

CAUSEWAY u3a
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Charity No: NIC 104728

CAUSEWAY u3a
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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Causeway u3a AGM
Chair's Report for the Year April 2023 to March 2024

Hello Everyone

Well, here we are again, ready for another AGM as Causeway reaches its 30th year.

It is impossible for me to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our activities throughout the year so I hope you will forgive me if I mention only a few. Our membership continues to grow, we now have over 1350 members which is a fantastic number. Our Membership Secretary, David Johnston, has been very busy over the last few weeks dealing with renewals, so many thanks to David for that. Loretto Blackwood manages our web-site with quiet efficiency, offering members information and comprehensive documentation. Clare Carter has continued to produce our bi-monthly Newsletter, as she has tirelessly for many years, but she has now decided to hand over to a new team put together by Brendan Mullan. My heartfelt thanks to Clare and my best wishes to the new team. John Moore has sadly decided to give up his technical role supervising the sound for our monthly meetings after some 15 years of dedicated service for which we are all very grateful. I wish to thank our activity co-ordinator Mary O'Hare for all her efforts in keeping an eye on the wide range of our activities which run from Art to Yoga. Each one depends upon the expertise freely given by members within the philosophy of the u3a movement and without their hard work Causeway u3a could not function. My deepest gratitude goes to all our group leaders and activity co-ordinators, particularly to those retiring this year. If Causeway is to continue to flourish we need members to undertake these vital tasks, and your Committee would be delighted to offer advice and assistance to anyone interested in taking on these responsibilities.

This year we have had once again some enjoyable day trips and holidays, none of which would have been possible without the painstaking research and negotiating skills of their leaders for which I am very grateful. Our Vice-Chair, Ken Canavan, has organised several successful day trips, including a memorable visit to Armagh in December which had ended with carols round an open fire in Killymoon Castle. He also led the autumn holiday to Harrogate which was much enjoyed by participants, particularly the visit to York Minster. Rosalind Pritchard continues to coordinate our international holidays, leading a party to Lake Garda in May. After an inauspicious start with atrocious weather on the drive from the airport to the hotel, the tour proved a great success with good hotels, a well-balanced programme, an excellent tour manager and experienced local guides. The holiday was provided in conjunction with Riviera Travel, from whose financial support, through its generous Affinity scheme, Causeway u3a has greatly benefited. (You can find further details of the scheme on our website.)

The Activity Fair was held in September when our group leaders gathered to enrol members in our huge range of activities. This event was actually 'buzzing', and for this I must give thanks to our Secretary, Alan Sharp, who worked tirelessly to that end. It was held, as always, in the Lodge Hotel, which is generous in its hospitality for our monthly meetings and other activities.

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We have enjoyed a varied range of speakers and charity presentations for those monthly meetings, again thanks to Ken Canavan's wide range of contacts. Ken and Tenia Woods organised a very successful Christmas lunch at the Royal Court Hotel in Portrush with some fantastic entertainment from Katy Bustard and the children of her harp school and our own Singing for Fun group.

Professor Malachy O'Neill, the Director of Regional Engagement at Ulster University, is a firm friend of Causeway u3a and we are very grateful to the University for the access it offers to its facilities, and seminars and lectures in the English and History departments. Many of our members reciprocate by volunteering as subjects for various research projects. We also enjoy an excellent relationship with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and have cooperated with them in the preparation of an Age-Friendly strategy for the Borough. Foyle u3a have been very helpful, offering advice and opening their financial workshops to our members.

Our Support Network ran a session on Falls in the Home – sadly based in part upon the unfortunate experience of Barry Williamson, who, along with Pat Fulton, led the meeting. Joe Henderson organised four first aid seminars with the assistance of the British Red Cross which were very well attended. Joe has undertaken this role for five years, for which we express our thanks, but would now like to pass the reins to someone else – another opportunity so please don't be shy!

As you can see from the Treasurer's report, our finances are in a very healthy state, and I am grateful to Brendan Mullan for his oversight and for the research he and Nigel Creighton have undertaken in the search for a more user-friendly administrative package which seems to be bearing fruit. Brendan is also very active in the Northern Ireland Region, I'm not sure where he finds the time! Kate McGurk remains remarkably persistent in her pursuit of obtaining HMRC's approval for Causeway to collect gift aid. This has now become a national problem and the Third Age Trust is undertaking negotiations on behalf of the movement. I would also like to offer a massive thank you to Rosemary Peters Gallagher for her advice on various problems throughout the year and for acting as the examiner of our accounts.

