

# u3a

Romsey Archway



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022-23**

## Introduction



**Hello**

**I am pleased to present to you my first Annual Report as Chairman.**

**My first year has certainly gone very quickly for me and it's been an enjoyable one as I've been learning the ropes in my role as your chairman. I'm still learning!**

When I took over from Steve George we were already in a good position and just coming out of the shadow of Covid. Whilst it is still with us we are now learning how to live with it and are able to enjoy a much more normal life. This has been reflected in the increased attendance at our events and speaker meetings.

In this report you will see a brief summary of how we are doing in various areas across the club.

For me one of the things I get the most pleasure from is seeing how much of a social group we are, something that I and the committee are keen to continue to develop.

From my own personal point of view I would like to see membership grow steadily as well as see an increase in the number of interest groups that we have available to current and potential new members, more on this later in the report.

As always please do feel free to contact anybody on the committee if you have some concerns or suggestions for ideas to further develop our club.

I commend this report to you and in

summary believe that we have had a truly successful year.

I'd like to thank you for your continued membership and support of our club.

Looking forward to another successful u3a year in 2023/24

Dave Green

Chair


## Your Committee

The Committee this year has been made up of the following Trustees:-

- Dave Green — Chair
- Andrew Bealing — Deputy Chair and Governance
- Janet Binns — Treasurer
- Anita Barry — Secretary
- Margaret Bealing — Groups Coordinator
- Sue Edwards — Groups Coordinator
- Barbara Vincent — Membership Secretary
- Judy Duncan — Speaker Secretary
- Sue Keith — Events Coordinator
- Richard Crowder — Webmaster
- Steve George — Development Officer

My thanks go to all of them for the help and support they have given helping to run and develop our u3a this year.

I would like to give a special mention to Sue Edwards and Barbara Vincent who have decided to stand down this year from committee after a considerable number of years served. Their enthusiasm and drive has played a significant role in the smooth running of our u3a. They will be missed.



A further mention for Richard Barry, one of our members, who stood in as note taker for Anita our Secretary whilst she recovered from a hand operation. Thank you Richard!

We will only be able to continue to develop as a club if we have a strong, full and active committee, which we currently have. If we are to maintain this, it is essential that more club members volunteer to join the committee as part of a succession plan. This is so that when one current member retires we have somebody already on committee knowledgeable and able to take up the various roles that become available.

I have to say that I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy my time on the committee. Whilst there is an obvious small amount of workload demand and commitment, it is also a lot of fun. It is really great to get the feedback that we do as a committee for all of the effort that we put in.

It is not an onerous task and I do implore you all to seriously consider putting your hand up to help the club for the benefit of your fellow members. Remember we are an organisation of volunteers run by volunteers!

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## Membership

We started the year with 352 Members in April and we currently have 378 so an increase of 8% or so.

During the year we had 60 join and 33 leave and sadly 1 member pass away.

Welcome to all our new members.

Remember you are our sales team so please do, if you enjoy being a member, encourage friends and family who like us all are in the third phase of their lives to come along and

see what u3a is all about.

We have just announced that we will be reducing the membership fee to £10 for this year down from £15 last year. So now is a good time to join.

To ensure fair access opportunities to all members we have decided to make our social events a members only invite. So far the feedback I've received on this decision has been positive.

During the course of the year we hold a number of welcome meetings for new members so if you've not been to one yet please do let us know and we'll make sure you get an invite to the next one.

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## Groups

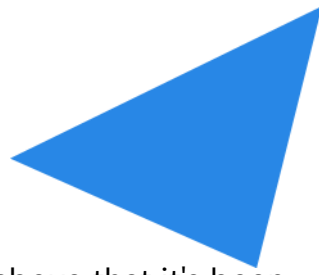
We started this year with 40 Groups and now have 38.

The following groups have closed down:-

- Cards
- Discussion of Current Events
- Creative Writing
- Netball
- Old Motor Group
- Social Contact Group
- Travel

The following groups have started up or are in the process of starting up:-

- Birdwatching at Fishlake Meadows
- Cinema
- Guitar Absolute Beginners
- Spanish Conversation
- Walking – Big Walks



So you can see from the above that it's been a little bit of a "revolving door" this year with some groups closing and some starting.

Group leaders are at the centre of everything that u3a stands for and we are really appreciative of all that our group leaders do in keeping the existing groups going. Please do speak to the group coordinators if there's more we can do to help you grow your groups.

As I said in my introduction, we are keen to grow the number of groups because it is groups that attract new members, and so the more choice we have, the more attractive we will be to new members.

So, if you do have some ideas that you would like to explore in terms of a new interest group do please contact our group coordinators to discuss with them how they and/or the committee can help you.

Remember groups do not need to be led by a single person, the small amount of workload involved can be shared between a number of group members.

As well as the support of our group coordinators, we have a number of briefing documents and guidance notes that explain in greater detail what is required of a group leader/s.

In addition the committee are able to offer a £50 grant to help any new group with any startup costs that they may have.

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## Speaker Meetings

We held 12 speaker meetings this year attended by, on average 65 (or 18%) of our

members.

