

Treasurer's Report to FWD 4/10/24.

This report is about the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Clearly finance touches other areas and some of this information, therefore, will be contained in the reports of others.

By the end of 2023 we had received 221 people into membership.

The u3a has limited chance of income beyond the membership fees so the fact that this is a good number has meant that we ended with a positive balance – albeit only £400. We had a generous loan from one of our committee which, even more generously, would have become a gift if it had been necessary. Thankfully we have been able to pay this back.

The membership fees have set against them: membership subscription to Third Age Trust, our umbrella body; payment for Third Age Matters, the magazine of the Trust; and payment to Beacon, the computer system which enables us to email all of you securely. We received a start up grant from the Third Age Trust as a new u3a.

Thereafter we need to pay for the hall, speakers and refreshments each month; committee expenses, publicity and the website (we are very proud of the website which is a real asset, maintained by Mark on a very regular basis (and worth visiting regularly)). Now we are registered with HMRC, we don't have to pay for the website, only for an additional Web Address. Our accounts were checked at the end of the year.

Speakers often don't come cheap, but this is one of the major benefits of your FWD membership. If you aren't a 'Groups' or a 'Socials' person, this is what you join for. Karen W has arranged our speakers throughout the year and has given us a wonderful programme.

We are blessed with an excellent committee and the success of the social events is testament to the expertise of the Social Committee under Karen R to judge what the membership will enjoy, and to organise and run the events as they have done. Social events are not run for a profit, but for last year it made the difference between us having a positive end to the year or being a bit worried.

So, overall, it was a satisfactory first year, with a £400 surplus.

We have the advantage that our speakers usually go on to Tendring District u3a who therefore pay half of the costs.

We had hoped that we would receive a 'pro-rata by memberships' donation from Tendring District u3a – as agreed at the 2022 Tendring District AGM. Unfortunately, as I write (July 2024) this hasn't happened.

Please continue to tell your friends, neighbours, people on the bus, in the supermarket, how much you enjoy the speaker meetings, the social events, which group(s) you have joined and what a warm welcome they will have at meetings. You will be doing them a huge favour, as well as us. FWD u3a is an ideal organisation for 'social prescribing'. People feel so much better with social interaction, and our meetings and groups are the perfect place. The higher the membership numbers the more secure we are in arranging events going forward. Equally welcome are people from other ethnic backgrounds who may be reluctant to 'give us a try', please assure them that they will be welcome and, with us, make sure they are, when they come in.

First year's report: Excellent work; carry on.

I did not expect to be writing a report for this year but unfortunately the person who took over from me suffered ill health and was not able to continue, so it came back to me. We have tried again and Mark Riley has now taken over as treasurer. I wish him very good health.

Kate Collins
2023 Treasurer FWDu3a