

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
Sheffield

40th Anniversary

Links 222: June 2026



Ukulele 1

Contact us

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

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

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***Links* no. 223 October 2026,**

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All news and correspondence to the editors: email links@su3a.org.uk
Please provide text and photographs separately. If you are providing photos please confirm you have the permission of any Su3a members appearing and that the photos 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/sheffieldu3a/> and hit Join. You will be asked to answer two questions and will need your Su3a membership number.

This will be my last “*From the Chair*” as my three-year term will end at the AGM in July. It was nearly four years ago when the previous chair suddenly decided to relocate to the south leaving me as vice chair to become acting chair. The idea was that I'd just keep things going until the next AGM when someone else could take over. Surprisingly, I found that I'd quite enjoyed it so I decided to stand as chair. If I'd realised the 40th Anniversary was going to fall in my term of office I might have reconsidered!

There's never a dull moment when you get involved with u3a. I've met so many great people and made so many new friends. Hopefully in a month's time we will have a new chair and new executive committee members who will enjoy it as much as those who are standing down this year. Speaking of the 40th anniversary, our first event of the year was the Pea and Pie Supper and Quiz in March. Great food, good company and a challenging quiz. It went so well that we are looking at arranging another one for early December so keep your eye on the e-newsletter.

By the time *Links* is out, our Anniversary Day at Whirlow Brook Park will be a few days away. There will be activities and music from 10.30am onwards, art sessions on the lawn, drama and literature sessions in the hall and guided walks in the park. The full programme is on our website

The AGM is on Tuesday, July 14 and full information about it is shown on the following pages. If you haven't been to the AGM before, please give it a try. We attempt to get the business side dealt with in double quick time so that we can socialise over a buffet lunch of sandwiches and nibbles. You don't need to book to attend the AGM but you will need to book via the website if you want to stay for the lunch.

It only remains to thank all those on the executive committee, both past and present, who've made the job so much easier for me, the volunteers, who work so hard to keep our great u3a going, and you, the members, for making it so enjoyable. It's been an honour to be your chair.

Mo Cave

Sheffield u3a

Notice of the 40th Annual General Meeting of Sheffield u3a
11am, Tuesday, July 14 2026,
Central United Reformed Church, Chapel Walk
Coffee will be served from 10.30am.

Only current 2026 members may attend and vote. The agenda and the 2025 minutes are published in this edition of *Links*, pages 15-22.

Maria Buller - Secretary

Members wishing to raise business under clause 14(ii) of the constitution should have notified the secretary, in writing, by April 20, 2026, 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 Su3a, 15 Barkers Road, Sheffield S7 1SD no later than Sunday, July 5.

The venue is accessible to wheelchair users and seats on the front row will be reserved for those with hearing difficulties but if you have any other specific requirements which you would need please let the secretary know at the above address as quickly as possible.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 39th 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 39th Annual General Meeting
held at 11.00am, on Tuesday 8th July 2025, in the Central United Reformed Church*

Present: 87 members, with Mo Cave in the Chair

Item	
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Kay Barrett; Elaine Burtoft; John Dixon; Stephanie Dixon; Jonathan Powell-Wiffen; Tina Powell-Wiffen; Peter Reed; Christine Shepherd; Shirley Taylor; John Woolston.</p>
2.	<p>Welcome and Minutes of the 38th 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 meeting.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the AGM was quorate.</p> <p>The Chair explained a procedural matter related to voting. She said that members would be asked for a show of hands in voting for a motion, then those voting against and abstaining would be asked, separately, for a show of hands. The latter two groups combined would be deducted from the total present, to give the votes for. The Chair, also, asked that the proposer and seconder for the minutes of the previous AGM were actually present at the meeting.</p> <p><u>There were no comments on the minutes of the 38thAGM held on 10th July 2024 (previously circulated in the June 2025 <i>Links</i> magazine), which were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record, with 74 votes for, none against and 13 abstentions.</u></p>
3.	<p>Chair's Annual Report for 2024</p> <p>The Annual Report had been published in the June 2025 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 that Su3a continued to uphold the principles of the Third Age Trust, through the advancement, continuing education and well-being of people no longer in full time employment.</p> <p>The Chair reported that during 2024 the membership level showed a steady increase, finally hitting 3,000 by the end of September. She explained the Trustees accepted that each year would see a loss of members at year end, so recruitment of new members would always be a priority. The aim was for a slow but sustained and sustainable increase in membership, particularly amongst those who had recently retired. The Chair said that during the year Su3a received a request from Sheffield Libraries for a supply of its promotional literature, for distribution to all Sheffield libraries. Also, since the inception of Su3a's public facing Facebook Page, it had become clear that currently membership could be maintained without staging one-off publicity events, which were costly in terms of time and effort. The Chair confirmed that instead Su3a would continue to take advantage of ad hoc events, such as</p>

	<p>when music groups performed, for publicity purposes.</p> <p>The Chair said that during the year the IT team had developed and implemented a new membership system, which was far more user friendly for the volunteers who dealt with membership records and hopefully for the general membership. She emphasised that as with the implementation of any IT system there had been some teething troubles but most of these had now been resolved, through the hard work of the IT team.</p> <p>The Chair reported there had been two meetings, during the year, for new members, and the General Coordinator used the information gleaned from both new and existing members to proactively encourage the start-up of new groups. In addition, there had been a meeting for all Group Coordinators, which was well attended and gave the Trustees the opportunity to alert members to changes within the organisation and to consult them on future plans.</p> <p>The Chair said that as well as maintaining all its group and other activities, and its relationship with the two Sheffield Universities, policies had continued to be developed and updated to ensure consistent decision making and good governance.</p> <p>The Chair emphasised that governance continued to be a key area of focus for the Trustees and it had been anticipated relevant work would be finished in 2024. However, there had been a delay due to the implementation of the new Membership system and the need to retrain the various team members. So the work would continue during 2025.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that Su3a now had a Trustee, Dave Longson, responsible for environmental issues and groups would be encouraged to adopt the guidance, as far as they were able.</p> <p>The Chair concluded by saying that in summary Su3a continued to be a solid, well run organisation with well-considered aims and policies.</p>
4.	<p>Treasurer’s Report - Review and Approval of the Accounts for 2024 calendar year.</p> <p>Les Baker, the Su3a Treasurer, said his report would cover the 2024 financial results and the expectations for 2025 and beyond. He reminded members that the Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 2024 had both been published in the June 2025 edition of <i>Links</i>, so all the figures were available to members. The Treasurer confirmed that his report had been approved by the Executive Committee at its recent July meeting.</p> <p>The Treasurer thanked the volunteers who had made his last year in the job much easier. These included the Membership Team, the Financial Advisors for supporting all Groups, Camilla Jordan for continuing IT support, and for all the assistance and cooperation of members of the Interest Groups and the Committee.</p> <p>The Treasurer reminded members that following a change in Accounting Policy in 2022, financial results for all Interest Groups were now included in Su3a accounts. He confirmed the exercise of collecting the results from all the groups was completed successfully and on time. And the Treasurer thanked all those involved. He clarified that the financial activities and assets of the Interest Groups were classified as Restricted Funds, for use by groups for the purposes intended, as laid out in the 2022 Finance Policy. The Treasurer said that, on the other hand, the financial transactions of the Trustees and the assets in the Su3acentral bank accounts were classified as Unrestricted Funds.</p> <p>The Treasurer said he would report first on the Unrestricted (Central) Funds. He confirmed that for 2024 the total income was £31.2k and total expenses £37.4k, giving a deficit of £6.2k,</p>