We covered such diverse subjects as real life murder mystery through the early days and goings on in Portsmouth, to working in Ugandan missionary hospitals ending the year with a fantastic 40 strong Christmas Choir event topped off with wine and mince pies!!

I hope that you will have noticed that in each month's newsletter we try to give a bit more description of both the speaker and the content of the speaker's presentation to enable you to make a more informed decision as to whether you wish to attend. We recognise that the title alone that we post in the flyer and at the end of the newsletter isn't really enough to go on. Please do try to come along because they are good events in themselves in terms of general interest, but also it is an opportunity to meet with other members both new and not so new!

That said it is good to see a lot more people staying behind for a coffee, biscuit and a chat making the meetings much more of a social event and I hope that this continues.

Another new initiative at our speaker meetings this year has been the establishment of our Book Swap where people can bring books they have read and swap them with others they have not. This is proving to be really successful so please do continue to take advantage of the stall. My thanks to the Crowders for organising this each month.

I've listed next year's planned speakers at the end of this report for your information.

If you've personal experience of good speakers that you feel would be right for our audience then please do let Judy Duncan know about them.



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## Social Events

After the interest shown in our trip to the Mary Rose we decided to explore the potential for more membership wide social events. With Sue Keith leading and others supporting we successfully ran the following events:-

- Quiz brought forward from Christmas 2021
- Trip to the Mary Rose Museum
- Skittles Evening at Wellow Golf Club
- Trip to Salisbury and Edward Heath's home
- Christmas Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper
- u3a Day Party in the Park
- Stand at the Mayor's Picnic
- King John's House tour.
- Romsey Abbey tour.
- Groups' musical evening.

We're planning to provide the following events this year:-

- April. Discovery Days trip to Bletchley Park.
- May. Walk in Hillier's Gardens with an expert gardener.
- June. Skittles Wellow Golf Club.
- August. Quiz evening.
- October. Tour Romsey Abbey.
- November. Brewery tour. If available
- December. Christmas social event.

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## Website etc!

Over the past year considerable work has been undertaken to enhance and refresh the

contents of our website, which hopefully members appreciate. This process was not helped by serious issues in November, when all u3a sites (almost 750) using the SiteBuilder platform were suddenly taken down by the then hosting company. I am pleased to report that normal service has resumed, but nationally some reputational damage was done. Over the next year, it is expected that our website will move to a new platform, this move should hopefully be seamless. To help prepare for this move, members including group leaders should pass any images and news of group activities to our webmaster.

The Committee is also looking to increase our visibility through the use of Facebook and other social media, particularly to attract new members.

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## Membership Achievements

I would just like to highlight a number of areas where our members have gone beyond their normal role as a member both of the club and or an interest group to help the wider community and our club.

## Community

At the November Speaker meeting we had a Charity Stall selling Christmas gifts and decorations made by members of the Needlecraft group, Dorothy Roe from the Art Group sold some art and cards and some wooden bits and pieces were made by yours truly!

Between us all, and thanks to your support these members raised £276 for New Forest for the Ukraine.



The Rotary Club of Romsey approached some members of our photography group to judge for them some submissions from a school's photo competition. The theme was 'The Beauty of Architecture'. The images were assessed on technical merit, content meeting the brief, composition of image and imagination.. Whilst this was a new event some interesting submissions were received with the ultimate winner being Teddy whose winning submission will go on to compete at a District level, good luck to Teddy!

Our guitar groups led by Bob Jones, John Roe and Shirley Tarran organised a musical evening called Guitars4Ukraine at Crosfield hall that raised some £2200 for the disaster Relief Fund in Ukraine. It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by everybody.

Romsey does a yarn bombing project on the bollards in town every year. Many groups and some individuals take part and the 'bombs' are in place for a few weeks every summer. Last year was the first that our u3A took part, and they are intending to take part this year too. It was a joint effort by the knitters and stitchers in our Needlecraft group.

## Volunteers

I mentioned earlier in this report how we are an organisation of volunteers and I just want to mentioned here my thanks for the help we have had at our speaker meetings from the volunteers.

One group of volunteers are those that come along to make the teas and coffees.

Their help has been greatly appreciated and has helped I believe to grow the social side of our club encouraging people to stay and have a chat after the speaker meeting.

The other group of volunteers I'd like to thank are the new meet and greet volunteers who provide a warm welcome to existing members but more importantly to new members when they arrive at the speaker meetings. It can be quite intimidating arriving at such an event particularly if you're on your own and so the meet and greet is an important function of our speaker meetings.

There are quite a few of you so I cannot name you individually, but you know who you are and thanks very much for all that you do.



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## Finance Report

Romsey Archway u3a

Registered Charity Number 1186820

The following report and Statement of Accounts has been prepared by the Treasurer, Janet Binns and subsequently audited by Peter Stuckey as an independent reviewer.

The Accounts show that Archway has continued to grow over the last year, with several more groups becoming large enough to require a room or hall to enable them to be able to hold their meetings.

