

Links 218: June 2025



European Travel Group at the Valley of the Temples, Sicily

Contact us

Our website is at: <https://su3a.org.uk>

Here you will find all the latest news and information about Su3a, including items that do not appear in *Links*.

Membership Inquiries:

Su3a Membership Team

members@su3a.org.uk

Information about groups:

Fran Rodway

07774 142409

Group Records Team

Health and Safety Risk Assessments

General Coordinator

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***Links* no. 219 October 2025,**

last date for copy: Friday 29 August, 2025

All news and correspondence to the editors: email: links@su3a.org.uk

Please provide text and photos separately. If you are providing photographs please confirm that you have the permission of any Su3a members appearing and that the photographs are not in breach of copyright.

The *Links* team is not responsible for the content of any articles. For any queries please contact the author of the article.

Facebook group

To join our Facebook group, please go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sheffieldsu3a/> and hit Join. You will be asked to answer two questions and will need your Su3a membership number.

I hope that you are all enjoying the lengthening days and looking forward to summer. My chosen activities over the next few months will be croquet (provided the rain keeps off) and gardening. Whatever you choose to do, enjoy yourselves.

This edition of *Links* contains the papers for our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We are again offering a light buffet lunch afterwards so hope you can join us for both the AGM and the lunch, which has proved to be a popular social event over the past two years. The meeting will start at 11.00 am but there will be coffee and entertainment from one of our music groups from 10.30am. Usually, the AGM is over by 12.00 noon and lunch is served straightaway. You don't need to register for the AGM but, for catering purposes, you do need to register if you want to stay for the lunch. See page 4 for details of how to do this.

In April, Art Group 1 which, by dint of weekly posts on our Facebook Group, has tripled its membership over the past year decided to celebrate the work of its members by putting on an exhibition. It was open to the public and they had a fantastic turnout of both members and non-members. There were some fabulous paintings, some from people who previously thought they had no artistic talent! It proved a great day for Art Group 1, who got a further 3 members, and Su3a who hopefully gained some new members. Thanks must go to Coordinator Gordon Doole and inspirational tutor Linda Allinson.

Art Group 1 isn't the only group to have celebrated its work over the past few months. As I write this our Whirlow Brook Park Gardeners are prepping for an Open Day and Plant Sale on 21st May. By the time you read this it will all be over bar the planting! Another great initiative by one of our groups and I'm sure it will be a great success. Finally, I'm also pleased to say that some of our members have come forward to stand for election to the EC and you'll see their names in the AGM papers. That's all from me and I very much hope to see you at the AGM.

Mo Cave

Sheffield u3a

Notice of the 39th Annual General Meeting of Sheffield u3a
11:00am, Tuesday 8th July 2025,
Central United Reformed Church, Chapel Walk

Coffee will be served from 10.30am. Only current 2025 members may attend and vote at the AGM. The final agenda for the AGM and the 2024 minutes are published in this edition of *Links*.

Brian Barrett - Secretary

Members wishing to raise business under clause 14(ii) of the constitution should have notified the Secretary, in writing, by 21st April 2025, as advertised in April *Links*, so that it could have been included in the final agenda. There will be the opportunity for informal discussion (see agenda item 9(b)) but no decision can be made on these items at the AGM.

Invitation to AGM lunch

After the AGM business attendees are invited for a sandwich lunch. To accept this invitation, please log in to our website, <https://su3a.org.uk/>, click on the Calendar tab and the link to the AGM. From there you can register for the AGM lunch. This is essential for catering purposes.

Current members who cannot attend the AGM may give voting instructions to the Chair of the meeting by forwarding them to the Secretary at secretary@su3a.org.uk, or by post to 32 Newington Rd, Sheffield S11 8RZ, no later than Sunday 6th July 2025.

The venue is accessible to wheelchair users but if you have any other specific requirements which you would need in order to attend the AGM please let the Secretary know at the above address as quickly as possible.

NOTICE OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE U3A SHEFFIELD

To be held at 11AM on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at Central United Reformed Church

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting
3. Chair's Annual Report
4. Review and Approval of the Accounts
5. Approval of Appointment of the Independent Examiner, AIMS Accountants
6. EC Members Stepping Down
7. Election of new members to the Committee
8. Re-election to the Committee of existing serving Officers and other members
9.
 - (a) Any Other Business (formally brought up and previously notified).
No legitimate items were submitted.
 - (b) Any Other Business (can be brought up informally but no decision can be taken at the meeting)
10. Closing remarks by the Chair

SHEFFIELD u3a

*Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting
held at 11.00am, on 10 July 2024, in the Central United Reformed Church*

