

u3a

Romsey Archway



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024-25**

Introduction



Hello

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

My third year has certainly gone even quicker than my first two and it's been an enjoyable one! (Believe or not!!)

In terms of our core business, facilitating the u3a mantra of, Learn Laugh Live, we are doing very well.

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

Financially we are solid with steady and sustainable membership growth and increasing numbers of interest groups to choose from.

This successful growth however brings with it challenges for us in terms of the need for more volunteers to help run our u3a. You would already be aware that we have had to change our constitution so that existing members of committee who are willing to can remain in post beyond the standard three years.

If all goes as currently planned, the committee next year will be just six members (two less than this year) who will need to divide the current workload between them, meaning even more for each individual to do, not an ideal situation!

We may need to look at the frequency of events and change that to help reduce workload on committee, no plans/decisions made yet but it will certainly be under consideration as the new committee "beds in"

To that end you will have seen in the March newsletter that we are looking for more volunteers to help with some of the tasks. The important point to note here is that these roles do not require volunteers to join the committee merely to support our u3a.

We are also going to experiment with a different committee meeting structure with formal meetings happening once every two months and informal meetings occurring in between. We also will probably be inviting group leaders and any other members who may be interested to come along to the informal meetings to discuss any issues etc they may have with regards to the operation of our u3a.

As well as providing access to various interest groups our u3a, like all u3as, has an important role to play in the wider social interaction between members, who perhaps otherwise wouldn't have that social connect, and the positive impact it can have on an individual's well-being. We are very keen to ensure that we continue to provide this benefit to our members.

I commend this report to you and in summary believe that we have had a truly successful year.

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

Tell your friends and neighbours about us and what we do, you're our best sales team and that can help our continued growth over the coming years.

Looking forward to another successful u3a year in 2025/2026

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
- Andrew Nicol – Treasurer
- Anita Barry – Secretary
- Margaret Bealing – Groups Coordinator
- Heather Trim – Membership Secretary
- Sue Keith – Events Coordinator
- Richard Crowder – Website and Beacon Administrator
- Janet Robinson – New Events Coordinator

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

Particular thanks go to Sue, Margaret, Andrew B and Anita who have decided to stand down from committee this year. Without their input and enthusiasm over the last few years we wouldn't be where we are today as a u3a

Membership

This year has been a period of strong membership growth. We began in April with 422 members and have since expanded to 482, representing a 14% increase. This surpasses last year's 13% growth, highlighting our vibrant and engaging community. We are delighted to have welcomed 83 new members, while 23 members moved on. To all our new members, a warm welcome! We believe our members are our best ambassadors. If you're enjoying your u3a experience, please share it with others in

their 'third age' and encourage them to discover what we offer. We regularly host welcome meetings for new members. If you haven't attended one yet, please reach out, and we'll ensure you receive an invitation to the next session.

Groups

Your groups coordinators for the last year were;

Marion Slattery (Groups A – H)

Margaret Bealing (Groups I-Z)

We are keen to grow the number and variety of groups. If you have an idea for a group, please contact the Groups Coordinators, they will be pleased to help you set up a new group.

New Groups 2024 – 2025

Theatre Goers

Natural History

Songwriting

Guitar Absolute Beginners

Walking Tennis

Wine Appreciation 2

Closed Groups 2024 – 2025


Investment Discussion

Lives of the Poets

So a small net increase in group numbers over the year which is great but we could always do with more....over to you!

Don't forget the committee is able to offer a £50 grant to help any new group with any startup costs that they may have.

Group leaders are at the centre of everything that u3a stands for and we are



really lucky that we have such a good team of group leaders keeping the groups going. The value you all add is much appreciated and thanks for all that you do.

Speaker Meetings

We held 12 speaker meetings this year attended by, on average 68 of our members. Our February meeting was attended by 111 members and that was a record number! The subjects this year covered such diverse subjects as Cyber Crime, Missions in Africa, behind the scenes in BBC TV in times past, the Remembrance Poppy and Did Hitler Die in the Fuhrerbunker?