with reserves of £52.2k. This compared with 2023, when income was £36.6k and expenses £30.6k, giving a surplus of £6.0k, with reserves of £58.5k. This meant income was down £5.4k and expenses up £6.8k, which he would say more about shortly.

The Treasurer referred to the Financial Reserves Policy, which was to hold a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months expenses, in line with the latest Third Age Trust guidelines. However, the current level represented around 18 months' worth of unrestricted reserves, which was £18k above the 12month level, about which he would say more.

Next, the Treasurer went into more detail about the **Unrestricted (Central) Income and Expenditure Account**. He said the membership in 2024 was slightly up on 2023, with income of £11.16 per member. This came primarily from the £8 per person subscription fee, reduced from £10, plus gift aid from some but not all members. The Treasurer emphasised that income could be increased if members checked whether they were able to sign the Gift Aid declaration. This could usually be done if a member was currently paying income tax.

The Treasurer turned to expenses, of which the main item was the £4.22 per member paid to Third Age Trust, for national membership, and the Third Age Matters magazine, paid for by a few members. Other expenses included running the membership management system and interest groups, at £2.48 per member, along with producing *Links* and maintaining the website, at £2.36 per member. The IT project to replace the Wild Apricot membership system with the CiviCRM system, cost £1.55 per member and was a one-off 2024 cost. Central activities, including lectures, and Committee expenses were £2.77 per member. This resulted in total expenses of £13.38 per member (£11.05 in 2023), with more detail available in June's edition of *Links* magazine.

Secondly, the Treasurer reported on the **Restricted Funds held by Su3a Interest Groups**. He said that out of 177 groups at the year-end, there were 63 with finances and 114 without. Of these, 17 were subject to extra independent checks, because they had income in excess of £1,500 in the year. The Treasurer said he was very grateful to all groups for their assistance and cooperation and for the extra work this entailed.

The Treasurer provided more detail about Group accounts for 2024. He said they comprised the following: income of £92.8k, expenses of £89.0k, a surplus of £3.8k, and closing reserves of £43.8k. He said the 2023 comparisons were, income £78.1k, expenses £77.1k, surplus £1.0k, with reserves of £51.0k. This resulted in increased income of £14.7k, with the surplus up £2.8k.

The Treasurer commented that there had been a higher level of activity in 2024, at around 15% above that for 2023, which clearly showed a greater participation in groups by members. He said this was good, as it meant people were getting more out of their membership.

The Treasurer reported that an additional £10.9k was held in the central Coop bank account for restricted use, in respect of the Travel Group and Classical Concertgoers. This meant that in total there were £54.8k of restricted net assets.

The Treasurer summarised **the 2024 results for Su3a as a whole**. These were income of £124.0k and expenses of £126.4k, with a net deficit of £2.4k and net funds of £107.0k. He reminded members that all the various Su3a activities were run by members for the benefit of all members and Su3a had no paid employees. So a considerable debt was owed to all those members who volunteered and carried out various jobs, without whom Su3a would not exist.

The Treasurer set out **the latest picture for 2025 and beyond**. He said membership was budgeted at around 2850, with actuals currently above this level, at 3000. Income had been budgeted accordingly, with expenses to match. He confirmed that Su3a was benefiting from

	<p>a reduction in running costs of around £2k per annum, due the new membership system. The Treasurer added that he expected a deficit of around £1k for 2025, not forgetting the lowered subscription fee. This deficit is £2k lower than expected in the budget, due mostly to the higher membership levels. He highlighted that in 2026 Su3a would be celebrating its 40th Anniversary and various events were being planned. And some of the surplus reserves would help with the cost.</p> <p>The Treasurer confirmed that following a review of the 2024 accounts, with the External Examiner, no significant points had been raised and no further improvements suggested. Su3a was again given a clean bill of health. <i>In response to a question</i>, the Treasurer confirmed that the Independent Examiner did approve the 2024 accounts, based on a very detailed examination.</p> <p>The Treasurer returned to Su3a's Financial Reserves. He said that in view of the current level and the need to reduce them from around 18 months towards the 12 months level, the Executive Committee had agreed that member subscription should be held at £8 for 2026. Also, the charges for printed Links and The Third Age Matters magazines would be reviewed by the Executive Committee for implementation in late September. The £8 subscription level would apply for the 2026 calendar year and be reviewed for next year's AGM. The Treasurer confirmed that as the membership fee was unchanged a vote was not required.</p> <p>The Treasurer said that concluded his report and, as there were no questions, members were asked to vote on the 2024 Trustees Annual Report (from the Chair) and the 2024 Accounts (from the Treasurer). He confirmed that both of these had been approved by the Independent Examiner, who had issued his certificate of approval, and a copy had been published in the June edition of <i>Links</i> magazine. He added that the reports would be filed with the Charity Commission as legally required.</p> <p>The result of the vote was as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):</p> <p>a) <u>The 2024 Annual Report and Accounts, were proposed, seconded, accepted and approved by members, with 87 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 1 abstention.</u></p> <p>The Chair and members thanked the Treasurer for his report.</p>
6.	<p>EC Members Stepping Down</p> <p>The Chair said that Elaine Burtoft was stepping down, after several years' service on the Executive Committee. She offered a vote of thanks for all her work and confirmed Elaine would be continuing in her role as website co-ordinator and editor of the monthly E-Newsletter.</p>
7.	<p>Election of new members to the Executive Committee</p>

The Chair invited the four candidates, who were standing to join the Committee, to introduce themselves. She confirmed the names of a proposer and seconder had been included in the June edition of *Links*. Following a few words of introduction by each candidate, members voted as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):

Anita Brough, standing as Vice Chair

For....86 Against....0 Abstentions....1. And she was duly elected

Maria Buller, standing as Secretary

For....85 Against....0 Abstentions....2 And she was duly elected

George Hampson, standing as a Member

For....81 Against....0 Abstentions....6 And he was duly elected

Sarah Williamson, standing as a Member

For....87 Against....0 Abstentions....0 And she was duly elected

8. Re-election of Officers and existing members to the Committee

a) Re-Election of Chair:

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):

For....86 Against....0. Abstentions....1

Mo Cave was duly re-elected as Chair

b) Re-election of Officers:

The Chair took over from Brian Barrett and confirmed the following Officer was eligible for re-election. She asked members to vote and the result was as follows (no votes had been received prior to the AGM):

Treasurer

Les Baker - For....86 Against....0 Abstentions....1

Les Baker was duly re-elected as Treasurer

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):

Brian Barrett – Member

For....86 Against....0 Abstentions....1

	<p>Jo Beadle – Member For....86 Against....0 Abstentions....1</p> <p>Clare Chiba – Member For....86 Against....0 Abstentions....1</p> <p>Dave Longson – Member For....86. Against....0. Abstentions....1</p> <p>Shirley Taylor – Member For....85. Against....0 Abstentions....2</p> <p>Jonathan Powell-Wiffen – Member For....82. Against....0. Abstentions....5</p> <p><u>All were duly re-elected as Members of the Executive Committee.</u></p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) <u>Brought up formally and previously notified:</u></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that nothing had been raised.</p> <p>b) <u>Brought up informally but no decision could be taken at the meeting:</u></p> <p><u>Group Co-ordinators meetings</u> – A member asked if there could be more meetings during the year, to increase the opportunities for members to ask questions about the groups on offer. The Chair said the member Drop In sessions were already an additional way to learn more about groups. Also, the logistics involved in setting up Group Co-ordinator meetings were significant and more meetings were not really practical for the volunteers involved. The Chair added that the best way to find out more about a particular group was to contact the relevant Group Co-ordinator direct.</p> <p><u>Improving sound systems at events</u> – A member said events, such as the Friday Lectures, could be frustrating for those with hearing difficulties and asked if the sound system could be improved, particularly for the AGM venue. The Chair said the Showroom now used a closed caption system, which was proving very effective for Friday lectures. Also, she understood that the Central United Reform Church (CURC) was looking to introduce an improved sound system. The Treasurer said Su3a did have a sound system but it had not been used for some time. He confirmed the Executive Committee would take on board this point and explore possible improvements.</p>
10.	<p>Closing Remarks by the Chair</p> <p>The Chair said that overall 2024 had been a good year for Su3a, with new groups starting up</p>

	<p>and the membership increasing. Also, 2025 was going well and there was now a full Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted Su3a's 40th Anniversary celebrations, previously mentioned by the Treasurer, which would take place during 2026. She said various events were planned over the year, with the focal point being a day of activities, including a buffet lunch, at Whirlow Brook Park on 9th June 2026. The Chair asked members to contact the Executive Committee if they had ideas for events, as these would be very welcome.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all those involved in making Su3a such a success; their dedication and hard work over the past year was very much appreciated. The Chair also mentioned that the caretaker at the CURC was leaving and he had served Su3a very well over the years. She said he would be missed and thanked him for all the support he had provided.</p> <p>The Chair said it only remained for her to close the 38th Annual General Meeting of Su3a. 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 12.10pm.</p>

Chair's Annual Report for the 2026 AGM

This report covers the year 2025.

Sheffield u3a continues to uphold the principles of the u3a movement, i.e. the advancement of education and the health and well-being of people no longer in full-time employment.

In 2025 our membership prior to renewal date (October 1) reached 3,100. This represents an increase of slightly over 3% on the previous year which the trustees feel is a steady and sustainable increase in line with our aims.

Social media has helped in bringing our organisation to a wider local audience. This year we also took the decision to fund and use group initiatives as a promotional tool for Su3a as a whole. This was largely as a result of a very successful public exhibition of their work organised by Art Group 1. It resulted in new members both for the group and for Sheffield u3a. It was also an enjoyable social occasion for our own members who attended. This was followed in the summer by a further "group driven" event, a plant sale at Whirlowbrook Park organised by the Whirlow Brook Park Gardening Group. Our music groups who often perform locally, have also promoted Su3a using our banners and leaflets.

In 2025 we also involved ourselves in the Silver Sunday initiative organised by Age UK and also in a local music festival arranged by one of our members.

Our group coordinators team has continued to embrace a pro-active approach to establishing new groups based on feedback from the members. Older activity/interest groups have come to a natural end but newer groups have replaced them. We held our annual coordinators meeting at the CURC during the year and this gave us the opportunity to alert group leaders to changes within the organisation and to consult them on future plans. Fran Rodway retired as general coordinator at the end of the year but continuity has been maintained by Jo Beadle and Alison Gascoigne who have become joint

general coordinators. We held two meetings for new members during the year, the aim being to inform them of how the organisation works and what to expect from their membership. In return they help guide us to the sort of activities which may be popular with the membership. However, it is made clear that we are a facilitating organisation rather than a service provider and that if members don't step forward to lead groups they won't be set up.

Our relationship with both universities but particularly with University of Sheffield, whereby our members help in their research projects, has been affected by the funding issues they are experiencing. However, we hope to maintain the relationships with both universities for the foreseeable future.

The trustees have also established a sub-group to look at diversity and inclusion within our organisation and to consult with members who may be affected as a result of social issues, disability, ethnicity or any of the other protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. In summary, Sheffield u3a continues to be a solid well-run organisation with properly considered aims and policies.

Mo Cave

Papers for Review and Approval of the Accounts

Accounts

SHEFFIELD U3A
Registered Charity 703147
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Cost	7,778	7,079
Accumulated depreciation	7,219	7,079
Net book value	559	-
Current assets		
Debtors & prepayments	6,458	6,279
Cash on deposit	60,541	60,927
Cash in hand & at bank	10,538	4,299
	77,537	71,506
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	23,257	19,259
Net current assets	54,280	52,247
Total net assets - unrestricted	54,839	52,247
Restricted assets - bank & cash		
In central U3A bank account	10,931	10,931
In Group bank and cash	45,817	43,835
Total net assets - restricted	56,747	54,766
TOTAL - Net Assets	111,586	107,013
Represented by		
Accumulated funds at 1 January - unrestricted	52247	58457
Surplus for the year - unrestricted	2592	-6210
Restricted funds in Group accounts	54766	51020
Restricted Funds surplus for the year	1981	3746
	111,586	107,013

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

SHEFFIELD U3A**Registered charity 703147****INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER**

