

CHAIR'S REPORT TO 2024 AGM.

INTRO

Thanks to all of you for attending our AGM and thanks for all your involvement throughout the year. It's the members that make this such a lively, stimulating and friendly u3a to belong to

It's been a busy year and a time of transition.

It's the first year we've been free of disruption or the threat of disruption from Covid since 2019 (though we know it's still lurking around) – and we've taken full advantage of this to grow in membership and activities.

Everything we do is built on what went before, and this is a summary of the past year.

MEMBERSHIP

We ended 2022 with 335 members and ended 2023 with 401 – a 19% increase and by a considerable margin the highest membership we've had since Salford u3a began 37 years ago.

We welcomed 136 new members last year and checking the numbers this morning, we've had another 30 new members since the beginning of January so our membership today is 396.

Why is it important to increase our membership? Maybe you think we'd be happy as we are, with the groups and activities we enjoy and the people we know.

It's important for several reasons, basically because standing still isn't an option

- every year, we lose 10-15% of the membership who don't renew, for one reason or another
- as we all age, we need new blood,
 - people who are willing to take on roles
 - and bring in fresh ideas
- and there are so many of our fellow Salford residents who are missing out on everything we enjoy about our membership of the u3a.

Being able to join online from July was immediately popular, and most members are joining and renewing that way, or paying by card using our new card reader.

Making it easier for members to join is an important element of our strategy to grow the membership and we'll continue to look into further expanding our payment options this year.

Andy Scutt leads in this area and I'd like to thank him for all he's done this year.

GROWING THE MEMBERSHIP: HOW HAVE WE DONE IT?

This has been a combination of

- what we offer
- letting people know what we offer
 - making ourselves visible
 - raising our profile
- making it easier for new members to join (online option)
- reducing the membership fee also adds to the appeal

A. WHAT DO WE HAVE TO OFFER?

GROUPS

Alongside growth in membership, there has been a proportionate growth in the number of groups. A rough guide is that we should aim for a ratio of 1 group per 10 members and we are have more than reached that, with an increase from 34 to 43 groups during the year.

Since the last AGM, we've added Spanish, Crown green bowling, Tai Chi x 2, Games and puzzles, a second Quilting group, a 4th Book club and a new walking group about to start.

New groups are a great way of attracting new members – that's happened for all of our new groups this year. Tai Chi was the star attraction, with 29 sign ups within days including 5 non-u3a members.

We lost one group – Theatre 2 – and a couple have come close, not for lack of interest but because of the difficulty of finding anyone willing to take over as convenor.

Some groups have changed convenor: Bird watching, Photo club, Play reading, Science and tech, Short Walks – thanks to all those convenors, past and present. Plants and Gardens took on a new name to reflect its interests and activity.

Several groups tried something different. Paint and sketch have offered tuition in landscape and portrait drawing; Concert goers had a day out in Buxton for the Gilbert and Sullivan festival; Wine appreciation visited a vineyard); Science and tech visited a solar farm; and – rather less glamorous – Family history visited Weaste Cemetery.

Walking group members had an enjoyable holiday in Dovedale: thanks to Ken McMahon for organising another successful trip

We are gradually increasing what we do beyond 10-4, Monday to Friday, and have added an evening book club to Saturday Strollers and Sunday lunch club. Pacemakers will also be walking at the weekend. There's always scope for more: maybe an evening diners club, or beer and ale tasting or a craft group?

All this activity and variety is something to be proud of, so many, many thanks to all our convenors and to the group members who help with running groups

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Another highlight of what we offer is our Social and Trips programme. Members enjoyed our Annual lunch, a holiday in the Netherlands, a day trip to Bowness and a short break in the West Country.

We always hear fantastic feedback about these events, with every day being packed with activities and experiences, so they're great value for money as well as an opportunity for members to spend time together and get to know each other.

Our thanks to Janet Ball for the time and attention she puts into running these events, and also to Ken for his support to Janet.

MONTHLY SOCIAL MORNINGS + OTHER

We have had an interesting and varied programme of speakers and regular high attendance: we routinely have 80+ attending, with highs well over 100. We know there are concerns about this venue in terms of acoustics and accommodation size and we'll do our best to address this.

Thanks to Carolyn Siddall for managing these meetings and for finding a great variety of speakers.

Many thanks also to our Friday support team for the welcome they offer and for ensuring everything runs smoothly. We now have a team of 10 meeters and greeters + our two signers-in – newly identified with lanyards.

From the March meeting, we'll have a table specifically for newcomers and meet and greeters: it will be clearly signed so please leave that table free – and it won't necessarily be the same one each time.

Thanks also to Carolyn for arranging 1st Aid training in May: it proved more difficult than expected to find a trainer but I know it was appreciated by those who attended

B. MAKING OURSELVES VISIBLE

It's not much use having all these activities if no-one outside Salford u3a knows about them. So, how do we make ourselves visible? How do we let potential members know what we have to offer?

OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website is constantly evolving. I know I shouldn't but, if you compare it with other u3as' sites, I find ours much more informative (particularly about groups) as well as being attractive and easy to navigate.