Finally, many thanks to our excellent committee, to which Pat Fulton, Robert Irvine and Anna Logan were co-opted this year. We have really gelled and for me it has been a pleasure to chair such convivial meetings.

I read somewhere recently that, at our age, we are wiser and more creative than ever. There you have it, the wisdom and humour of age is ours. So enjoy.

Barbara Foster

Chair, Causeway u3a, 2023-2024

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TREASURER'S REPORT

This year has seen an improvement in our financial position since our last AGM in 2023. The funds balance at the 31st March year end is £52,232 an increase of over £12,000 on last year's balance. As well as income from membership fees and activities we also received total donations from Riviera Travel of £5,529 (2023 £3,345), from members who booked holidays with them and requested their Affinity Partnership scheme to be applied to Causeway u3a (up to 10% of the holiday cost is donated). The cost of the holiday to the member is unaffected by using this scheme. Note that it is a condition of the scheme that payments made by Riviera Travel go into the U3A's funds and are not passed back to the person or persons booking the holiday.

Our finances are strong and leave us well able to cope with the challenges which businesses and charities currently face. I must acknowledge the assistance of Nigel Creighton in collecting activity group fees using SumUp. This has proved to be a very efficient way of collecting activity fees and has saved me as Treasurer and activity group leaders a considerable amount of time. In addition, our Membership Secretary, David Johnson, has made a sterling effort to collect membership fees, no small task as we now have nearly 1,400 members. Causeway u3a is a voluntary organisation and without the willing work of all our volunteers, we would not be able to continue.

During the year our bank, HSBC, closed its Coleraine branch. In light of this your committee has approved the opening of an account with the Ulster Bank. This is currently underway.

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with the recommendation of the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. All equipment purchased is therefore written off against receipts in the year of purchase. The Statement of Assets and Liabilities attached shows assets that are assessed to have a notional value, together with the balances held in cash.

In conclusion our finances are in very healthy order and for this reason your committee have accepted my proposal that the membership subscription remains unchanged.

Brendan Mullan

Treasurer

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their report for the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The Objects of Causeway u3a are: to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in Causeway Coast and its surrounding locality; and the provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the *above* persons in the interests of their social welfare.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The benefits that flow from the purpose is keeping older minds active and involved through the acquisition of knowledge or furthering of knowledge in specific areas of interests to the recipient.

Causeway u3a provides the older person in its area with educational benefits which they would not otherwise be able to access at a minimal cost. Further benefits that flow from this purpose are improved health awareness of issues related to older people and physical and mental health maintained and/or improved through the uptake of activities provided hence reduction in demand for public health services. Also, the bringing together of isolated people and introducing them to new interests and friends therefore giving them a new outlook on life. This is especially pertinent to the Causeway area where people choose to retire to. The beneficiaries are the current 1,000+ members of Causeway u3a, who are retired or semi- retired men and women living in the Coleraine, Portstewart and Portrush catchment area. There is no possibility of any harm or possibility of harm outweighing the benefits.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

These are set out in the Chairperson's Report on page 3.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Financial performance

Almost all our activities have now resumed following the covid epidemic and the credit balance against activities reflects the payment in advance for courses that will run from April until the summer. Balance held at the end of March 2023 was £39,427, balance at the end of March 2024 is £52,232. The accounts are produced on a receipts and payments basis therefore the balance carried forward reflects payments in advance for activities. The Trustees are content that the charity has sufficient reserves to continue to function effectively. It should be noted that all reserves are unrestricted.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the finances and operations of the Charity and are satisfied that systems and processes are in place to mitigate the exposures to the major risks.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to ensure that sufficient reserves are maintained for the efficient operation of the charity. All reserves are unrestricted.

Reference and Administrative

Information Governance and related organisations

Causeway u3a, charity number 104728, was registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 4 March 2016.

The charity is a member of the Third Age Trust as an unincorporated association and has a governing constitution which was last formally amended at the AGM on 23 April 2009.