	2025		2024	
	£	Per member	£	Per member
<u>Unrestricted</u>				
<u>INCOME</u>				
Subscriptions	23662	8.14	23356	8.36
Gift aid	4424	1.52	4144	1.48
Third Age Matters magazine	899	0.31	434	0.16
Printed Links magazine	1669	0.57	964	0.34
Interest	1614	0.56	1512	0.54
Donations & sundry	1056	0.36	780	0.28
Total	33323	11.46	31190	11.16
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>External</u>				
National Affiliation fee	11513	3.96	11149	3.99
Third Age Matters magazine	826	0.28	448	0.16
Regional meetings	-	-	185	0.07
	12339	4.24	11783	4.22
<u>Membership</u>				
New members meetings	167	0.06	252	0.09
Membership renewal system	1908	0.66	4341	1.55
Zoom costs	195	0.07	187	0.07
	2271	0.78	4780	1.71
<u>Communication</u>				
Links magazine	5521	1.90	4601	1.65
Publicity	548	0.19	757	0.27
Website	2054	0.71	1981	0.71
	8123	2.79	7339	2.63
<u>Groups</u>				
Coordinators meetings	710	0.24	868	0.31
Start up support	35	0.01	1204	0.43
Licences	69	0.02	67	0.02
Insurance & sundry	-	-	-	-
	814	0.28	2139	0.77

	2025		2024	
	£	Per member	£	Per member
<u>Committee & administration</u>				
Bank charges	96	0.03	37	0.01
Committee meetings	314	0.11	331	0.12
AGM & IE Fee	1074	0.37	1139	0.41
Software - accounting	216	0.07	209	0.07
Sundries	108	0.04	45	0.02
	1808	0.62	1761	0.63
<u>Central activities</u>				
Drop ins	875	0.30	828	0.30
Lectures	2728	0.94	2730	0.98
Storage - archives, equipment	1304	0.45	1195	0.43
Volunteers	329	0.11	274	0.10
Projects - IT	-	-	4320	1.55
Shared Learning	-	-	250	0.09
Depreciation	140	0.05	0	-
	5376	1.85	9598	3.43
Total	30731	10.57	37400	13.38
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - unrestricted</u>	2592	0.89	-6210	- 2.22
<u>Restricted</u>				
Restricted income				
Central	0		0	
Groups	107320		92753	
	107320		92753	
Restricted expenses				
Central	91		91	
Groups	105248		88916	
	105339		89007	
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - restricted</u>	1981		3746	
<u>TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</u>	4573		-2464	



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	Sheffield University of the Third Age		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2025	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 2025**.

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:	21/04/2026
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Name:	AIMS Accountants for Business
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Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Accountants
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Address:	Studio 21, SUM Studios, 1 Hartley Street, Sheffield, England S2 3AQ

Candidates for Election with Supporting Statements

Chair Anita Brough Proposer: M Holmes, Seconder: S Woolliscroft
Having served as your Vice Chair, I am now seeking your support to stand as chairperson for Sheffield u3a. My time on the committee has confirmed my belief that we offer something truly unique: a sense of belonging and a platform for lifelong learning.

My professional background in senior management, including serving as the first female chair of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Transport Sector) provided me with the leadership skills necessary to guide a large and well-respected organisation. These skills combined with my personal passion for health and wellness will help fuel my dedication to championing healthy longevity within our community.

With my enthusiastic energy, I will focus on sharing the huge benefits and choices our members have, ensuring our community stays vibrant and relevant.

The u3a was my anchor and I want to ensure every member feels that same sense of being part of a meaningful and welcoming community.

I would be honoured to lead Sheffield u3a into its next chapter, combining my managerial experience with a pioneering vision for the health and happiness of our members.

Member Lisa Lewis Proposer: Julia Shepherd, Seconder: Carolyn Metcalfe

I joined Sheffield u3a in December 2024 after retiring from a career in nursing. My professional background has given me extensive experience of working both autonomously and as part of a team within an organisation.

I was already aware of the benefits of u3a through my mother's membership, and I was confident that joining Sheffield u3a was the right way forward for me.

I knew that there were not many u3a groups in my area of Sheffield (S35) and, shortly after joining, I made a start on addressing this. With committee support, I hosted some consultation meetings in my locality, which culminated in a number of new groups now running successfully. I am currently the coordinator of four groups: a book club, the North Sheffield social group, Bridge for beginners and Rummikub.

Sheffield u3a is a large and successful organisation. I am very grateful for what it offers its members and would like to play my part in its continued success. I believe I can contribute to its day-to-day running, as well as its ongoing development, by becoming a committee member.

Existing serving members of the committee standing for re-election

Les Baker	Treasurer
Maria Buller	Secretary
Brian Barrett	Member
Clare Chiba	Membership secretary
Jo Beadle	General coordinator
George Hampson	Member

EC members Stepping Down

David Longson (but will remain as Home Pages Manager)

Jonathan Powell Wiffen

Shirley Taylor (but will remain as Publicity Officer)

Sarah Williamson

Maureen Cave

Our thanks go to all of them for their contributions over the past few years.

Su3a Anniversary Day at Whirlow Brook Hall and Park Tuesday, June 9 2026

How to get there:

By public transport: From Sheffield – routes 65, 81, 271/272. From Hathersage and the Hope Valley use 271/272. From Tideswell or Buxton use 65.

By car: Whirlow Brook Park is situated on the A625 (Ecclesall Road South) to the south west of Sheffield. Parking is likely to be problematic as there are only 50 parking spaces in the park, all of which are public parking spaces over which we have no control. However, there will be alternative parking in Limb Lane at Whirlow Playing Fields car park and this will be served by a shuttle minibus service to the hall.

By private hire bus: Ashleys will be running a private hire double decker bus from platform E5 at Pond Street bus station on the hour, starting at 10am and picking up from the Tesco Park and Ride on Abbeydale Road approximately 15 minutes later. You will be able to park your car in the Park & Ride car park.

Refreshments: Hot and cold drinks will be served from 10.30am in the Garden Room at the hall. A light buffet lunch will be available at a cost of £5 to be booked and paid for in advance via the Calendar on our website, su3a.org.uk. Places are limited and will be in timed slots from midday. The Shelter Café at the bottom of the drive will be open and serving food and drink. Weather permitting, why not bring a picnic and a blanket, find yourself a spot on the lawn and listen to the music being provided by our groups.

Activities: Some activities such as the art & sketching sessions and walks need to be booked in advance. You will need to do this via the Calendar option on our website, <https://su3a.org.uk>.

Toilets: Toilets are situated on the ground and first floors of the hall.