Gift Aid is now being claimed on the basis of our Accounting Year to the end of February. As a result of this, no figure for this is showing in the 2023 Accounts, but the claim will be made shortly and I am expecting a receipt of £778 in the next few weeks.

We have various Central charges to pay in the next few months and I would expect these to total around £2,500. These are for our contribution to the running of the Central Organisation, the Beacon website, the TAM magazines and our CLA licence. At the end of February our bank account stands at £7,725.44.

The committee agreed a Reserves Policy for the year 2022-2023 at 50% of the estimated expenditure (excluding groups) for the year.

The Statement of Income and Expenditure follows on next 2 pages

## Income and Expenditure: 1 March 22 to 28 February 23

Start Year	2022			2021	
	In	Out		In	Out
Balance at Bank b/f			£7296.21		£8053.63
Membership fees	5,255.50			2930.50	7.50
Gift Aid				479.05	
Donations	55.50	11.00*		89.98	100.00
Capitation		1400.00			1123.50
Magazine		627.75			339.14
Beacon		348.00			317.00
CLA License		60.00			60.00
Speakers		1029.49			890.00
Venue Hire	£886.20**	1712.94			1582.60
Advertising & Marketing		202.36			549.88
Miscellaneous		125.97			171.94
Art Group	860.73	705.69		574.60	446.91
Badminton	462.00	516.79		273.30	166.50
Discovery Days	506.00	753.00		594.00	330.00
Family History	252.00	218.88			
Guitar Beginners	864.25	935.25		430.00	267.75
Guitar Intermediate	973.00	971.25		969.90	726.90
History	185.00	96.00			
Needlecraft	431.00	326.00		174.00	105.00
Photography	8.40	8.40		24.60	24.60
Social Events	2893.69	3326.71		733.50	914.97
Table Tennis	1859.58	1712.00		1379.00	1268.50
Theatre Group	70.00	70.00		612.00	612.00
TVBC Rolling Deposit	300.00	300.00			
Wine Appreciation	123.86	79.82		315.52	307.70
Grants to New Groups		20.18			24.98
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£15986.71</b>			<b>£9579.95</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£15557.48</b>			<b>£10337.37</b>
Balance at Bank c/f			£7725.44		£7296.21

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
continued...

<b>Represented by:</b>					
Art Group c/f	327.73			172.69	
Badminton c/f	52.01			106.80	
Discovery Days c/f	17.00			264.00	
Family History c/f	33.12				
Guitar Beginners c/f	91.25			162.65	
Guitar Intermediate c/f	244.75			243.00	
History c/f	89.00				
Needlecraft c/f	174.00			69.00	
Table Tennis c/f	417.08			269.50	
Wine Appreciation c/f	51.86			7.82	
TVBC Rolling Deposit		300.00			300.00
Christmas Quiz Income				419.00	
Christmas Quiz Expenditure					334.19
Crosfield Hall in advance		695.40			727.20
<b>Total Income c/f</b>	<b>£1497.80</b>			<b>£1714.46</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure c/f</b>		<b>£995.40</b>			<b>£1361.39</b>
<b>Net c/f</b>			<b>£502.40</b>		<b>£353.07</b>
<b>General Fund</b>			<b>£7223.04</b>		<b>£6943.14</b>
<b>Total c/f</b>			<b>£7725.44</b>		<b>£7296.21</b>

\* Reconciliation of unidentified payment

\*\* Made up of £159.00 that showed on the February monthly accounts plus the £727.20 brought forward figure that was included in February accounts within B/F Year End for from previous year

## Dates for the Diary 2023

### 2023

- Thu Apr 13th **Thu Apr 13th AGM Followed by  
Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Spitfire by Colin Van Geffen**
- Tues Apr 18th **Trip to Bletchley Park**
- Thu May 11th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm (TBC)  
What Did You Do During the War Mum by  
Dave Allport**
- Weds May  
17th **Hilliers Gardens Tour**
- Thu Jun 8th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Memories Are Made of This (News & views from Queen Victoria to Queen  
Elizabeth) by  
Patricia Godwin**
- Thu Jun 8th **Skittles Evening at Wellow Golf Club**
- Tue Jun 20th **Members Coffee morning at Crosfield Hall at 10.00am**
- Thu Jul 13th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
a) The Oceans Role in Climate  
b) Plastics in the Ocean by Meric Srokosz from National Oceanography  
Centre**
- Thu Aug 10th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies by  
Martin Lloyd**
- Thu Sep 14th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Harlots, Dung & Glory – part 2 by Andrew Negus**
- Thu Oct 12th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Unearthing Egyptology – nomads to nation by Janet Diamond**
- Thu Nov 9th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm (TBC)  
Train to the Arctic Circle by Paul Whittle**
- Thu Dec 14th **Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm  
Christmas Party! tba**



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## Useful Contacts

There is a lot of useful information about u3a that can be found on the National U3A Website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Our Romsey and Archway U3A Website is  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/romsey-archway/home>

You can contact us at

<https://u3asites.org.uk/romsey-archway/contact>

Please join our Romsey Archway Facebook at –

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/443593039767427>