Present: 86 members, with Mo Cave in the Chair

Item	
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Kay Barrett; Margaret Bullevant; Ann Granville; Sheila Harris; Anna Harvey; Ann Jordan; Hilary Middleton; Kate Pinder; Jonathan Powell-Wiffen; Joanne Robertson; David Stead; Rachel White.</p>
2.	<p>Welcome and Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending. She also thanked all those involved in setting up and running the AGM, along with Vintage Voices, who provided the musical entertainment before the AGM and the Recorder Group, who would be accompanying lunch.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the AGM was quorate.</p> <p><u>There were no comments on the minutes of the 37th AGM held on 11th July 2023 (previously circulated in the June 2024 <i>Links</i> magazine), which were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record, with 82 votes for, none against and 4 abstentions.</u></p>
3.	<p>Chair's Annual Report for 2023</p> <p>The Annual Report had been published in the June 2023 edition of <i>Links</i>, which had been made available on the Sheffield u3a (Su3a) website and in printed form, for some members.</p> <p>The Chair said Su3a continued to uphold the principles of the Third Age Trust, which were the advancement, education, health and well-being of people no longer in full time employment.</p> <p>The Chair reported that during 2023 the membership level increased to around 3,000 members, towards the end of the year. She said the Trustees accepted that each year would see a loss of members at year-end, so recruitment of new members was a priority, with the aim being a slow but sustained increase, particularly amongst those who had recently retired. The Chair said that in order to achieve this, Su3a had organised several promotional activities during the year, including taking a stall at Sheffield Market and supporting/promoting singing groups performing at the Cathedral and in the town centre.</p> <p>The Chair reported that the IT team had developed and implemented a new website, which was more accessible for both members and the public. Also, Su3a had engaged with social media and in May a private Facebook Group was set up for the membership. In addition, a public facing Facebook page was established, which should help with recruitment.</p> <p>The Chair mentioned two new members meetings, which had been held during the year, and that the General Coordinator had used the information gleaned from new and existing members, to proactively encourage the start-up of new groups.</p>

	<p>The Chair continued that in addition to maintaining all its group and other activities and its relationship with the two Sheffield Universities, Su3a had strengthened its governance model. A Strategic Risk Assessment had been completed during the year, which demonstrated how all identifiable risks to Su3a had been mitigated, with Emergency & Succession Planning being highlighted as the sole remaining area to be addressed. The Chair confirmed that work had started on this area and would be completed during 2024.</p> <p>The Chair said Environmental Guidelines had been adopted and were discussed at the Group Coordinators Annual Meeting. The next step was to consider, during 2024, how the guidelines would be monitored. Also, position statements had been agreed and publicised on Promotion of Other Organisations; Diversity Within Su3a; and Social Prescribing.</p> <p>The Chair concluded by saying that Su3a was a solid, well run organisation, and with the help of its many volunteers, the Executive Committee hoped to continue the steady growth in membership and the establishment of new activity groups, which needed to accompany that growth. As well as continuing to strengthen governance for Su3a.</p>
4.	<p>To receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts and to review Subscriptions for 2025</p> <p>Les Baker, the Treasurer, said he would be covering the 2023 financial results and the expectations for 2024 and beyond. He reminded members that the Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 2023 had both been made available to members through publication in the June 2024 edition of <i>Links</i>. And he confirmed that his report had been agreed by the Executive Committee at its July meeting.</p> <p>The Treasurer thanked a number of volunteers for their excellent support over the year. These included, the Membership Team; the Financial Advisors for supporting all Groups; Camilla Jordan and others for continuing IT support; and for the cooperation of Group members during the year.</p> <p>The Treasurer reminded members that following a change in Accounting policy in 2022, financial results for all Su3a Interest Groups had again been included. The exercise was completed successfully and on time, with much thanks due to all those involved. He clarified that the financial activities and assets of the groups were classified as Restricted Funds, for use by groups for the purposes intended, and the 2022 Finance Policy laid down the relevant rules. On the other hand, the activities of the Trustees and the assets in the Su3a Central bank account were classified as Unrestricted Funds.</p> <p>First, the Treasurer reported on the Unrestricted (Central) Funds. He said 2023 was a year when Su3a returned to normal, as reflected in the final Accounts. Total Income was £36.6k and total Expenses were £30.6k, giving a Surplus of £6.0k, with Reserves of £58.5k. This compared with 2022, when Income was £33.6k, Expenses £31.8k, with a Surplus of £1.8k and Reserves of £52.5.</p> <p>The Treasurer said that the Financial Reserves Policy, stated there should be a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months expenses, in line with the latest Third Age Trust guidelines. He pointed out that the current level represented 19 months' worth of expenses, which was £19k above the 12-month level and he would return to this later in his report.</p>

Then he went into more detail about the **Unrestricted (Central) Income and Expenditure Account**. The Treasurer said the membership in 2023 was on a par with 2022 and income, at £13.21 per member, came primarily from the £10 per person subscription fee, plus gift aid from some but not all members. He stressed that income could be increased further, if members checked whether they were able to sign the Gift Aid declaration. This was usually possible if a member was currently paying Income Tax.