Full details of the day are on our website at <https://su3a.org.uk/40th-anniversary>

When	What	Where
10.30	<p>Music by the Blues Ensemble</p> <p>Plant Sales (WBP Gardening Group) Cash only</p> <p>Drawing for the Terrified session 1 (please book)</p> <p>Outdoor Sketching Group</p> <p>Commemorative Books on display</p> <p>Tree Walk 1 (please book)</p> <p>Orienteering – join throughout the day</p> <p>Bird Watchers Station – Bird Watching 1 & 2</p> <p>Taking Part in Research Projects – talk to participants</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>In the Hall</p> <p>Bottom Car Park</p> <p>Bottom Car Park</p> <p>Side/Horseshoe Lawn</p> <p>Hall – Garden room</p>
11.00	<p>Music by Vintage Voices</p> <p>Guided Walk of Su3a Garden (weather permitting)</p> <p>Guitars in the Garden (Guitar Group)</p> <p>Drama Presentation – Play Reading 2</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Su3a Commemorative Garden</p> <p>Su3a Commemorative Garden</p> <p>Hall – The Oak Room</p>
11.30	Opening Ceremony	Terrace Lawn
11.45	<p>Music by A Capella</p> <p>Wellbeing in Nature Walk (please book)</p> <p>Air-Yobics™ Taster & Information Session</p>	<p>Terrace lawn</p> <p>Side/Horseshoe Lawn</p> <p>Hall – The Oak Room</p>
12.00	<p>Drawing for the Terrified - session 2 (please book)</p> <p>Sketch Outdoors Session 1 (Please book)</p> <p>Guided Walk of the u3a Garden (weather permitting)</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Su3a Garden</p>
12.15	Music by ukulele Groups	Terrace Lawn
12.45	<p>Music by Recorder Group 1</p> <p>Quiz</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Hall – The Oak Room</p>
1.00	<p>Guided Walk of the Su3a Garden</p> <p>Tree Walk 2 (please book)</p>	<p>Su3a Garden</p> <p>Bottom Car Park</p>
1.15	Music by the Folk Group	Terrace Lawn
1.30	Drama Presentation - Play Reading 2	Hall – The Oak Room
1.45	<p>Walk & Sing German</p> <p>Country Dancing Group</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p>
2.00	<p>Air-Yobics™ Taster & Information Session</p> <p>Drawing for the Terrified - session 3 (please book)</p> <p>Sketch Outdoors 2 (please book)</p> <p>Guided Walk of the Su3a Garden</p>	<p>Hall – The Oak Room</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Su3a Garden</p>
2.15	Music by Cellar Vie	Terrace Lawn
2.30	Presentation by Creative Writing Group	Hall – The Oak Room
2.45	Country Dancing Group	Terrace Lawn
3.00	<p>Music by Cellar Vie</p> <p>Guided Walk of the Su3a Garden</p>	<p>Terrace Lawn</p> <p>Su3a Garden</p>
3.30	Music by Cellar Vie	Terrace Lawn
-4.30		

Are you a member of one of our French groups?

On the 40th Anniversary Day at Whirlow Brook Hall and park. Tim Marsh, coordinator of Cercle Français II is looking to organise an event, Walk and Chat - French which will involve a walk around the Park with a picnic afterwards. He's hoping that as many French Group members as possible will come together. If you're unable to come on the walk or it's fully booked, he's arranging a picnic (provided by yourself) on the Hall lawns at 12.30 for French Group members. Look out for the Flags!

If you're interested in taking part please contact Tim at timothymarsh57@gmail.com

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.

Steel City Wanderers

Steel City Wanderers are back in action in 2026 with two walks arranged. By the time you read this we should have had our first walk on Friday 15 May, "Sheffield Pub Heritage Walk 5" – Kelham Island, hosted by Dave Pickersgill

On **Friday 19 June 2026**: "Sheffield 1925 part 2" – local author and historian John Stocks will continue to help members discover more about 'Sheffield's most turbulent year' with regards to the Gang Wars, Sheffield football and much more.

It's necessary to limit the number of people who participate to 20 enthusiasts. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please lodge your expression of interest by emailing me at: soundsheffield@gmail.com.

Brian Clark



St Giles, Hartington

The coach will pick us up at the Interchange at 8.30am and then 9.00am at Ecclesall Knowle Lane.

We shall meet Pat McLaughlin, our guide, at St Giles, Hartington and after enjoying some refreshments our tour of the church will begin.

St Giles straddles the mound on which it sits, its tower looking over rooftops. It dates back to about 1250AD, was once one of the largest parishes in England and is part of the Duchy of Lancaster. The entrance is an unusual double storeyed porch added in the Middle Ages. The church contains notable brasses, an 1859 memorial window and a reredos of Derbyshire marble. An effigy of the Countess of Derby 1224 was discovered during the restoration in 1855. She appears to be in her coffin with only head and feet exposed.

High up in the Nave and South Transept is an arch through which the priest would climb and from the opening he would sing the gospel on festival days. The paintings on the south side of the Nave are 17th century depicting biblical texts and coats of arms of James I and Charles II. The 12 panels depicting the tribes of Israel in the South Transept date from 1700.

From Hartington we travel to All Saints, Youlgreave. The church dates from 1150 AD though there was probably an earlier Saxon church on the site.



All Saints, Youlgreave

The interior has thick Norman pillars, a large Gothic chancel and Tudor windows. The chancel contains two interesting tombs, an effigy of a 13th century knight and a memorial to Thomas Cockayne, 1488. Facing the entrance in the nave is a small 12th century carved figure thought to represent a robed pilgrim carrying a staff and a pouch. There is also another small figure which looks older, probably Saxon, between stalks of foliage.

The carved Norman font is of simple sandstone with a salamander (symbol of baptism) carved supporting an odd stoup or an extension of the bowl. The nave roof is 15th century and features decorative bosses of grotesque creatures. The painted east window is by Burne-Jones produced in the workshop of William Morris.

We then venture across the road to take lunch at the George Hotel, Youlgreave.

Our final church visit will be to All Saints, Ashover. Beautifully placed among the trees, it was built between 1350 and 1419. Ashover was mentioned in the Domesday Book as having a church, a priest and a mill.

Inside the church is a lead font, which is one of the few in England, dating from 1150 as the Romans worked the lead mines in the Ashover Valley. It is ornamented with 20 figures in pairs and apostles holding books. It was buried during the Civil War in

a kitchen garden to avoid it being melted down for bullets. Beside the font is an old church warden's chest. Behind the font is the belfry, the fifth bell bearing Napoleon's name. It broke when ringing news of Napoleon's abdication after his retreat from Moscow. Above the pulpit are the remains of a stone stairway which gave access to the rood loft. A glazed squint window is unusual as it is formed by pieces of stone, one of which is incised with a chalice.



All Saints, Ashover

Outside the church is a stone coffin, dating from 1200, which is a fine example of a stonemason's art, consisting of a cross, anchor, chain and shackles, rocks and a bosun's pipe all carved from a single piece of stone.

After some light refreshment we shall board the coach at 4.30pm to travel back to Sheffield. The cost for the outing is £50, which covers coach travel, driver remuneration, payment for our guide, donations to each church, lunch and refreshments. To apply for a place, please complete the booking form and return, with a cheque made payable to SU3A Travel and a stamped addressed envelope, to Valerie Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ. The closing date for applications will be Thursday June 18.

