

Charity Registration No. 297948

LEWES U3A
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

LEWES U3A

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Objectives and activities

Lewes u3a is part of a national and international movement of older people who wish to keep their minds and bodies active and share their lifetimes of experiences and knowledge with others. Lewes u3a sets out to attract new members and to offer an environment in which people can establish new friendships and deepen and extend their interests. All our activities are organised and run by members who freely give of their time, experience and expertise.

The aim of Lewes u3a is to engage, Inform, entertain and present learning opportunities for retired and semi-retired people by providing low-cost activities. We do this by sustaining and developing opportunities for members to pursue interests through stimulating group study, talks, visits and activities. The cost of annual membership, study groups and activities will be kept low. Lewes u3a encourages all people no longer in full-time employment to join and participate. Organising, contributing to and running Lewes u3a is done on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

In pursuit of this mission, the Lewes u3a Executive Committee endeavours to manage Lewes u3a effectively, efficiently and economically. It plans, maintains and updates actions and policies that widen membership, and that support and guide groups, courses and other activities. It strives to create new and additional groups and courses to meet the needs of the members.

Public benefit

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate that Lewes u3a has charitable purpose or aims that are of public benefit. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

We operate on 4 sessions per year, though some groups ran/run continuously or monthly, for instance. This has provided more activities during the summer months when not everyone has holidays or family responsibilities. There is still potentially scope for more groups and activities. The new group listings document, which can very easily be updated to reflect a more flexible programme and doubles as a timetable, has bedded in well. As before, those without internet access receive a copy by mail.

Our achievements are measured by the number and range of groups, subjects and activities provided and these continue to expand.

LEWES U3A

A series of quarterly social events with speakers have been well attended and very much enjoyed. Topics have included an insight into how our local Lewes Little Theatre operates.

Each year Lewes u3a holds an Open Morning aimed at attracting new members and informing existing ones about what is on offer. Held in a central location in Lewes, conveners of the various groups and activities are on hand to meet the public and explain what they provide and how it is organised. Members of the public are given information about how to join. This year's Open Morning was held in September. It was well attended, and people were given information about how to join or renew their membership and to talk to the leaders of some 50 of the groups represented.

As from January 2024 course fees were reduced to £1 per session, hopefully this will help our members with cost of living. Costs of venues have increased, but the £1 fee has continued.

The monthly bulletin, started in September 2020, continues to be received with a great deal of enthusiasm. It goes out by email. For members who have no email address Jill Townsend prints and posts the Group Listings and the AGM papers. We are trying to encourage members who rely on letters to ask their relatives and friends for an email address to which we can send correspondence.

Simple Membership our automated data base is now running more smoothly although there has this year been issues e.g duplicate applications which have had to be dealt with manually. We try to encourage members to use the website to access information on groups and to edit and check their membership details.

Richard Hudson provides valuable help and advice with Simple Membership technical issues

We continue to run with a smaller number of Trustees and committee members as a number of requests for volunteers have met with only limited success. No-one, for instance, has come forward to replace our accommodation officer Anne Williams so the committee has been looking into alternative ways of organising bookings for venues. Eleanor was the only volunteer for the committee last year and she has been invaluable enabling us to compile a quarterly updated listings of groups.

Financial review

In the absence of anyone qualified in accounting to volunteer for the role of treasurer we have now appointed a firm of accountants to keep our finances in order. This arrangement has bedded in well with the Chair continuing to pay invoices as acting treasurer and to supply any other information required by the accountants.

The Charity Commissioners require registered charities to make an annual return of their financial accounts. An Independent Examiner has examined and verified the Accounts for 2024/25.

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The Charity Commission requires all charities to prepare a set of Financial Statements. These Financial Statements have been subject to Independent Examination in accordance with Directions issued by the Charity Commission.

Total receipts in 2024/25 amounted to £71,661 (2023/24 £84,638) Total payments of £77,002 were made in 2024/25 (2023/24 £83,849) resulting in net deficit of -£5,341.

Most groups now meet in hired rooms, with a few meetings in members' homes or in local cafes

At 31 AUGUST 2025 the total cash balances amounted to £40,374 (at 31 August 2024, £45,715), the breakdown being shown on page 10.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's policy is to try to spend constructively the income it receives on charitable objectives as laid down in its Constitution. Funds have accumulated over the years and are held now as reserves in a Deposit Account.