Causeway u3a and its property are administered and managed in accordance with its constitution by the members of the Executive Committee, who are elected from amongst themselves by the membership at the AGM. The roles and responsibilities of the members of the Executive Committee or Trustees are set out in the governing constitution. The Committee typically meets once per month between September and April. At each meeting the Treasurer presents the latest accounts for review and discussion. The meetings provide a forum to: review recent activities; plan forthcoming events; discuss the development of the charity; and also, received reports from other officers on their areas of responsibility. Further ad hoc meetings are called if required.

The Annual Report and Accounts are approved by the Committee and then presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting

No funds are held by Causeway u3A as a custodian trustee.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with applicable law and with UK Accounting Standards. The Trustees are also responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware: there is no relevant information of which the Charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and, the Trustees have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity for the year were:

Barbara Foster	Chair
Ken Canavan	Vice-Chair
Brendan Mullan	Treasurer
Dr Alan Sharp	Secretary
David Johnston	
Dr David Eastwood	
Sir Paul Girvan	
Mary O'Hare	
Nigel Creighton	
Patricia Fulton	

Principal Address

c/o Barbara Foster
24 Woodvale Road
Portstewart
BT55 7JF

Bankers

HSBC
20-22 Railway Road
Coleraine
BT521PD

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Independent Examiner

Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA
Moore (NI) LLP
32 Lodge Road
Coleraine
County Londonderry
BT52 1NB

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Barbara Foster

01.05.2024

Barbara Foster
Chair

Date:

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

Independent examiners report to the charity trustees of Causeway u3a

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 st March 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Charity Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed;



Name:

Dr R. I. Peters Gallagher OBE, FCA
Moore (NI) LLP, Chartered Accountants
32 Lodge Road
Coleraine, BT52 1NB

Address:

Date: 1st MAY 2024

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Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<hr/>				
Receipts				
Voluntary Receipts				
Donations	5,529	--	5,529	3,345
Grants	--	--	--	246
Other voluntary receipts	30	--	30	
From Charitable Activities				
Membership Fees	14,568	--	14,568	15,117
Activity Fees	51,643	--	51,643	52,731
Outings	37,549	--	37,549	45,234
Total Receipts	109,319	--	109,319	116,673
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Payments				
Cost of Charitable Activities	80,650	--	80,650	89,559
Governance Costs	7,491	--	7,491	7,832
Third Age Trust	7,875	--	7,875	5,386
Asset and Investment Purchase				
Purchase of Equipment	498	--	498	1,746
Total Payments	96,514	--	96,514	104,523
<hr/>				
Net Receipts	12,805	--	12,805	12,150
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Transfers to/(from) funds	--	--	--	--
Surplus for the year	12,805	--	12,805	12,150
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank 31.3.22	39,427	--	39,427	27,277
Surplus this year end	12,805	--	12,805	12,150
Cash at bank 31.3.23	52,232	--	52,232	39,427

Bank Balances

No 1 Current Account	30,874	23,469
No 2 Current Account	20,429	14,770
Multi-currency credit cards	929	1,188
	52,232	39,427

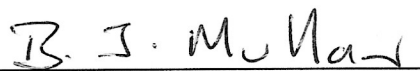
Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)

Audio Visual systems (at cost)	965	965
Table Tennis table (at cost)	690	690
Table Tennis table (sale proceeds)	-200	-200
Inkjet printers (at Cost)	475	475
Other equipment (at cost)	--	--
	1,930	1,930

Approved by the Trustees 1st MAY 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Barbara Foster
Chair



Brendan Mullan
Treasurer

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Related Party Transactions

No transactions with related parties or trustees occurred during the year.

2. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year.

3. Trustee Expenses

No expenses were paid to any trustee during the year.

4. Accounting Policies

The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 permit a charity to prepare a Receipts and Payments Account and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000. Therefore, Receipts and Payments Accounts and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities have been prepared and presented for the year ended 31st March 2024. All Income is recorded when received. All Expenditure is recorded when paid.

5. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are defined as items held for functional use, with a useful life longer than one year, and with a value above the capitalisation threshold. For all equipment the threshold is £200. Valuations have been provided for all such assets on the basis of their cost when acquired. Assets are not depreciated. All equipment is written off within three years of the purchase date.

7. Independent Scrutiny

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires any charity registered in Northern Ireland to have its accounts reviewed or audited. Where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000 the review may be an Independent Examination by an Independent Person. Causeway u3a have chosen to exceed this minimum requirement by engaging a qualified person to undertake the review for the year to March 2024.