



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	University of the Third Age (Merton Branch)
Other name the charity uses	Merton u3a
Registered charity number	291074
Charity's principal address	c/o The Treasurer 54 Princes Road Wimbledon London SW19 8RB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jane Fisher	Chair	From 22 March 2023	
2	Paul Evans	Vice Chair (to 22 March 2023)		
	Linda Thomas	Vice Chair	From 12 May 2023	
3	David Drummond	Treasurer		
4	Christina Evans	Business Secretary		
5	Alain Hendrich	Groups Coordinator	To 29 September 2023	
6	Tom Conway	Groups Coordinator	From 29 September 2023	
7	Sue Lovell-Greene	Membership Sec – subs (to 22 March 2023)	To 31 December 2023	
8	Clare Gray	Membership Sec – subs	From 22 March 2023	
9	Sue Southwood	Talks Organiser		
10	Roger Frost	Minutes Secretary		
11	Fleur Jeremiah	Comms Coordinator		
12	Karl Schneider	Media Editor	From 12 May 2023	
14				
15				

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution (as amended) adopted 20 March 2024
How is the charity constituted?	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in March

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The charity's object is 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 the borough of Merton and surrounding areas.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects	<p>The charity's main activities are to arrange a varied programme of talks for the charity's members and visits to interesting places around London, together with promoting and supporting around 80 interest groups designed to enable members to stay active, keep learning and have fun.</p> <p>Throughout our activities the trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.</p>
Contribution made by volunteers	We are grateful for the many hours our member volunteers have spent in arranging and supporting the talks, visits and other events during the year and especially those who have led and inspired our interest groups.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	<p>With Covid restrictions behind us, the year's talks were live and very well attended. Subjects included Charles Dickens, Merton Park Film Studios, London's Railway Stations, the Silk Roads and Astronomy.</p> <p>The visits during the year were similarly well attended and varied, including Cutlers' Hall, Chiswick House, Dancesport International (who make the dresses for Strictly!), the Garrick Club and Hatfield House.</p> <p>All the while, our interest groups met regularly for learning foreign languages, discussing current affairs, undertaking handicrafts, playing board games and music and keeping fit by walking, cycling, playing table tennis – and much more.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Including restricted funds of £894, bank balances at 31 December 2023 totalled £38,558 – a very healthy position, following large surpluses of income during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>As the charity's accounting is on a receipts and payments basis, the above bank balances equate to the charity's reserves and amount to approximately three years of unfunded expenses.</p> <p>The charity's business model is that the interest groups should be self-financing, although the aggregate payments made by groups for equipment and venue hire are reflected in the charity's accounts. The charity itself is responsible only for the costs of centrally organised events, such as the programme of talks and general meetings, together with the charity's administration, IT and publicity expenses.</p>
The charity's principal sources of funds	<p>The charity's principal source of funds is members' subscriptions, which are set at a relatively low rate when compared to those u3a organisations which fund all costs and expenses. The principal costs covered by our members' subscriptions are the affiliation fees and magazine subscriptions paid to the Third Age Trust, the umbrella organisation for all UK u3a organisations.</p> <p>The accounts include other amounts received from members each year in relation to organised visits and the Christmas lunch in particular, but these receipts are matched with the relevant costs, subject to timing differences between the receipts and the payments.</p> <p>Exceptionally in 2023, our Table Tennis groups applied for and received grants from the Wimbledon Foundation's "Get Set, Get Active" fund and the Co-op's Community fund. These grants are held in a separate bank account and their use is restricted to the Table Tennis groups, in keeping with our model of interest groups being self-financing. At the end of the year, £894 of these grants remained to be spent.</p>

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	J. Fisher	D.N.D.I.
Full name(s)	JANE FISHER	DAVID DRUMMOND
Position	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	17 September 2024	

Merton u3a**Final Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	13,714.00	12,868.50
Gift Aid	1,216.26	1,791.83
Talks	505.10	268.45
Visits	3,811.50	3,072.00
Group Activities	5,533.48	3,853.21
Social (Christmas Lunch)	1,752.00	1,386.65
Grants - Wim Foundation & Co-op	2,420.47	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	77.45	15.39
Total Receipts	29,030.26	23,256.03
PAYMENTS		
TAT Affiliation	3,412.00	3,208.00
TAT Magazine	1,934.30	1,739.80
Stationery & Postage	1,380.35	1,084.68
Printing & Publicity	1,560.17	2,415.47
Visits	4,175.65	2,698.00
Room hire	5,508.60	4,007.80
Catering	1,334.18	839.97
Talks	1,270.00	610.40
Equipment - Technical	0.00	2,000.00
Groups' equipment and coaching	2,529.18	757.21
Social (Christmas Lunch)	1,933.50	1,396.65
Beacon and other IT	962.20	1,269.58
Bank Charges	329.61	405.42
Miscellaneous	163.53	61.39
Total Payments	26,493.27	22,494.37
Surplus for year - General	1,642.93	761.66
Surplus on Table Tennis grant	894.06	0.00
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	2,536.99	761.66
Balances b/f	36,021.25	35,259.59
Balances c/f	38,558.24	36,021.25
Balances as at 31 December	2023	2022
CAF Cash account	18,276.78	16,608.94
CAF Gold account (Norah)	1,965.06	1,928.86
HSBC	15,782.42	12,825.12
HSBC Restricted account	894.06	0.00
PayPal	1639.92	4,658.33
	38,558.24	36,021.25

Independent examiner's report on the accounts Merton U3A for the year ended 31 December 2023

Report to the trustees and members of Merton U3A

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") 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").

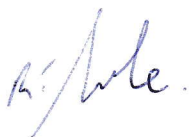
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



23/2/24

Ruth Cooke

9 Raymond Road
Wimbledon SW19 4AP