Three Churches - Monday, July 13 2026

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:

Please reserve places.

Either: I enclose a cheque for £ (£50pp). Cheques must be made payable to Sheffield u3a UK Travel. This is non-refundable unless a new person can be found to take your place in the event of your cancellation.

Or: I have paid £50pp by Bank Transfer on (date of transfer) to

Account name: Sheffield u3a UK travel

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number: 67203497

Ref: 3C your initial & surname

Please state any mobility or dietary requirements:

Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Rd South at 9:00am ()

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

Please send this completed form together with your cheque (if used) and an S.A.E to

Valerie Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS June 18 2026

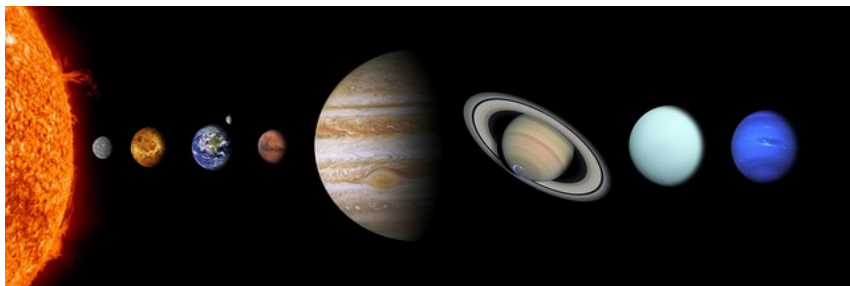




UK Travel Group - National Space Centre and Abbey Pumping Station Steam with the Team Day, Saturday October 24 2026

Come with us to Leicester and spend time in the past and the future. We are planning to visit the National Space Centre, which houses the UK's largest planetarium, with many things to explore.

We are booking a Jupiter Mission Package which will give you access to the galleries, and a planetarium show which will be booked in advance. I will be booking the show before we go.



As it is the school half-term break we are unable to book the Booster's café for lunch although it will be open. You can sit under rockets and eat your lunch.

You can go around the centre at your own pace. I can still remember the excitement of the Moon landing and being able to stay up to watch it "live". I hope there will be information about the recent Artemis II mission.

As we cannot pre-book, as a group, your entry ticket is a lifetime pass. I will definitely be returning.

Please visit the websites to find out more information.

<https://www.spacecentre.co.uk/>, <https://www.abbeypumpingstation.org/> We have chosen this date as it is a "Steam with the Team" Day at the Abbey Pumping Station.

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



Please be aware that there are many steps. As a former working environment the floors can be uneven and the many stairs are uneven and can become slippery especially in wet weather. The cost of the tour is £9.50pp.

I understand (but cannot promise) there is an excellent tea room with delicious cakes on special days!

The Pumping Station is organised and run by volunteers. All bookings for the Pumping Museum tour are with Leicester Museums Service. I have reserved 35 tickets.

At the end of our day into the past and the future we will return to Sheffield for approximately 6pm.

If you are interested in joining us please complete the form below and return it to me. Payment can be by cheque or BACS transfer. Details and booking form are on the following page. Any future communication about this trip will be by email. If you require postal communication you must send an SAE. To ensure you receive emails please put my email into into your contacts: juliadaine@aol.com

Visit to the National Space Centre and Abbey Pumping Station, Saturday October 24 2026

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:

Please reserve places as follows.

Coach and entrance to the Space Centre only £39pp places

Coach, Space Centre and guided tour of the Pumping Station £48.50pp places

Either: I enclose a cheque for £

Cheques must be made payable to Sheffield u3a UK Travel.

Or: I have paid £ by Bank Transfer on (date of transfer) to

Account name: Sheffield u3a UK travel

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number: 67203497

Ref: NSC your initial & surname

Please state any mobility or dietary requirements:

Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

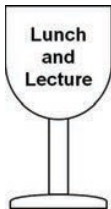
Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Rd South at 8:00am ()

Sheffield Interchange, Platform E4/5 at 8.15am ()

Please send this completed form together with your cheque (if used) and an SAE to Julia Daine, 27 Gaunt Close, Killamarsh, Sheffield, S21 1SW.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS June 30 2026





Our event last October was extremely interesting – Peter Machan, a well-known speaker and author, kept us enthralled with the topic “The Last of the Little Mesters?”

By the time you read this, we expect to have enjoyed a lecture by Michelle Rawlins, author of “Women of Steel” and “The Steel Girls” series, on the formidable women who worked in the Sheffield steel industry during the Second World War. How many of you, we wonder, had family or friends that worked in that dangerous profession, doing their bit for the war effort?

I understand that in October some members found it difficult to find a place to park. Please be aware that there is usually good parking availability on the adjacent streets which supplements parking in the grounds of Kenwood Hall. May I suggest that you leave a little extra time for parking?

Please reserve Friday, October 23 2026, for our autumn Lunch and Lecture at The Mercure Sheffield, Kenwood Hall Hotel & Spa, Kenwood Road, Sheffield S7 1NQ. We had to increase the price of tickets last year in order to cover our costs and are pleased to report that we have been able to avoid a further increase this year. Therefore, the charge remains at £27.00. As usual, we advise arrival at 12 noon for a 12:30 start.

Booking details are on page pagereffllform – these should also be accessible via a link in the monthly newsletters.

Dr Jenny Stephenson will be joining us in October to give a talk entitled “Medicinal Plants – the good, the bad and the beautiful”.



Jenny has kindly sent the following brief outline of her presentation:

“For centuries Man has appreciated the benefits of plants to maintain health and treat disease, with various degrees of success. How they were made into medicines depended on the need and the prevailing medical theories of the time. Some were very poisonous and were thought to rid the body of disease by purging; many, however, had some benefit and later were found to have anti-inflammatory action.

Take a walk with Dr Jenny through the ages, from ancient times, imagining what life was like in the struggle to treat disease. The talk brings us up to the present, with the search for some medications which are based on plant technology.

This is not a talk about Herbalism, and discussion about remedies should not be tried at home!”

The booking form is on the next page and is followed by the menu choices.

Lunch and Lecture – ‘Medicinal Plants’ presented by Dr Jenny Stephenson

Mercure Sheffield Kenwood Hall Hotel & Spa, Kenwood Road, Sheffield S7 1NQ Friday October 23 2026, 12 midday for 12.30pm start.

If booking multiple places, please record all names and u3a membership numbers (use the back of the form or a separate sheet if necessary) and indicate their menu choices.

NAME(s) Su3a No(s)

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE TELEPHONE

Email address

(I agree/do not agree to you retaining my email address for the purpose of sending me further information about this event or future similar events - please delete as applicable.) Signed

MENU CHOICES – please tick one main and one dessert per person

A	B	C	D	E

Special dietary request:

Please reserve place(s) for me at £27 per person. I enclose a **small stamped addressed envelope** and a cheque for £ payable to **Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture**. The SAE is essential as you will need your receipt. Forms should be sent to arrive no later than Thursday 1 October 2026, to Barbara

Hutton, 57 Bradway Road, Sheffield S17 4QR.