The amount held in the COIF Deposit account at 31 AUGUST 2025 was £26,593, being retained for future spending on new activities

The General Fund balance at 31 AUGUST 2025 was £9,374 (at 31 August 2024 £19,671) providing adequate amount of working cash for the Charity.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

Lewes u3a was established in 1985 and registered as a charity at that time. Lewes u3a provides a range of learning, social and activity-based groups for the benefit of its members, all of whom are no longer in full-time employment.

Lewes u3a is governed by its constitution. The management of Lewes u3a is vested in an Executive Committee, consisting of members whose duty it is to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and finances of Lewes u3a. The Executive Committee, consisting of not less than six and no more than twelve members, is elected annually by the members at the AGM. The honorary officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer) are appointed by the elected committee at their first meeting following the AGM.

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The Executive Committee meets at least five times during the year and the confirmed minutes are posted on the Lewes u3a website, making them available to the members and the public. Decisions are made following full discussion by the Executive Committee.

Activity groups are managed by group leaders who operate within guidelines set by the Executive Committee and who meet to share ideas and experiences under the leadership of the Groups Coordinator. New groups are encouraged and supported by the Groups Facilitator.

Membership of Lewes u3a is open to all no longer in full-time employment. The Membership Secretary keeps records of the membership and collects the annual fee from members as well as making a return to the Third Age Trust (TAT) of all eligible members. TAT provides insurance cover for Lewes u3a and its members participating in activities run by Lewes u3a..

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Lewes u3a by the Chair, Susan Murray.

Chair *SJ Murray* Dated: *18/10/25*

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
INCOME RECEIPTS			
Voluntary Receipts			
Subscriptions	15,646		10,760
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	0		1,781
	-----	15,646	----- 12,541
Receipts for Activities			
Fees for groups, lectures, trips etc.		54,909	71,079
Other receipts			
Bank interest	1106		1,018
Miscellaneous receipts	0	1106	0 1,018 --
		-----	-----
		71,661	84,638
Total receipts		-----	-----
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE			
Affiliation fees, insurance, u3a	4,412		3,784
Cost of groups, lectures, trips etc	68,274		77,817
Printing, postage and stationery	504		606
Purchases of equipment			0

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

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General administrative expenses	2,955	877
Independent Examination fee Sundry expenses	760	765 0
	97	
	-----	-----
Total payments	77,002	83,849
 NET RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	 -5,341	 789
 Cash and bank balances at 1 September 2024	 45,715	

Cash and bank balances at 31 AUGUST 2025	40,374	
	=====	

All the receipts and Payments of Lewes U3A are unrestricted

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
MONETARY ASSETS		
Bank and cash assets:-		
Nat West Bank (General Fund)	9,332	19,671
NatWest Bank (General Fund) (Held for Writing Workshop)	563	563
Nat West Bank (Out and About Group)	2,649	3,568
Lloyds Bank current account (Theatre Group)	1,195	1,426
CCLA Ltd – COIF Deposit Fund	26,593	20,487

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PayPal account (General Fund)	42	0
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40,374	45,715

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NON-MONETARY ASSETS

Assets retained for the Charity's own use; various items of equipment shown at estimated market values

Brought forward

3,570

3,570

At estimated market value carried forward

3,570

£3,570

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 1 The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 Although all of the funds of Lewes u3a are unrestricted, the Charity operates with four Designated Funds. A summary of the Receipts and Payments by Designated Fund is shown below.

	Balance at 1 Sep 2024	Movement in Resources		Transfers	Balance at 31 Aug 2025
		Incoming	Outgoing		
General Fund	19,671	27,418	32,715	-5000	9,374
Development Fund	20,487	1,106	0	5000	26,593
Out & About Group	3,568	14,039	14,958	-	2,649
Theatre Group	1,426	29,098	29,329		1,195
Writing Workshop Group	563	0	0		563
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	45,715	71,661	77,002	-	40,374
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

- 3 None of the trustees were remunerated in their capacity as trustees.

Signed by:-

S J Murray

Chair

Date:-

18 / 10 / 25

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Lewes u3a

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
LEWES U3A [Registered Charity No. 297948]**

I report on the accounts of Lewes U3A for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

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 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to :-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 as 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 connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I 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.



Signed by :*Steve Brentnall*
1 Meadow View Cottages
Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

Date: 18th October 2025