We continue to attract more and more visitors to our website and 2023 was another record year with an amazing 85,000 page views by visitors from across Salford and beyond.

We've increased our postings on Facebook (reaching a wide local audience) and X (reaching other groups and organisations who can put the word around about us) and this has vastly increased awareness of Salford u3a and attracted many new members. Our posts are varied and those that highlight our new groups have played a huge part in attracting new members: all our new groups in the past year have attracted members that way.

That's why I say – it's a combination of having something good to offer and making it known as widely as possible.

Thanks to Debra Charnley for her systematic and consistent approach , to updating the website and social media posting and to Andy for his backup. And thanks to Debra for this morning's slide show.

We look for any opportunity to raise the profile of Salford u3a.

We have attended

- Salford Integrated Care Partnership: Citizens' Panel
- Age Friendly Salford Alliance
- Local Neighbourhood team meetings
- Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society fair

- Salford Local Histories fair

We have a mailing list of organisations who receive our newsletter.

And we have spread our flyers around the borough, thanks to you.

Thanks to all who have helped in any way.

SEEKING MEMBERS' VIEWS

We're a small committee and we think it important to hear a wide range of members' views about how Salford u3a is doing, what we could improve and how we might develop.

This past year, we've held a survey of new members and a series of Qs of the month where you gave us some good pointers about spreading the word on Facebook, demand for another walking group, which is getting underway, and ideas about the monthly Social mornings.

It also generated ideas about attracting younger members, which some of you have been working on in a sub-group with Debra, so thanks to those who have helped with this.

We also invite all new members to an informal Welcome mtg within 3 months of them joining so we can tell them how the u3a works, but also to hear from them what they would like to get out of their membership and what suggestions they have for groups or activities.

Thanks to all of you who have responded when we've asked you - ~40% for our surveys - and I hope you'll help us again.

And thanks to Debra, who collates all the information you give us

As I said, we're a small committee and we're all multi-tasking so it has been a big benefit to have Jean Martin join us as Minutes Secretary. Jean has taken on some of the Admin work including the never-ending task of dealing with our incoming emails.

Thanks to Jean for her work, and for minuting today.

FINANCES

I'm not going to say much about finances as David Jenkins will be giving his report. Just to say that everything we do is underpinned by sound finances and to thank David for taking over probably the least popular role! His regular reports and our move to online banking have enabled us as a committee to be on top of the finances as well as offering new payment options for you that most of you have taken up.

We have also been very pleased to be able to reduce the membership fee for 2024. At £12, it's at its lowest level for many years and we've also introduced a joint membership fee (and 100 of our members are now joint) which, at £21, I think you'll agree represents remarkable value.

These are also important factors in making Salford u3a more attractive to new members.

Thanks to David Jenkins for all he's done to take us forward this year.

CLOSE AND LOOKING FORWARD

Before I close, I'd like to mention that, along with all the growth and positive developments, we also remember those members we have sadly lost during the year. Many of you will have known them, they were our friends and they will be sorely missed.

I hope you're all feeling positive about the year ahead, as we are.

To take us forward we need your help

- to spread the word
 - o we'd like to have a stand at local fairs and events
 - o we need you to tell us about them and to help run them
- to start and run groups/activities
 - o remember: by the members, for the members
- to update us with what you and your group are doing, with photos to keep the website fresh and up to date, and for the newsletter
- to volunteer in any way you can.
 - o anything from joining the committee or convening a group to making the coffees or organising a Christmas lunch for your group
 - o if you have an interest or a skill to share, that can be the start of a new group – guitar players, crafters, beer experts, historians ...
 - o any contribution, no matter how small, is a help.

What would help, ideally at committee level but up for discussion, is someone to co-ordinate our publicity efforts, to keep an eye on what's going on and to make sure we're in there ... and a personal plea: a newsletter editor: the newsletter is due for a refresh and a new eye.

If you'd like to know more about those roles and whether you could help us, please get in touch with me

Thanks again to you all. Whatever contribution you make, it is appreciated.

Thanks to my fellow committee members for all the work they put in and for their support to me in my first year as Chair. Here's to a positive 2024.

Mary McBride, Chair, Salford u3a

2023 Year End Salford u3a Accounts

	Total Income	Total Expenditure	Total Income less Expenditure	
Main Accounts	17,791.53	13,499.54	4,291.99	See separate analysis
Travel Accounts	44,118.80	45,705.35	(1,586.55)	See separate analysis
Total	<u>61,910.33</u>	<u>59,204.89</u>	<u>2,705.44</u>	

		Less cheques raised in previous year:	Add deposits for previous year	Cash Book opening balance (1st Jan)
Bank opening balance (1st Jan)				
Main RBS Current	7,162.82	261.00	-	6,901.82 RBS Current
Main Lloyds - Main	0.00	-	-	0.00 Lloyds - Main
Main Lloyds - Membership	0.00	-	-	0.00 Lloyds - Membership
Main Lloyds Deposit	0.00	-	-	0.00 Lloyds Deposit
Main RBS Deposit	5,698.71	-	-	5,698.71 RBS Deposit
Travel NatWest	2,665.54	-	-	2,665.54 NatWest
Travel Lloyds	0.00	-	-	0.00 Lloyds
	<u>15,527.07</u>	<u>261.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,266.07</u>

