

Chairman's Annual Report for 2024 to the AGM on 9 June 2025

My report looks back at the year 2024, from January to December.

January saw a flurry of activity with both membership renewals and new Groups starting. I am pleased to report that membership has remained steady throughout the year and as of today stands at 589 members. The new Groups were Leisurely Walkers, Gospel, Journeys through Philosophy, Recorders, Wine Appreciation plus more recently, *Delve into Dante and Italian Conversation* certainly a very varied set of Groups! I have often wondered why people join u3a – is it the Interest Groups, the monthly meetings, the chance to meet new friends or to learn new skills and gain knowledge – or simply having a routine? I guess it is a mixture.

Hopefully, in *our* u3a, 'learn, laugh, live' encapsulates the reasons.

In February, the Third Age Trust launched its biggest ever consultation with Members, about changes to the structure of the Trust. This became known as 'Fit for the Future' and your Committee and a group of Members listened to various online presentations about the changes before sending in comments about the proposed new structure – and we even got a reply! As we know, it was then agreed at the Trust's October AGM to move to the new structure of a smaller Board of Trustees, with regional representatives making up the new Council. This new structure is now in place, although it is very early days. In last year's report, I mentioned our frustrations with communications between the old Board, National Office and grass roots Members, so hopefully things will now improve. Our two East Midlands reps on the new Council are John Lewis and Barry Appleby, who will be supported by a team from the different Networks in the East Midlands.

In March, we entered a u3a team in the Macmillan quiz at Glapthorn and came 2nd! It is good to know that the brain cells still work! In the same month, Members took advantage of some ICT support from the students at Oundle School, and this is still being offered.

In April, we co-opted Carolyn Traynor to the Committee and she was elected at last year's AGM. She has now taken over as Programme Secretary from Gill Phillips, booking our speakers. Gill kindly took over as Web Manager when Barry Lee retired from the Committee. With the move to a new website, this was certainly a baptism of fire for her (and for me) since training in the vagaries of the site proved time consuming and, at times, confusing. The good news is that we now have a much better website, so I do hope you look at it from time to time. Please remember that you can send photos or information (about your u3a activities!) to Gill for uploading to the site.

All of our u3a policies are on the new website and are updated as necessary.

We have tried to keep Members informed about local issues which we feel are relevant, so we have advertised the Community bus and other cultural events in which our Members are involved.

On the hottest day of the year, August 12th, we held a Quiz instead of our usual monthly meeting. Though attendance was low (no doubt because of the heat) the quiz was hotly contested, despite some fiendish questions. In September, we co-opted two new Committee members - Jane Fenton and Carolyn Henshilwood. Jane has now taken over Publicity from me but unfortunately Carolyn withdrew from the Committee recently due to family commitments.

October has become our regular month for the Committee to host our Group Leaders at Barnwell Village Hall, giving them a chance to chat over tea and cakes, and to discuss relevant issues and enable the Committee to pass on any new information from TAT, or from the Committee. This year, 36 GLs attended and, since some of them run more than one Group, this was a very good turnout. Items we discussed included Risk Assessment and Emergency contact details. We are very grateful to our GLs for completing these, giving them another task - to do but a necessary one in these times. I would like us to remember Xxxxxx Xxxxxxxx, a former leader of Gardening Group.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed some highly entertaining talks on a wide range of subjects - Postcards, Oundle birds - both of these from our u3a Members, Pop music and Keeping Faith at the Front.

In December, we held our Christmas Extravaganza - for the third year in a row. New talent was on show, as well as regular contributors, and a good time was had by all. Before you start thinking or worrying about this year's entertainment, we have decided to have something completely different for the December meeting - but you never know for 2026!

Last year we had several successful outings - an evening with Fascinating Aida, a live screening of Carmen, a day in Ely, Sense and Sensibility at Toilethorpe, a visit to Houghton Hall and the Hallé Christmas concert in Nottingham. This one ran at a loss as we were unable to fill the places. Getting sufficient people to sign up in advance has become more of a problem, so reluctantly we're taking a break and we have disbanded the Group.