(Inquiries: Barbara Hutton 0114 4384412 or 07873 202996; Sue Connelly ksueconnelly@hotmail.com 01246 418251 or 07890 522014)

Resources to help with hearing at the lecture - if you would like to find out more, please tick the box for someone to contact you.:



MENU CHOICES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2026

A Roast supreme of chicken breast, madeira & thyme jus

B Teriyaki salmon – pak choi, chilli & garlic noodles

C Seasonal risotto (V) pea and broad bean, butternut squash and sage

D Cambridge burnt cream – white chocolate and raspberry, served with shortbread

E Warm chocolate brownie (VG) – scoop of ice cream from our parlour

Please remember to send a Stamped Addressed Envelope with the booking form as you will need to use your receipt as a ticket to check in. Please note that, if you have an e-Links or e-Newsletter, not a paper copy, please print out the form or write out the required information clearly to send with your cheque and S.A.E. Please also note that our deadline for notifying numbers to the hotel is three weeks before the event date and we cannot be as flexible as in the past. When you receive your receipt please keep it safe and bring it with you to the event as you will need your receipt number.

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/>.

With the 40th anniversary in mind, we welcome the historical references in several of the following contributions.



Ukulele 1

It all began way back in February 2013. After buying a uke I went to a few sessions in a local cafe, with the instrument carefully hidden in a carrier bag in case I chickened out. After a couple of weeks I had just got enough confidence to take it out and attempt a chord or two, when the group folded. Now what? Of course – start a u3a uke group!

After putting a piece in *Links* magazine, asking if any 'lonely ukulele strummers' wanted to get together, there was a great response. It seemed lots of other people

loved the uke. More than 13 years on, the group is still going. We carried on through lockdown, doing weekly Zoom calls and entertaining each other, then playing in parks.

We have played at all sorts of places – such as markets, banks, lunch clubs, libraries, festivals, birthday parties, memory clubs, care homes and friendship groups. We have also played at Victorian events at Kelham Island Museum, themed 1920s events and 1940s events at the Town Hall, dressed in appropriate attire of course.

Sometimes we have had large groups of people listening and joining in, sometimes the only audience was a parking meter or a bus stop. But we always have fun. As well as that, for our playing we have had a fair amount donated to us for groups such as Age UK. Its amazing what fun and therapy music can be. It has been wonderful to see friendships, confidence and skills grow within this friendly group of lovely people. Also we have seen other ukulele groups form and grow within Sheffield u3a.

Ann Beedham



Vintage Voices will be performing at the Su3a 40th Anniversary event at Whirlow Brook Hall from 11am to 11:25am. Many thanks to the committee for organising this event at which many of the Su3a groups will be participating and hopefully many members will attend the event through the day.

VINTAGE VOICES was originally named Su3a Performance Choir and was founded by Carole Hurst and Robert Spooner in 2013 in response to an advert in Su3a *Links*.

During Covid a stand-in choir member, Stephen Howlett, set up zoom sessions for the choir to continue singing and chatting, which proved very successful during a difficult time.

Robert retired as our musical director in July 2023 and Carole retired as our coordinator in early 2021 and that's when I took over as coordinator.

We had stand-in conductors from talented choir members until our current musical director, Ray Gallagher, joined us in February, 2024. Our former pianist, John Mellor, who had been with the choir for more than eight years finally retired in December, 2025. It means we are seeking a new accompanist to join us on Monday from

10.15am to 12.15pm and at our performances through the year. Please contact Jackie Hall if you are interested or if you know of someone who might be interested. We are also currently looking for bass, altos and tenors to join the choir.

We used to rehearse in the choir room at Victoria Hall but moved to the Walker Hall above the Scouts shop in Trippet Lane in 2025.

If you would like to join us or book the choir for an event or a performance please contact Jackie Hall via our group details on the su3a website.

Jackie Hall



Walking Group N was started in March, 2007 at a time when there were long waiting lists for almost every walking group. It began as a 'five-mile' group with virtually equal numbers of ladies and gents but after about 12 months our fitness and stamina had improved to the extent that we felt we should be able to comfortably manage six miles.



Again, with time and ever-increasing fitness levels, our walks became nearer the seven-mile marker. However, after a few years at this distance, some members started to experience hip and/or knee problems so we tried to provide a variety of walks in both length and difficulty so that we could keep our very friendly group together. This seemed to work well until Covid came along, when, of course, all group walking had to stop. Sadly, when we were able to resume, some of our members were unable to regain their walking capabilities. At this stage we were looking for new members to keep the group going.

Thankfully over the last 18 months we have been joined by several people who have all blended in well and are thriving once again as a very friendly supportive group. A newer member, who joined from a very flat part of England and found the hills of the Peaks very challenging, describes how the group supported her over many months until she was able to keep up with the group.

During its 19 years, N Group has had five coordinators and there are three founder Members who are still active members of the group.

Sheila Harris, member of the Group



Novel Reading III

Novel Reading III was one of the earliest book groups, having started in the mid 90s, and is still going strong with a maximum complement of ten including one of the original members. There have only been two coordinators – I was surprised to be asked to take on the role as a pretty new member in the early 2000s and so far have not been sacked. Numbers have fluctuated as members have come and gone, sadly some lost through death or incapacity or because of relocation or we were just not the right group for that person – their choice. We got through Covid still reading and exchanging views by e-mail, our attempts at Zoom not being very successful as not everyone used it but we did keep in touch.

Who are we? We are ten booklovers who enjoy meeting once a month to discuss a book suggested by a member who introduces it with some information about the author, its themes and why she has chosen it. (Yes, we are all female but that is because we have not had any male interested in joining us.) This leads on to a general discussion about characters, style of writing, issues raised or simply why it is loved or hated. Wider issues of cultural differences or social changes over time, not to mention members' own life experiences, come up as well.

What do we read? Our genre is literary fiction (not that we are pretentious) but we also sneak in the odd biography or factual account that has made an impact. We keep an eye open for bestsellers and prize winners and may go back to a writer whose previous work has been enjoyed – though that can turn out to be a disappointment as much as a pleasure. Once a year we read a classic – maybe from the 19th century, for example Wilkie Collins, Edith Wharton, Arnold Bennett or writers recognised from the 20th century such as D.H. Lawrence, Evelyn Waugh, Robert Graves. More recently we have travelled the world from Chile to Japan, Turkey to China, America to Nigeria, and time travelled from from Ming Dynasty China via 16th century Florence and back to the present day. One of the joys of a book group is being introduced to writers one has never heard of or never contemplated reading. Another joy is finding friends with whom to share one of life’s great pleasures.