The Treasurer said the main expense item was the £4.28 per member paid to Third Age Trust, for national membership and the magazine Third Age Matters. The number of members paying for this magazine had reduced the number of copies required. Other expenses included running the membership management system and interest groups, at £2.37 per member, along with producing *Links* and the website, at £2.07 per member. Central activities (including lectures) and Committee expenses were £2.34 per member. So total expenses were £11.05 per member (compared to £11.51 in 2022). These figures had been published in the June edition of *Links* magazine

Next, the Treasurer reported on the **Restricted Funds held by Su3a Groups**. Out of the 167 interest groups there were 59 with finances and 13 of these were subject to extra independent checks, having income in excess of £1,500 in 2023. He expressed thanks to all groups for their assistance and cooperation and for the extra work that this exercise had entailed. The Treasurer reported that Interest Group accounts for 2023 comprised the following: Income £78.1k, Expenses £77.1k, along with a Surplus of £1.0k and closing reserves of £40.1k. An additional £10.9k was held in the central Co-op bank account for restricted use, in respect of the Travel Group and Classical Concertgoers. This resulted in a total £51.0k of restricted net assets. The 2022 comparisons were: Income £70.4k, expenses £74.1k, with a loss of £3.7k and reserves of £50.0k.

The Treasurer confirmed the **2023 results for Su3a as a whole** were, Income of £114.7k, Expenses £107.7k, net Income of £7.0k and net funds of £109.5k. He reminded members that all the various Su3a activities were run by members for the benefit of all. Su3a had no paid employees and a considerable debt was owed to all those members who volunteered to carry out various jobs, without whom Su3a would not exist.

The Treasurer summed up the latest picture for 2024, saying membership was budgeted at around 2800, with income budgeted accordingly and expenses to match. However, the actual membership level was currently in excess of 2900. He added that costs were budgeted and had now been incurred, on the new computer membership system for renewals and record keeping. This was expected to reduce running costs from £4k per year to around £2k, at a one-off cost of just over £4k. The Treasurer confirmed he expected Su3a to incur a deficit of around £7k for 2024 and, without the one-off costs for the new computer system, this would be closer to break-even.

The Treasurer confirmed that **a review by the External Examiner** of the 2023 accounts had raised no significant points and no further improvements were suggested. As a result, Su3a was given a clean bill of health.

The Treasurer returned to the level of **Su3a's Financial Reserves**, which needed to be reduced from the current level of 19 months to 12 months. As a result, the Executive Committee had agreed, and was proposing, that the 2025 member subscription renewal should be held at £8. The Treasurer said this would apply for the 2025 calendar year and be reviewed at next year's AGM. He confirmed that as this was unchanged from 2024 a vote would not be required.

There were no questions on the Annual Report, from the Chair, and Accounts, as presented by the Treasurer. The Treasurer confirmed both of these had been approved by

	<p>the Independent Examiner, who had issued a certificate. The following vote took place (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):</p> <p>a) <u>The 2023 Annual Report and Accounts, were proposed, seconded, accepted and approved by members, with 86 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.</u></p>
5.	<p>Approval of Appointment of the Independent Examiner</p> <p>The Treasurer said the Independent Examiner, Mark Randall of AIMS Accountants, was very thorough and professional and he recommended reappointment. Members voted as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):</p> <p>a) <u>The reappointment of Mark Randall of AIMS Accountants, was proposed, seconded and agreed by members, with 86 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.</u></p>
6.	<p>EC Members Stepping Down</p> <p>The Chair reminded members that during 2023, two new members had been elected to the Executive Committee, Jo Beadle and Peter Wilson. She said that unfortunately, Peter had a serious accident whilst on holiday and very sadly died before he was able to take up the position. She added that Anna Harvey was stepping down from the Executive Committee, after service over many years, and she would be greatly missed. The Chair said that no one had volunteered to fill Anna's role as Vice Chair, so if any member was interested, they should contact her.</p>
7.	<p>Election of new member to the Executive Committee</p> <p>The Chair introduced Dave Longson, who was standing to join the Committee. She confirmed the names of a proposer and seconder had been included in the June edition of <i>Links</i>. After a few words to introduce himself, members voted as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For...86 Against....0 Abstentions....0 <u>And he was duly elected.</u></p>
8.	<p>Re-election of Officers and existing members to the Committee</p> <p>a) Re-Election of Chair:</p> <p>The Chair handed over to the Secretary, Brian Barrett, for her re-election, as Chair. The Secretary asked members to vote and the result was as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For....85 Against....0 Abstentions....1 <u>Mo Cave was duly re-elected as Chair</u></p>

b) Re-election of Officers:

The Chair took over from Brian Barrett and confirmed the following Officers were eligible for re-election. She asked members to vote on each in turn and the results were as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):

Treasurer:

Les Baker - For....85 Against....0 Abstentions....1

Secretary:

Brian Barrett - For....85 Against....0 Abstentions....1

Both Officers were duly re-elected to their existing roles.

c) Re-Election of existing Committee members:

The Chair confirmed the following Members were eligible for re-election. She asked members to vote on each in turn and the results were as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):

Jo Beadle – Shared Learning

For....86....Against....0....Abstentions....0

Elaine Burtoft – E-Newsletter

For....86....Against....0....Abstentions....0

Clare Chiba – Membership

For....86....Against....0....Abstentions....0

Shirley Taylor – Publicity

For....86....Against....0....Abstentions....0

Jonathan Powell-Wiffen – Member

For....85....Against....0....Abstentions....1

All were duly re-elected as Members of the Executive Committee.

9. Any Other Business

a) Brought up formally and previously notified:

The Chair confirmed that nothing had been raised.

b) Brought up informally but no decision could be taken at the meeting:

A member asked if there was a complaints manager, as she had made a complaint but received no response. The Chair said that complaints or comments on any issue could be made to the General Coordinator and any member of the Executive Committee. Their email addresses were shown in *Links* magazine. Also, depending on the nature

	<p>of the complaint, it might be considered by the Executive Committee as a whole. The Chair pointed out that a wide range of policies related to the running of Su3a were available for all members on the website.</p>
10.	<p>Closing Remarks by the Chair</p> <p>The Chair said that last year she had flagged up a warning about the lack of people standing for the Executive Committee and how a number of u3as had come near to closing down, with two actually doing so</p> <p>The Chair said that this year she was determined to be more upbeat. She highlighted that Su3a, with a current membership approaching 3,000, was returning to the membership level prior to the pandemic. So far, there were not as many groups but thanks to the efforts of the General Co-ordinator and her team, Su3a was getting there. The Chair added that of those nearly 3,000 members, 10% were what she called “active” members. Those who ran groups and did all the administrative work involved in keeping a charity like Su3a on the straight and narrow.</p> <p>The Chair said that usually it was unwise to single any one team or person but this year she felt it was important to do so. She explained that when you have used IT and computer systems in your working life, you know just how big a nightmare it is when those systems need to be replaced. She reported that over the past year Su3a had undertaken two major IT projects. Firstly, the development of a new website, which even she could find her way around and, secondly, the launch of a new membership system. Both of these had been installed with apparently little trouble, certainly not to her, but the hours of work that must have gone into these projects by people who were unpaid and doing it for the benefit of all members, was incredible. So, the Chair said she was singling them out and, on behalf of all members, she thanked Camilla Jordan, IT supremo and her team, Clare Chiba and the membership team and last, but not least, Elaine Burtoft, Su3a’s Website manager.</p> <p>The Chair thanked them all for their dedication and hard work over the past year.</p> <p>Also, the Chair reminded members about the Remembrance Book, which was on display just outside the AGM meeting room. She explained the idea was that a donation could be made in remembrance of a Su3a member. The donation would be used to buy plants and shrubs for the Memorial Garden at Whirlow Brook Park and the members name would be entered into the Remembrance Book.</p> <p>The Chair said it only remained for her to close the 38th Annual General Meeting of Sheffield u3a. She gave her personal thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee, who had supported her during her first year as Chair, but particularly to Shirley Taylor, Su3a’s Publicity Officer, who had set up the Facebook Page and set her on her course as a prolific Facebook poster!</p> <p>The Chair again thanked everyone for attending, offered her best wishes for the forthcoming year and invited everyone to the buffet lunch.</p>
	<p>AGM closed at 11.55 am.</p>

Chair's Annual Report for the 2025 AGM

This report covers the year 2024. Sheffield u3a (Su3a) continues to uphold the principles of the Third Age Trust i.e. the advancement, continuing education and well-being of people no longer in full time employment.

During 2024 our membership level showed a steady increase, finally hitting 3,000 by the end of September. The trustees accept that each year will see a loss of members at year end so recruitment of new members will always be a priority. The aim is for a slow but sustained and sustainable increase in membership particularly amongst those who have recently retired. In 2024 we sought to achieve this in different ways. During the year we received a request from Sheffield Libraries for a supply of our promotional literature which they could distribute to all Sheffield libraries. However since the inception of our public facing Facebook Page it has become clear that we can currently maintain our membership without staging one-off publicity events which are costly in terms of time and effort. Instead we will continue to take advantage of ad hoc events to publicise Su3a, such as when our music groups perform.