		Less transfers out not yet processed	Add deposit transfers not yet processed	Cash Book closing balance (31st Dec)
Bank closing balance (31st Dec)				
Main RBS Current	1.00	-	-	1.00 RBS Current
Main Lloyds - Main	1,127.67	-	1,763.85	2,891.52 Lloyds - Main
Main Lloyds - Membership	1,687.35	1,720.35	33.00	0.00 Lloyds - Membership
Main Lloyds Deposit	14,000.00	-	-	14,000.00 Lloyds Deposit
Main RBS Deposit	0.00	-	-	0.00 RBS Deposit
Travel NatWest	1.00	-	-	1.00 NatWest
Travel Lloyds	1,077.99	-	-	1,077.99 Lloyds
	<u>17,895.01</u>	<u>1,720.35</u>	<u>1,796.85</u>	<u>17,971.51</u>

Increase (Decrease) in Cash Book balance	2,705.44
Income less Expenditure during year	2,705.44

"Cash Book Balance" is the balance at the bank once all outstanding deposits / cheques have been cleared.

The accounts are presented on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis. The Trust has no fixed assets and the only known outstanding creditors at the end of the year relate to Group Hall Hire.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees:


Mary McBride, Chair

Date: 23.01.24


David Jenkins, Treasurer

Date: 20.5.24

Independent Examiner's report to Salford Life Long learning (U3A) (Charity 700706) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity trustees 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 Salford u3a'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

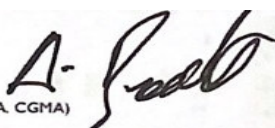
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Salford u3a 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:

Adrian Booth (ACMA, CGMA)



Date:

5/2/24.

2023 Year End Report

Salford u3a Main Account

	2022		2023	
	Membership			
	4,942	Income for current year	5,441	
	-	Income for next year	2,959	
	819	Gift Aid	-	
	-	SumUp Commission	(11)	
	(1,152)	Third Age Subscription	(1,272)	
	(780)	Third Age Magazine	(1,113)	
	(296)	Beacon Subscription	(318)	
	3,533	Surplus / (Deficit)	5,686	
	Hall-based Groups			
	4,280	Income	7,042	
	(6,735)	Hall Hire - 2022	(2,322)	
	-	Hall Hire - 2023	(4,660)	← An estimated £2,461 has not yet been invoiced
	(2,455)	Surplus / (Deficit)	60	
	Monthly Friday Social Meetings			
	965	Entrance Fee	2,301	
	(2,400)	Room Hire	(2,200)	
	(485)	Speakers	(748)	
	-	December Refreshments	(28)	
	(1,920)	Surplus / (Deficit)	(676)	
	Other			
	12	Bank Interest	60	
		Convenor's Meeting	(78)	← No room hire invoice received for Sept 2022 Meeting
		Support to Groups	(13)	
		First Aid Course	(30)	
	(80)	Welcome Meeting Refreshments	(163)	
	(36)	Web Page	(105)	
	-	On your Doorstep	(50)	
	-	Leaflets	(281)	
	(255)	Print & Postage	(57)	
	-	SumUp Card Reader	(36)	
	(25)	Accountant	(25)	
→	3,255	2022 Donations and Sundries	-	
	(1,446)	Sundry Expenses	-	
	1,425	Surplus / (Deficit)	(778)	
	583	Total Income less Expenditure	4,292	

2022 figure includes Donations (£1407), Sundries (£1648) & surplus from Walking Holiday (£200)

2023 Year End Report

Salford u3a Travel Account

2022			2023		
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure	
		Annual Lunch			
1,950	1,949	This year	2,167	2,167	
		Next year	288	100	a)
		Trips :			
29,508	30,189	Giverney	-	-	
1,431	1,333	Dorothy Cline	-	-	
16,855	16,428	Thursford	-	-	
1,800	-	Holland	22,590	24,390	
-	-	Bowness	1,794	1,706	
-	-	Cheddar Gorge	12,780	12,757	
-	-	Germany	4,500	4,400	b)
-	29	Expenses	-	186	c)
51,544	49,927	Total Income	44,119	45,705	
1,616	Total Income less Expenditure			(£1587)	

Notes:

- a) Includes £100 deposit for 2024 Lunch
- b) Includes deposits received and paid
- c) Postage, Ink Cartridges and visit to Travel Show in Oct 2023

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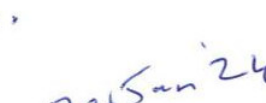
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Approved on behalf of the Trustees:


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Date: 23.01.24 David Jenkins, Treasurer


Date: 20th Jan 24

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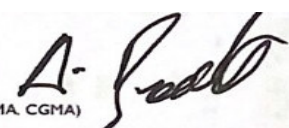
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