Please do try to come along to future meetings not only 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!

The cafe style seating works well for us and people have become used to that now and we propose to continue to use this seating layout going forward.

We do still need someone to organise the future speaker meeting Programme.

Volunteers please this does not need to be a committee role!!

Our Book Swap stall continues to be well supported. My thanks to the Crowders for organising this each month.

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

Social Events

We have continued to run a number of events this year that have included:-

April. Easter quiz.

May. New members coffee morning.

July. Walking tour of old Portsmouth.

August. Picnic in Memorial Park.

October. Private tour of Hilliers Arboretum.

October. Firework's Quiz

November. New members coffee morning.

December. Christmas party and Carols at monthly meeting.

April. Archway music groups concert, Crosfield Hall.


We have also tried to arrange some trips to Blenheim Palace and the Silk mill & Bombay distillery that included a coach as the means of transport. These proved to be unpopular and we assume because of the costs involved. Regretfully not enough people wished to go on these trips to make them financially viable, hence both had to be postponed. Please let us your views on these types of trip.

We held a successful and well attended new members coffee morning that was extremely well received by the members. Our thanks goes to all who helped including the Group Leaders that attended to explain what their groups were all about.

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

A follow up walking tour in Portsmouth

A quiz in November.



Please do contact us if you have any ideas for trips that you think would appeal to our members.

Website etc!

In March 2025, Romsey Archway u3a moved to the newly developed SiteWorks web platform, this has greatly enhanced our web presence. Over the year our pages have been viewed over 24500 times. The system has proved to be robust, but easy to edit. Over time I would like our group leaders to start to take ownership and edit their individual pages, obviously with support and training.

Richard Crowder our website manager has advised that the migration portion of the SiteWorks project ended in December, with over 650 u3a moving to SiteWorks, this impacted on over 280,000 members from the North of Scotland to the Channel Islands. As with any project of this size, it was a team effort, so our thanks to the national team led by Chris Winner.

Richard Crowder is currently responsible for Change Management of the software, we should thank the developers, including Ed Slattery from Romsey Archway, the test team and the system administrators who ensured that the releases have been bug free.

As with any website, our site is resource hungry, so Richard, your Website Administrator is always looking for material from Groups and Members to ensure the site is updated and relevant. – the more content the better.

In addition our Facebook pages are becoming used more frequently, again I would encourage members (who are

registered) to add information about the u3a activities they participate in either by groups or individually.

Volunteers

I have mentioned before how we are an organisation of volunteers. I just want to reiterate here my thanks for the help we receive from these volunteers.

I would like to say a big thanks you to those that volunteer to make teas and coffees and those that Welcome members for the Speaker meetings. We wouldn't be the same happy welcoming u3a without your help.

We are always looking for more volunteers, please have a look at the Newsletter for opportunities to help out.


Finance Report

(Romsey Archway u3a, Charity Number: 1186820)

A Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer, Andrew Nicol, and subsequently examined by Janet Binns, as an independent reviewer, is presented below.

At the end of the year the total amount held at the bank was £7859, which was £155 less than the amount held at the start of the year. Hence the outgoings were a close match to the income. Closer analysis reveals that much of the reduction was due to a smaller amount being held as floats for Archway Groups. The General Fund at the end of the Financial Year was £7414, which is still higher than our reserve fund target of £5000.

The main sources of income are the annual



membership subscriptions plus gift aid, claimed on some of the subscriptions from the previous year – a total of £5406. Income is also received from members paying for Group activities, but that money belongs to the associated group, not the general fund.

The largest expenditure items were the Central Charges, which totalled £2500. This included the Capitation fees, paid to the Third Age Trust to provide a number of core services, including liability insurance of various types, the Third Age Magazine, the CLA licence (covering copyright issues), and the Beacon software used by many u3as, including Archway, to track financial and membership status.