During the year our IT team developed and implemented a new membership system which is far more user friendly for the volunteers who deal with membership records and hopefully for the general membership. As with the implementation of any IT system there have been some teething troubles but most of these have now been ironed out by dint of hard work on the part of our IT team.

We held two meetings for new members during the year and our General Coordinator used the information gleaned from both new and existing members to proactively encourage the start-up of new groups. We also held a meeting for all our Group Coordinators which was well attended and gave the trustees the opportunity to alert coordinators to policy changes within the organisation and to consult them on future plans.

In addition to maintaining all our group and other activities and our relationship with the two Sheffield Universities, we have continued to develop and update policies to ensure consistent decision making and good governance.

Governance continues to be an area of focus for the trustees and the work on it, which we anticipated would be finished in 2024, was delayed due to the implementation of the new Membership system and the need to retrain the various team members. This will be continued during 2025.

Su3a now has a trustee, David Longson, responsible for environmental issues and groups will be encouraged to adopt the guidance insofar as they are able.

In summary Sheffield u3a continues to be a solid, well-run organisation with well-considered aims and policies.

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The formatting of the AGM papers created a gap here which we are filling with this photo taken on the European Travel Group trip to Sicily in April.



Papers for Review and Approval of the Accounts

Accounts

SHEFFIELD U3A

Registered charity 703147

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

	2024		2023	
	£	Per member	£	Per member
Unrestricted				
INCOME				
Subscriptions	23356	8.36	28297	10.22
Gift aid	4144	1.48	5111	1.85
Third Age Matters magazine	434	0.16	549	0.20
Printed Links magazine	964	0.34	566	0.20
Interest	1512	0.54	1098	0.40
Donations & sundry	780	0.28	951	0.34
Total	31190	11.16	36571	13.21
EXPENDITURE				
External				
National Affiliation fee	11149	3.99	11064	4.00
Third Age Matters magazine	448	0.16	740	0.27
Regional meetings	185	0.07	38	0.01
	11783	4.22	11841	4.28
Membership				
New members meetings	252	0.09	163	0.06
Membership renewal system	4341	1.55	4684	1.69
Zoom costs	187	0.07	185	0.07
	4780	1.71	5032	1.82
Communication				
Links magazine	4601	1.65	4394	1.59
Publicity	757	0.27	1014	0.37
Website	1981	0.71	323	0.12
	7339	2.63	5732	2.07
Groups				
Coordinators meetings	868	0.31	1348	0.49
Start up support	1204	0.43	102	0.04
Licences	67	0.02	64	0.02
Insurance & sundry	-	-	-	-
	2139	0.77	1515	0.55
Committee & administration				
Administration expenses	-	-	20	0.01
Bank charges	37	0.01	24	0.01

	2024		2023	
	£	Per member	£	Per member
Committee meetings	331	0.12	272	0.10
AGM & IE Fee	1139	0.41	1058	0.38
Software - accounting	209	0.07	194	0.07
Sundries	45	0.02	-	-
	1761	0.63	1568	0.57
Central activities				
Drop ins	828	0.30	703	0.25
Lectures	2730	0.98	2695	0.97
Room 50 costs	-	-	-	-
Storage - archives, equipment	1195	0.43	1118	0.40
Volunteers	274	0.10	-	-
Projects - IT	4320	1.55	122	0.04
Shared Learning	250	0.09	250	0.09
Depreciation	0	-	0	-
	9598	3.43	4887	1.77
Total	37400	13.38	30575	11.05
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - unrestricted</u>	-6210	2.22	5997	2.17
<u>Restricted</u>				
Restricted income				
Central	0		0	
Groups	92753		78079	
	92753		78079	
Restricted expenses				
Central	91		0	
Groups	88916		77098	
	89007		77098	
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - restricted</u>	3746		981	
<u>TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</u>	-2464		6977	

SHEFFIELD U3A
Registered Charity 703147
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Fixed assets</u>		
Cost	7,079	7,079
Accumulated depreciation	7,079	7,079
Net book value	-	-
<u>Current assets</u>		
Debtors & prepayments	6,279	11,132
Cash on deposit	60,927	60,422
Cash in hand & at bank	4,299	8,362
	71,506	79,916
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Creditors and accruals	19,259	21,459
<u>Net current assets</u>	52,247	58,457
<u>Total net assets - unrestricted</u>	52,247	58,457
<u>Restricted assets - bank & cash</u>		
In central U3A bank account	10,931	10,931
In Group bank and cash	43,835	40,090
<u>Total net assets - restricted</u>	54,766	51,020
<u>TOTAL - Net Assets</u>	107,013	109,478
<u>Represented by</u>		
Accumulated funds at 1 January - unrestricted	58457	52461
Surplus for the year - unrestricted	-6210	5997
Restricted funds in Group accounts	51020	50040
Restricted Funds surplus for the year	3746	981
	107,013	109,478

