

ASHBOURNE & DISTRICT U3A

Reg. Charity No 1190748

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Introduction

Ashbourne & District u3a (A&Du3a) was established in 2007 and is registered with the Charity Commission (Reg'd No 1190748). It is a 'local' charity operating in the Ashbourne & District area of Derbyshire & Staffordshire and a part of the u3a movement in the UK.

Founded in 1982, the u3a - 'University of the Third Age' - movement encourages people no longer in full-time work to come together and enjoy learning in subjects of interest to them or undertake personal development through such activities as arts & crafts and recreational sports, pastimes & other activities. Its guiding principles are to promote informal interest and recreational groups covering a wide range of topics and activities as chosen by their members. There is no minimum age but there is a focus on people who are no longer in full-time employment or raising a family. The u3a movement is self-funded and members do not work towards qualifications but learn or undertake activities purely for pleasure.

The Third Age Trust (which is itself a registered charity with Reg'd No 288007) is the body which leads the u3a or 'Third Age' movement in the UK. More information about the u3a movement and the Third Age Trust can be found at <https://www.u3a.org.uk>. As at the present date, there are over 400,000 members across over 1000 local u3as.

A&Du3a is one such local u3a. It is affiliated to the Third Age Trust but is a separate, independent charity. As an affiliate, it makes annual payments to the Third Age Trust for services such as information technology provision and insurance cover.

Constitution, trustees and correspondence address

A&Du3a's constitution follows the model form of constitution for local u3as agreed between the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission. It sets out the purposes of A&Du3a and contains provisions for the appointment of A&Du3a's trustees and their term of office, annual general meetings and general management and administration.

The trustees of the A&Du3a are appointed by election of the members at its annual general meeting or (for interim vacancies) co-opted in accordance with the terms of its constitution.

During the year ended 31st December 2025 the following persons acted as the trustees of A&Du3a:

Susan E Hall (Chair)	Andrew P Cree
Sheila M Crawley (Vice Chair)	Sheldon W Davies
Susan Edmonds (Treasurer)	Janet Dodd
Alan Keizer (Secretary)	Mary Hall
Pamela Boura	M Elizabeth R Hoof

With effect from 10th April 2026 the following changes have taken place in the trustee body: Mr A Keizer ceased to be a trustee and secretary; Mrs J Dodd became secretary; and Mr G Dean was elected a trustee. The trustees who hold officer positions pursuant to A&Du3a's constitution as at the date of this report are therefore: S E Hall (Chair), S M Crawley (Vice Chair), S Edmonds (Treasurer) and J Dodd (Secretary).

The correspondence address of A&Du3a is:

The Stables,
Gravelly Bank Farm
Rodsley Lane
Yeaveley
ASHBOURNE
DE6 2DT

A&Du3a has a website at <https://ashbourne.u3asite.uk>.

Objects of A&Du3a

The objects of A&Du3a are set out in its constitution as follows: the advancement of education and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full-time work by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Ashbourne and the villages and settlements on the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border.

There are no qualifications required to become a member and there are no limitations on membership. The annual cost of membership is modest (currently £13 per annum). A portion of this membership fee is passed to the Third Age Trust for the provision of such matters as insurance cover, IT support and other 'central' services.

A&Du3a currently has over 700 members and over 50 groups covering a wide range of interests and activities including: Art, Art Appreciation, Badminton, Board Games, Book Group, Bridge (at various levels), Canasta, Chatter, Chess, Choir, Cinema, Craft, Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Cycling, Disco & Social, Family History, French, Gardens, German, German Conversation, Golf, Guitar, Hiking, Jigsaw Exchange, Kurling, Landscape & Heritage, Line Dancing, Mindfulness, Natural History, Padel, Pétanque, Photography, Pickleball, Qigong, Quiz, Recreational Painting, Science & Engineering, Spanish, Strollers, Supper Club, Table Tennis, Tabletop Games, Theatre, Travel, Ukulele, Walking, Weekend Lunch Group, Wine Appreciation, Woodcraft & Yoga.

As is evident from this list of interest groups, the activities organised under the auspices of A&Du3a relate to subject learning in the arts, languages, nature and science, to crafts & other skills, and to recreational sports and pastimes. There is a significant social element to the activities which, in the opinion of the trustees, is an important aspect to membership of A&Du3a.

Apart from excursions associated with any particular interest groups, most of the activities organised by A&Du3a members take place in and around Ashbourne in the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border area, either at hired venues, public facilities or members' own homes. A monthly general meeting (i.e. not connected to any particular interest group) takes place which all members may attend.