Central expenditure at Romsey Archway u3a totalled £2024, and was mainly the monthly Speaker meetings and venue hire. A small amount was spent on administrative activities, such as advertising and office stationery.

Group activities are required to be self-funding, and to hold sufficient funds at the bank against any anticipated invoices, usually room hire. The amount, or float, held by each Group can vary with time. At the end of the 2023/24 Financial Year the Groups held £2446 between them. At the end of the 2024/25 Financial Year the sum held was £1495.

In summary the accounts show that Romsey Archway u3a finances are in a good state, with the caveat that we will need to monitor the reserve fund.

Andrew Nicol, 10 March 2025

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Start Year	2024/25			2023/24		
	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Balance brought forward			£ 8,014.55			£ 7,725.44
Membership fees	4857.00			3884.00		
Gift Aid	559.74			795.28		
Donations	28.00			92.96		
Capitation		1356.00			1304.00	
Magazine		664.32			550.63	
Beacon		413.00			371.00	
CLA Licence		67.21			64.20	
Speakers		1371.00			1189.00	
Venue Hire		408.70		90.00	1259.40	
Advertising & Marketing		155.88			207.96	
Stationery		88.55			121.70	
Art Group	258.00	692.88		757.75	569.81	
Badminton Group	410.47	498.75		538.95	382.50	
Family History	62.32	215.00		230.00	56.40	
Guitar Absolute Beginners 2	94.50	0.00				
Guitar Improvers Wed am	864.00	790.00		798.50	795.00	
Guitar Intermediate Mon am	1030.00	1202.55		1120.00	1025.93	
Guitar Strummers Wed pm	714.00	669.00		608.00	528.00	
History Group	160.00	236.00		165.50	144.00	
Knitters & Stitches	290.00	160.00			144.00	
Natural History	36.00	36.00				
Photography	30.00	30.00		80.80	80.80	
Table Tennis 1	1443.00	1618.18		1678.00	1585.00	
Theatre Group	299.50	299.50				
Wine Appreciation Group	81.00	276.00		526.50	227.25	
Grants to New Groups					61.50	
Social Events	2168.00	2307.67		3432.00	3841.05	
Membership Pre-payment	15.90					
TVBC Rolling Deposit	300.00	300.00		300.00	300.00	
Total Income	£13,701.43			£15,098.24		
Total Expenditure		£13,856.19			£14,809.13	
Balance to carry forward			£7,859.79			£8,014.55

Statement of Income and Expenditure continued

Represented by:	2024/25		2023/24	
Art Group c/f	80.79		515.67	
Badminton Group c/f	120.18		208.46	
Family History c/f	54.04		206.72	
Guitar Absolute Beginners 2 c/f	94.50		0.00	
Guitar Improvers Wed am c/f	168.75		94.75	
Guitar Intermediate Mon am c/f	166.27		338.82	
Guitar Strummers Wed pm c/f	125.00		80.00	
History Group c/f	34.50		110.50	
Knitters & Stitchers c/f	160.00		30.00	
Natural History c/f	0.00		0.00	
Photography c/f	0.00		0.00	
Table Tennis 1 c/f	334.90		510.08	
Theatre Group c/f	0.00		0.00	
Wine Appreciation Group c/f	156.11		351.11	
TVBC Rolling Deposit c/f		300.00		300.00
Mayflower Tour Advance		0.00		150.00
Crosfield Hall: late invoice	0.00		33.67	
Crosfield Hall: advance payments		749.85		751.70
Total Income carried forward	£1,495.04		£2,479.78	
Total Expenditure carried forward		£1,049.85		£1,201.70
Net carried forward			£445.19	£1,278.08
General Fund			£7,414.60	£6,736.47
Total carried forward			£7,859.79	£8,014.55

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 Archway U3A Website is

<https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk>

You can contact us at

<https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/contact/>

Please join our Romsey Archway Facebook at –

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