Accounting policies

- 1 The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and on an accruals basis.
- 2 Fixed assets are written off in equal instalments over their expected useful life.
- 3 Funds held by individual interest groups are included in the consolidated financial results of the charity as restricted funds

M Cave
Chair

JTL Baker
Treasurer

To be continued after the centre pages



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

1206993

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of Sheffield University of the Third Age

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 **Charity no (if any)** 703147

Set out on pages 1 to 45

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31st December 2024**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you 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 the Trust'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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

14 April 2025

Name:

AIMS Accountants for Business

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Accountants

Address:

Studio 21, SUM Studios, 1 Hartley Street, Sheffield, England S2 3AQ

Vice Chair Anita Brough Proposer: M Holmes Seconder: S Woolliscroft

My name is Anita Brough and I would like to stand for Vice Chair. I would like to say I retired a few years ago but that only lasted 18 months! I decided to retrain in something I had always loved – fitness & nutrition. Having made such a dramatic change for the better with my own health, I wanted to share this. I now specialise in delivering Breathwork workshops and giving presentations and talks on holistic well-being. Prior to retirement, my main career was in sales & marketing and senior management including (first ever) Chairwoman with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Transport Sector. With my passion for learning, I feel I can bring this enthusiasm to the role of Vice Chair on top of my managerial skills and experience. I would also like to be an advocate for u3a. I'd like to introduce us to people who are looking at retiring. I think when the honeymoon period of retirement has worn off, some can feel a little lost. I know I did. Personally, I've found being involved with u3a a massive support and it has helped me get used to retiring. Through u3a I've been able to find what I love and enjoy doing. I would like to share the huge benefits and choices that being a member of u3a can give you. Plus, and this is a very big plus, that feeling and sense of belonging.

Secretary Maria Buller Proposer: B Cave Seconder: P Reed

I have been a member of Sheffield u3a since my retirement in 2024. I am a member of Personal Finance, Family History and Photography groups. Following a request for support at the recent New Members meeting I submitted an application for the role of Secretary to Sheffield u3a. As an ex-civil servant I believe I have the organisational skills and aptitude to efficiently carry out this role.

Member Sarah Williamson Proposer: M Maslin Seconder: P Rosser

I have been a member of Su3a for several years and was previously on the committee as Website Editor. I am currently Treasurer for the Sheffield Stitchers & the National Trust Sheffield Association, and I enjoy this kind of systematic and analytical work although I

have no formal accountancy training. In my first year with NTSA I converted the very old bank account to one with internet access and am very comfortable with internet banking, spreadsheets, word processing and emails. When I was a student nurse a long time ago, I was told I was very sensible for a graduate! I volunteer as a librarian at Broomhill Community Library where public interface is central to our activities. There are no paid staff there – we deliver the whole service. I think Su3a is an important organisation and one I often recommend to newcomers to Sheffield, people starting retirement or coming to terms with the loss of a partner. I understand the structure of Su3a and its groups and used to be a regular attendee at the Drop-In sessions, meeting and talking to new and prospective members.

I look forward to joining the committee and supporting the work of the Treasurer.

Member George Hampson Proposer: M Manby Seconder: K Ochyra

I joined Su3a when I moved to Sheffield in 2023. I am the Coordinator of a French Conversation group and a member of several other groups looking at such things as history, philosophy, current affairs and the English language. Before I retired, I spent many years working for the Inland Revenue and its successor HMRC. My final years with HMRC were spent in tax policy, including work on the Budget and the Finance Bill. Su3a is a large and successful organisation, and I believe that I can help it to continue to thrive. Although we have more members than most other u3as, I would work to make us a more diverse organisation that draws members from as many communities as possible. My professional life gave me experience of working with committees and groups with particular interests – identifying their disparate needs and how best to deliver them. This should stand me in good stead on the Executive Committee which oversees such a wide range of activities as we have in Su3a. Working for HMRC also gave me experience of managing with budgets and resources that were always under pressure, which means I could help to make the most of members subscriptions.