Judith Vernier

 Cycling - Wednesdays



Here we are at Slippery Stones at the top of Howden Reservoir, halfway round our twenty-mile reservoirs ride. We managed to stay dry and a great time was had by all - including an excellent lunch at the end.

Sandie Andrews



Discussion II

'Discussion'. The dictionary tells us that the word comes from Latin: dis + quater meaning to dash to pieces and to shake and strike.

Our group meets once a month to do just that to various topics. Previous ones include the ethics of designing babies to order, what it means to be human and what level of protest is acceptable in a democratic society.

We meet at 10am for two hours on the second Tuesday of each month with a short coffee break at 11. The meetings take place in members' homes but it is not essential to host a meeting. The atmosphere is friendly and informal. Do come and join us.

Mary Alexander



Introducing Air-Yobics™

Our Vice-Chair, Anita Brough, is excited to announce a new group designed to help us all move, breathe and sleep better.

What is Air-Yobics™? It is movement that meets you where you are - standing, seated, or on a mat. This session is about listening to how your body 'speaks to you'.

Focus on breath, pain management, quality sleep: A core element will be functional breathing techniques - one of the biggest 'hacks' helping contribute to healthier longevity. It acts like a 'breath bridge' to easier movement, pain management and better quality sleep.

Why it's different: It's not a 'one-size-fits-all' exercise class. To ensure everyone receives individual support, benefiting from Anita's expert guidance, the group is limited to 15 participants.

Expertise you can trust: As a qualified personal trainer, yoga teacher, and advanced nutritionist, Anita brings a high level of professional knowledge and is constantly learning - recent studies support conditions like osteoporosis and Parkinson's.

Anita has used these very techniques to drastically improve her own chronic health journey, and is passionate about sharing these skills within our amazing Sheffield u3a community.

Join Anita at the Su3a 40th Anniversary celebrations on June 9 at Whirlow Brook Hall where she will be running 20-minute taster workshops during the morning and afternoon. It's the perfect opportunity to:

- See a demo of what to expect.
- Ask questions about your specific needs or pain management.
- Register your interest for the new group.

Message from the chair on closing groups

We have had a number of groups close over the past few months due to falling membership. Most of these were long established groups and what some of them had in common was that they were showing "No Vacancies" on our website. Also, most of them had not advertised for new members in the e-newsletter or via our Facebook Group and page.

Long established groups do come to a natural end but if you enjoy your group and want it to carry on these simple steps will help:

1. Make sure your group entry on our website is showing the correct status- vacancies if you have them, waiting list if you have one, or no vacancies.
2. Advertise for new members in the enewsletter and/or *Links*. - email web@su3a.org.uk and/or links@su3a.org.uk.
3. Advertise on our Facebook group and page. We can do the ad for you if you don't use social media - email mocave@btinternet.com.

Report of Friday Lecture on Picasso by Derek Bacon

For those who heard Derek Bacon's previous talk on Gaudi, in particular the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, expectations for his talk on Picasso were high. We were not disappointed, though perhaps not in the way we had expected.

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), born in Malaga, Spain, showed his artistic abilities very early on. His first word is said to have been 'piz', short for lapis, Spanish for pencil, foreshadowing his life's work. From the age of seven, Picasso received formal figure drawing training from his father, a painter and Professor of Art. By the age of nine, he had produced 'Yellow Picador' and by the age of sixteen, began to show the first of many artistic phases or movements as he moved between Barcelona and Paris.

Picasso's Blue Period (1901-1904) was triggered by tragedy, heavily influenced by the suicide in 1901 of his close friend Carlos Casagemas. This was followed by his Rose Period (1904-1906), by African Art (1907-1909) and then by Cubism (1912-19), which destroyed traditional perspectives.

Picasso once famously declared that 'there are only two kinds of women; goddesses and doormats'. His early paintings of Olga Khokhova, his wife from 1918-1955, show a pensive, beautiful, elegant woman with a sad, introspective expression, perhaps reflecting her own feelings about her relationship with Picasso. His attitude towards women was misogynistic, cruel, controlling and entirely selfish, as is clear in the later paintings of his second wife, Jacqueline Roque (1961-1973), which show grotesquely, sexually provocative images. Over his lifetime, he had many relationships with women, many of whom were left mentally unstable, even suicidal.

Picasso's most famous and most politically significant work depicts the inhumanity, brutality and hopelessness caused by the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish civil war. First exhibited in 1937, the large mural-sized painting dramatically expresses Picasso's outrage at the consequences of war on all humanity.

Derek concluded his talk by suggesting that the ruins of Gaza, Iran, Lebanon and elsewhere that we see nightly on our television screens demonstrate that little has changed in the ability of human beings to use destruction and violence to impose power and control over others. We were left to reflect that the message of Guernica remains as relevant and powerful today as it was in the 1930s.

Deborah Beetham

Forthcoming lectures

June 19, 2026 *The Music and Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan* - Bernard Lockett. Because of the use of videos and musical extracts, this lecture may be of limited appeal to those with profound hearing issues.

July 17, 2026 *Walking in OldenLand – Looking back, looking around, looking ahead* - Roger Gough, former professor of social care and speaker at last year's Off the Shelf Festival, reflects on walking and living in the land of old age.

September 18, 2026 *Honey Bees, Hornets and Help Needed!* - Dillon Butters & Peter Jackson, Sheffield Beekeepers Association. A story of heroes and villains, the villains in this case being the Asian Yellow-Legged Hornet.



*Whirlow Brook Park
Venue for Anniversary Day*

u3a Sheffield **Su3a Executive Committee**

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u3a Sheffield **Calendar June 2026 - September 2026**

As always, this is subject to change. See Page 31 for Lunch and Lecture details and Page 42 for Friday lecture titles.

June 2	Drop-In	10am-11.30am, CURC*
June 3	National Memorial Arboretum	UK Travel Group
June 9	Su3a 40th Anniversary Event	Whirlow Brook Park
June 19	Lecture, Bernard Locket	11am, Showroom
June 24	Biddulph Grange and Little Moreton Hall	UK Travel Group
July 7	Drop-In	10am-11.30am, CURC
July 13	Three Yorkshire Churches Visit	UK Travel Group
July 14	Sheffield u3a AGM 2026	CURC
July 17	Lecture, Roger Gough	11am, Showroom
August 9	Stamford and the Open Air Theatre	UK Travel Group
August 18	Trolley Bus Museum and South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum	UK Travel Group
September 1	Drop-In	10am-11.30am, CURC
September 18	Lecture, Dillon Butters & Peter Jackson	11am, Showroom

* CURC: Central United Reformed Church

Links 223: October 2026

Copy Deadline: Friday August 28 2026

Regd. Charity No 703147