As we know, the u3a is a self-help movement and without volunteers to 'get stuck in and organise', it wouldn't exist. So my thanks go to all who offer to do something extra - Xxx for taking over the tea rota from me, Xxx for helping to deliver Newsletters to those not on email, those who reply to my questions or pleas in the Newsletters, and to Group Leaders especially, for all that they do. Thank you too for inviting me to visit - I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Camera and Composition, the Local History Group as we walked round Wadenhoe and more recently, the Line

Dancers. So please don't be shy, what about giving a vote of thanks to the speaker at a monthly meeting??

Finally, my thanks to the rest of the Committee - a lively and enthusiastic bunch! We have frank and animated discussions, which is as it should be and I hope you know that we work hard on your behalf to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible for the benefit of our Members. I would particularly like to thank Barbra Ding for her hard work as Treasurer over the past nine years. Finally, I give notice that, if I am re-elected as Chairman in a few minutes, this will be my last year on the Committee. I joined the Committee back in 2015 and have been Chair since just before lockdown in 2020, so it is definitely someone else's turn to enjoy this privilege!

Thank you.

Gill Potts
Chairman
09.06.25

Oundle & District U3A Financial Summary & Balance Sheet 2024								
Financial Activity				Balance Sheet at December 31st				
	Total 2024	Total 2022/23			December 31st 2024		October 31st 2023	
Incoming Resources				Fixed Assets		0.00		0.00
Subscriptions	9,130.50	13,386.00						
Meetings	309.00	509.00		Current Assets				
Theatres and Outings	5,331.00	5,924.00		Debtors	0.00		0.00	
Social Bridge	1,081.00	1,003.00		Bank Balance - Nat West	17,166.98		15,188.95	
Quilting Group	158.00	231.00		Cash in Hand	4.00		22.50	
Payee Errors	9,499.00	565.87		Funds held by Interest Groups	431.43		449.41	
Returned cheques	0.00	(30.00)		Total Assets		17,602.41		15,660.86
Total	25,508.50	21,588.87						
				Current liabilities				
Direct Expenditure								
U3A Capitation	2,268.00	2,208.00		Total Current Liabilities		0.00		0.00
U3A Magazines	1,205.04	1,317.36						
Beacon	587.00	578.00		Net Assets - liabilities		17,602.41		15,660.86
U3A Miscellaneous	131.41	75.00						
Speakers	711.93	706.01		Retained Funds Oundle U3A		17,602.41		15,660.86
Hall Hire	2,212.12	2,531.50						
Theatre & Outings	5,361.20	5,798.50						
Special Events (Dec & GL meet'gs)	607.91	835.34						
Stationery and Printing	686.41	540.69		The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 3rd February 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer:				
Equipment	34.96	883.62						
Audit/Ex gratia payments	267.99	266.88		Barbara J Ding (Trustee)				
Payee Error Refunds	9,279.00	531.82						
Subscription Refunds	109.00	150.00						
Trips Refunds	68.50	261.00						
Total	23,530.47	16,683.72						
Net incoming resources	1,978.03	4,905.15						

Oundle District U3A
Financial Summary and Balance Sheet

Adjusted Net Income	1,978.03	4,905.15						
	Total 2024	Total 2022/23		Oundle and District U3A Registered Charity Number: 1183800				
Total funds brought forward	15,188.95	10,283.80						
Cash in Hand	4.00	22.50						
Funds held by Interest Groups	0.00	449.41						
Total Funds carried forward	17,170.98	15,660.86						
Balance at Bank	17,166.98	15,188.95						
Bank error cheque	0.00	0.00						
U/P Cheque as at 31 Dec	0.00	0.00						
Balance at Bank	17,166.98	15,188.95						
Cash in Hand/Float	4.00	22.50						
	17,170.98	15,211.45						
Funds held by Interest Groups	431.43	449.41						
Total Funds	17,602.41	15,660.86						

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of Oundle & District U3A, charity number 1183800, for the period ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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Date: 24th March 2025