24	4,863.85	1,699.80	6,563.65

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Gravesend, Northfleet and District U3A

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gravesend, Northfleet and District U3A for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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:

Sally Spellman

Name:

SALLY SPELLMAN

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

FCCA

Address:

57, Thang Lane

Gravesend DA12 4LB

Date:

14/2/2024