Having regard to the activities undertaken through A&Du3a, its area of activity and the size and make-up of its membership (and the unrestricted access thereto), the trustees of A&Du3a consider that A&Du3a fulfils the requirement of public benefit to maintain its charitable status.

Chair's Report: achievements and performance

Set out below is the report made by A&Du3a's Chair (S E Hall) to its recent AGM (10th April 2026):

"I am delighted to present my first Chair's Report after such a fantastic year for Ashbourne & District u3a in 2025/ 26. During the year we have had an unprecedented number of new members join us, more than one hundred and fifty. This is an amazing growth record coming from the work of the Committee, ensuring we run efficiently and effectively, but most significantly from the leaders of the fifty-five or more groups that we now have. There is a great mix of established and new activities and a real strength of our organisation.

During the year we have been delighted to welcome new groups including Travel, Quiz, Spanish, Woodcraft, Bridge, Pétanque (Friday), Bridge for Improvers, Kurling (Monday), Padel and Kurling (Wednesday).

This growth in membership and activities has not been as a result of a big publicity drive but through members' enjoyment of what they are doing and informing friends and others about the great range of activities available, backed up with a very successful social media presence, particularly on Facebook. The number of 'likes' for our Facebook reports and the images of happy, smiling people is amazing and our best form of publicity. It is seen by countless numbers of people in the local community. The 'New Members Drop In' each month has also been a great success enabling anyone who is interested to find out more about what we do. With record turnouts at these drop-ins so far this year, this bodes well for the future.

Because it has been a year of considerable growth, we are in a secure financial position. Our reserves are at a higher level than is required to run our u3a and as a result the Committee has decided to reduce membership subscriptions for the next year as reported on by our Treasurer. This position will be reviewed for future years.

I have much enjoyed being part of Ashbourne u3a for the last eight years and particularly this last twelve months. My personal highlights include the first venture by the Travel Group. I also really enjoy being the publicity lead and going round the various groups, seeing their activities and enthusiasm and taking lots of pictures of people laughing.

At this point I would like recognise the unstinting support we have had from Alan Keizer, who is stepping down after four years as Secretary to the Committee, and Mavis Lund, who has driven our IT so effectively over many years. We express our thanks and gratitude to both of these stalwart supporters of our u3a.

I also wish to thank our Committee members. They have very disparate skills and experiences but work very well together."

Accounting, income & expenditure and reserves

The accounts of A&Du3a in each financial year ending on 31st December are prepared on a receipts & payments basis (i.e. non-accrual basis) and receipts and payments pass through bank accounts in

A&Du3a's name. These accounts have been subject to independent examination by professional accountants and no matters of concern have been reported thereon.

In the year ended 31st December 2025, the total income of A&Du3a was £55,745 (2024: £43,261) and its expenditure was £51,229 (2024: £39,551). As at the year end, accumulated assets comprised £18,084 (2024: £13,359), of which £6,125 represented balances attributed to its various interest groups, leaving a balance of £11,959 by way of non-group or 'central' funds held as cash at bank and with no significant payments outstanding.

Members' annual subscriptions cover two main areas: (i) a capitation fee payable to the u3a movement's central body, The Third Age Trust, based on membership numbers in the previous year and payable in April and (ii) A&Du3a's general administration costs. In 2025, the capitation fee paid by A&Du3a was £2,920 and provides services such as insurance cover, IT and accounting provision and general oversight by The Third Age Trust.

The organisation is therefore in a strong financial position. Its non-group related income is largely derived from membership fees and its non-group outgoings (other than payments due to The Third Age Trust) are mainly administration costs and fees, and general or multi-group meeting costs. Each of its various interest groups is expected to match its expenditure with its income (i.e. each group is self-sufficient and not 'centrally' supported by the general funds of A&Du3a). The main financial risks which A&Du3a face are a significant and unexpected increase in the cost of its affiliation to The Third Age Trust and/or a rapid falling-off of A&Du3a membership, neither of which are anticipated to arise in the short to medium term.

In the light of this financial position and the reserves available to A&Du3a to cover its 'central' costs, the trustees have reviewed their approach to reserves. They have concluded that it should adopt a reserves policy which aims to maintain its reserves at approximately equivalent to one year's 'central' expenditure and capitation fee, plus a further nominal amount of £2,000 to meet any capital expenditure which might from time to time be required (e.g. for IT or presentation equipment/software).

As at the present date, A&Du3a's reserves exceed this target amount. The trustees have therefore decided that, for the time being, it will reduce membership fees so that such fees cover only the costs of its affiliation to The Third Age Trust (and any individual 'Third Age Matters' subscriptions). It seems to the trustees that this is a fair and reasonable way to apply the surplus reserves to the benefit of its members as a whole. The impact of this decision will be reviewed each year until the reserves come into better alignment with the policy.