Existing serving members of the committee standing for re-election

Maureen Cave	Chair
Les Baker	Treasurer
Brian Barrett	Member
Clare Chiba	Membership Secretary
Shirley Taylor	Publicity Officer
Jonathan Powell Wiffen	Member
Jo Beadle	Member
David Longson	Member

News

Environmental Policy

We have recently updated our policy, and hope that you will take a look at it on our website

<https://su3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Environment-Policy-and-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>

We all know that actions are more important than good intentions, so please would you consider how your group might help carry out some of our aims? In particular, we can look at:

- choice of venues to allow use of public transport, walking or cycling
- car sharing where necessary (and if insurance allows)
- support local venues, shops and products where these are environmentally friendly
- share good practice, by sending examples to me or adding them to our Facebook page
- including environmental topics in our meetings where we can.

We try to include such topics in our Friday Showroom Lectures, and we look forward to hearing the following in September:

website: <https://su3a.org.uk/>

Nature's Recovery - The work of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, by Alison Gardner

Let's all do what we can to make the world a better place now and for future generations!

Dave Longson davidlongson@su3a.org.uk

Forthcoming lectures

June 13: *Alternative Modes of Living for an Ageing Population in the Rise of Intergenerational Living* – Emily Haycock

The Prizewinner – Former Architecture student Emily Haycock, winner of the Su3a Undergraduate Dissertation Prize will tell us about her findings.

July 18: *Teatime at Peggy's* – Clare Jenkins

A Glimpse of Anglo-India and India's most endangered community.

September 19: *Nature's Recovery* – Alison Gardner

The work of the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

Open Groups Activities

Activities of Open Groups, such as the European Travel Group, UK Travel Group and Lunch and Lecture, are open to all members of Sheffield u3a.

European Travel Group

Thirty-five members travelled to and enjoyed Sicily in April. One of their photos, showing the Valley of the Temples, is on the front cover and another, showing a spectacular bronze statue appeared amidst the AGM papers. Here are some more, showing Monreale Cathedral, the group enjoying some food and one of two Norman castles in Erice, 1000m above sea level, as low cloud rushes in. There will be another later.

The European Travel Group's next trip, for which booking closed in February, is *Little Boats of the Mediterranean* in September.



Great Yorkshire Show - Thursday 10th July 2025

Come with us and visit the Great Yorkshire Show, which has so many things to see and experience. If you click on the interactive map at the website (<https://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk>) you can see the range of activities from watching the showjumping (the Cock of the North competition is taking place that Thursday) to a working forge and lots more. There are many tents full of treasures to look at/sample and buy with produce, cakes and local crafts. We can see and listen to TV host Matt Baker and also Yorkshire Vet Peter Wright. There will be culinary demonstrations. The participating chefs have not yet been confirmed. Farming skills can be seen including sheep shearing, Land Rover driving (a participation sport for some) etc. and lots of farm animals to see. If you would like to buy a souvenir programme this can be done on line or at the show. There will be a seated grandstand at the show at an additional cost of £8 for the day allowing you to come and go as you wish from the stand. To ensure a seat we have to book in advance. Tickets may not be available for sale on the day.



Please indicate below if you would like to order a ticket for access to grandstand seating. There is also standing room around the ring to see the events. I can't wait to see the Atkinson Action Horses who are appearing each day. We will be parking in the coach parking area at the show. A certain amount of mobility will be necessary to move around the showground. If you need to bring a mobility aid, please let me know so that I can inform the coach company to accommodate space in the luggage compartment. If the weather is against us Harrogate is close by. A trip to Betty's and tea and cake (especially Fat Rascals) is always a treat.

Julia Daine juliadaine@aol.com

Great Yorkshire Show - Thursday 10th July 2025

Please complete the Booking Form in Block Capitals.

NAME 1 Su3a No

NAME 2 Su3a No

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

TELEPHONE MOBILE

Email address

In case of an Emergency Contact details:

Name: Tel No:

I/We wish to book Grandstand seats at £8.00 per person.
Enclosed is my cheque for (£53.50 without
Grandstand seat/£61.50 with Grandstand seat) per person made payable
to Sheffield u3a UK Travel Group. The cost includes travel, entrance and a
gratuity for the coach driver.

Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Rd South at 8.15am ()

Sheffield Interchange, Platform E4/5 at 8.30am ()

Please return this completed form together with your cheque to Julia
Daine, 27 Gaunt Close, Killamarsh, Sheffield, S21 1SW.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15th June 2025



May in the Commemorative Garden



News from Groups

Where Groups are encouraging potential new members to make contact, details of coordinators may be found either in the Centre Pages of the hard copy of *Links* or online at

<https://su3a.org.uk/grouppages/interest-and-activity-groups/groups-a-z/>.