A&Du3a does not hold any funds as a custodian trustee.

Report prepared by A P Cree, Trustee

SIGNED



S E HALL (CHAIR)

24th April 2026

Ashbourne & District u3a

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

Printed 11th March 2026 13:52

Receipts & Payments, 1st January - 31st December

Start year	2025		2024	
Category	In	Out	In	Out
Audit (accounts)		£552.00		£518.40
Balance adj	£1,798.91	£2,737.34		
Committee/Leaders Meeting		£630.50	£58.00	£443.20
Donations	£7.00		£12.90	
Expenses Membership				£10.39
Expenses Newsletter		£100.58		£122.06
Expenses Stamps		£27.20		£40.20
Expenses Stationery				£275.99
Group Art Appreciation	£223.00	£233.00	£200.00	£180.00
Group Art Learn to Paint	£96.37		£220.00	£224.80
Group Badminton	£2,576.01	£2,501.00	£2,495.00	£2,564.79
Group Board Games			£74.00	£56.80
Group Canasta	£987.26	£938.98	£928.00	£810.65
Group Choir	£942.52	£1,174.52	£640.00	£730.79
Group Craft	£270.50	£270.00	£291.00	£295.00
Group Creative Writing	£12.04	£12.04		
Group Current Affairs	£315.45	£286.00	£354.00	£346.49
Group Disco Dancing	£271.00	£220.80	£250.00	£210.00
Group Family History	£250.49	£248.28	£125.00	£133.50
Group French	£679.00	£573.00	£491.50	£517.50
Group Garden	£10,229.40	£8,109.61	£7,555.55	£7,895.65
Group German Intermediate	£489.00	£363.00	£364.00	£409.50
Group Guitar	£522.00	£510.00	£513.00	£491.00
Group Landscape & Herit.	£2,602.00	£2,940.25	£2,029.63	£1,604.00
Group Line Dancing	£724.99	£724.99	£532.00	£532.00
Group Mindfulness			£60.02	£52.50
Group Painting 4 Pleasure	£854.76	£860.54	£806.94	£813.70
Group Photography	£483.20	£445.00	£454.00	£474.39
Group Pickleball	£5,590.00	£5,700.93	£3,612.50	£3,520.29
Group Qigong	£1,052.00	£1,050.00	£696.00	£696.00
Group Rec Painting	£924.00	£924.00		
Group Science & Eng	£1,985.80	£1,559.35	£633.75	£892.90
Group Spanish	£515.00	£325.00		
Group Strollers	£296.60	£310.00	£132.50	£108.50
Group Table Tennis	£2,251.86	£2,166.70	£2,173.00	£2,451.26
Group Theatre	£4,536.00	£4,971.00	£3,525.50	£3,054.00
Group Ukulele	£12.00			
Group Wine Appreciation	£550.77	£627.30	£628.43	£480.50
Group Yoga	£799.90	£805.50	£868.70	£639.00
Groups Support		£20.00		
Membership	£9,251.00	£361.00	£8,276.10	£396.10
Monthly Meeting Cash	£1,841.00		£2,132.73	
Monthly Meeting Drinks		£583.06		£863.75
Monthly Meeting Hall Hire		£1,092.00		£1,386.00
Monthly Meeting Speakers		£653.75		£744.00
Monthly Meeting Xtras Dec		£111.10		£11.50
Promotions		£392.67		£195.86
Services/Gifts		£76.95		£57.98
Special Events	£1,440.00	£1,540.00	£1,290.00	£1,156.00
Sundries		£113.86		
TAM	£364.12	£352.00	£706.72	£372.40
TAT Beacon & website		£670.00		£555.00
TAT Capitation		£2,340.00		£2,108.00

u3a Derbyshire Net		£24.50		
Zoom Licence Fee			£130.50	£109.12
Sub-totals	£55,744.95	£51,229.30	£43,260.97	£39,551.46
Brought forward	£13,568.63		£9,859.12	
Total		£18,084.28		£13,568.63

Balance Sheet

Current	£11,959.13	£8,697.18
Group Current	£5,128.82	£3,542.19
Group Leaders EOY	£996.33	£1,329.26
Total	£18,084.28	£13,568.63

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ashbourne & District University of the Third Age

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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').

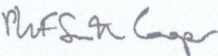
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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: 10/3/2026

PKF Smith Cooper Limited, 7 Compton Street, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1BX

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ashbourne & District University of the Third Age

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
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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: 10/3/2026

PKF Smith Cooper Limited, 7 Compton Street, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1BX