Vintage Voices

In the last few months our choir, Vintage Voices, has been rehearsing for performances arranged in June and July at St William of York Luncheon Club, Henleigh Hall Care Home and Bents Green Rosemary Memory Café. Our repertoire currently includes *This is my Song*, *You'll Never Walk Alone*, *A Handful of Songs*, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, *Linden Lea*, *Over the Rainbow* and *The Rhythm of Life*. We will then meet for lunch towards the end of July ready for a break from rehearsals during August and will then start rehearsing again in September ready for more performances towards the end of the year.



WI Carol Service, December 2024

We have recently joined Classical Sheffield so hopefully may get more involved with their local events too. Would you like to join us? We are a very friendly group of people who like to sing and also occasionally meet socially for a meal and to visit the Sheffield theatres (we went to see *Murder on the Orient Express* in February this year). There are no auditions, but some experience of choral singing is desirable, as is the ability to read music at some level. Please see our group details on the Su3a website if you are interested in joining us. We meet on Monday mornings from 10:15 until 12:15 at The Walker Hall above the Scouts and Guide shop on Trippet Lane and are looking for new members to join us. We are a mixed-voice choir who sing in 4-part harmony and are particularly looking for Altos, Bass and Tenors. If you would like to join us or book the choir for an event or a performance please contact Jackie Hall via jackie-hall3@sky.com (07770 332155).

Jackie Hall



Did you ever watch Mr T and his associates and wish that you too could join the A Team? Well, now you can. Admittedly our helicopter has sadly

been permanently grounded but, for the walkers of Sheffield u3a Group A, adventure and daring exploits are still on the agenda - not to mention a good deal of laughter and friendship. With walks of around 5-6 miles, mostly in the glorious Peak District, we are living proof that exercise, fresh air and beer can help to stave off the years.





With ages ranging from late fifties to early eighties we head out every week throughout the year, alternating between Tuesdays and Wednesdays, undaunted by anything but the grottiest of conditions. New members always welcome (initiation rites are mostly harmless). Contact Sarah McCauley for further details.



Sarah McCauley



Knitting II

We are a small friendly Su3a knitting group who would like to recruit a few more members.

We meet on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month at 10.30am in a café not far from the city centre: the meetings last till about 12.00.

Your level of knitting experience doesn't matter - all we ask is a love of all things knitty, and we offer the chance to sit, knit and share with fellow hand-knitters.

We look forward to welcoming you into our group.

If you're interested, please contact our group co-ordinator Jane Harling at janeharling1@gmail.com.

Jane Harling

Back to the European Travel Group in Sicily for another gap filler.



The calm serenity of Segesta

Su3a Executive Committee

Chair	Maureen Cave	07831 353243 chair@su3a.org.uk
Secretary	Brian Barrett	07950 943738 secretary@su3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Les Baker	07847 383636 treasurer@su3a.org.uk
Publicity	Shirley Taylor	07949 537807 shirley@shirleytaylor.com
Member	Jo Beadle	07889 595313 jojbeadle@yahoo.co.uk
Member	Clare Chiba	clare@su3a.org.uk
Member	Jonathan Powell-Wiffen	07502 165184
Member	David Longson	07715 360987 homepages@su3a.org.uk
Web Coordinator	Elaine Burtoft	07803 130021 web@su3a.org.uk
Minutes Secretary	Michael Clift	
Membership Team	Clare Chiba Ranmora, Ranmoor Lane, Hathersage S32 1BW	members@su3a.org.uk
General Coordinator for Groups	Fran Rodway	07774 142409 groupsa@su3a.org.uk
Drop-In Organiser	Barbara Doyle	07941 188340 or 0114 698 9887 barbara.31@btinternet.com
<i>Links</i> Editors	Camilla Jordan David Jordan	0114 2685355 links@su3a.org.uk
Home Pages Manager	David Longson	homepages@su3a.org.uk
Asset Grant Manager	Brian Cave	bpcave@hotmail.com

As always, this is subject to change. See Page 21 for Friday lecture titles.

June 3	Drop-In	10am-12 midday, CURC*
June 11	Visit to Richard III Museum	
June 13	Lecture, Emily Haycock	11am, Showroom
June 21	Port Sunlight and Liverpool Bay Cruise	
July 1	Drop-In	10am-12 midday, CURC*
July 8	AGM	11am-12 midday, CURC*
July 10	Great Yorkshire Show	
July 14	3 Churches Trip	
July 18	Lecture, Clare Jenkins	11am, Showroom
August 16	Open Air Theatre & Stamford	
August 18–21	YAHR**	Summer School
September 19	Lecture, Alison Gardner	11am, Showroom
September 27 – October 5	Little Boats of the Mediterranean	

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Copy Deadline: Friday 29 August, 2025

Regd. Charity No 703147

* CURC: Central United Reformed Church

** YAHR: Yorkshire and Humberside Region