



East Renfrewshire u3a
Scottish Charity No SC044004

Annual Report and Accounts

For Financial Year ended 31 March 2025

East Renfrewshire u3a – Annual Report and Accounts for Financial Year ended 31 March 2025.

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Charity Name

East Renfrewshire University of the Third Age is known as East Renfrewshire u3a.

Charity Number

SC044004

Contact Address

c/o Treasurer, Ann Scott, Flat 3-1, 43 Seedhill Road, Paisley PA1 1SD

Trustees at the date of agreement of the Annual Report

Marbe McNeill	Chair, Accessibility Officer, Publicity	Elected 2016
Mary Fyfe	Secretary	Elected 2022
Ann Scott	Treasurer	Elected 2021
Fiona Smith	Speaker Organiser	Elected 2024
Allison Kershaw	Groups Coordinator, Beacon Administrator, Deputy Webmaster	Elected 2021
Roy Bryce	Membership Secretary	Died February 3/25 Co-opted February 2025
Sandra Rigg Billy Martin	Membership Secretary IT and Equipment Co-ordinator Webmaster	Elected 32024
Shirley Thorogood Mairi Balfour	Hospitality Coordinator Minute Secretary	Elected 2022 Elected 2024
Susan Bulleid	Vice Chair	Elected 2023

Structure, Governance & Management

East Renfrewshire u3a is an unincorporated association, formed in 2008, which was granted charitable status by the Office of the Scottish Charities Register in May 2013. It is governed by the constitution which was adopted on 17 February 2021 and controls the affairs and resources of East Renfrewshire u3a. Membership of the Committee is open to all members of East Renfrewshire u3a. The u3a is affiliated to the Third Age Trust which provides guidance and support, training and common services.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Committee members serve a term of one year and can offer themselves for re-election up to a maximum of 9 years. New Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year and the Committee may co-opt up to a further three members during the year to meet any identified needs. Committee members have collective responsibility for all decisions and meet formally at least 10 times a year. All members of the Committee are Trustees of the charity.

Aims and Objectives

The stated aims and objectives are the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people who have retired from full-time employment, residing in East Renfrewshire and its surrounding area. Keeping active mentally, physically and socially is recognised as being of great importance post -employment. This is achieved through the operation of a range of interest and activity groups where members share the teaching and learning. All our activities are regarded as charitable for the purposes of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Summary of the Main Achievements and Performance

Membership

Membership of East Renfrewshire u3a is open to anyone no longer in full-time employment, on payment of an annual membership subscription. At the end of March 2025 there were 612 members. This compares with 597 in March 2024. It has been noticed that the rise is significantly greater in the east of the county whilst membership in the G78 postcode is less than 8% of our total membership.

Monthly meetings in our Barrhead venue have failed to attract new members from the area.

Interest Groups

Most groups meet face to face with the exception of Online Bridge who use the Bridge Base Online Platform and Wine Buddies who have opted to meet on Zoom but have an annual lunch. We currently have 82 groups. Three groups ceased for various reasons – Jazz & Blues Appreciation, Italian Level 1 and Scrabble Z and we would like to thank the facilitators for all they did towards the success of these groups.

Seven new groups started this year: Sleuth & Sip, Golf Swing and Coffee, Scrabble Q, Scrabble Z, Local Archaeological History, Pickleball and Board Games.

Groups have been well attended and, in a few groups, there are waiting lists. The Mahjong group now meet twice monthly.

We have also had several short 'pop up' groups which have been extremely popular; Card Making, Golf Beginners, Glass Fusing and Upholstery.

Events

A joint Facilitator/Committee meeting was held in October. A sandwich lunch was served and Facilitators were thanked for their commitment which had resulted in another successful year. Our webmaster gave a talk on the new website, encouraging facilitators to keep pages up to date either by doing this themselves or by sending information to him. Committee member, Billy Martin, reported on his stay at the Scottish Summer School held at Stirling University Campus at which he gave a presentation entitled "Drug Discovery - where our medicines come from." He recommended the Summer School as a worthwhile experience. A member of Paisley Fire Service gave an interesting presentation on Fire Safety in the home. At the end of March we joined with other local organisations at an event held in Eastwood Health Centre promoting our u3a.

Monthly Meetings

We have had a good variety of speakers over the year. However, although numbers attending have gradually increased, they still fall short of pre-Covid years. The Christmas party was well attended and both the entertainment, provided by a local duo, Coda, and the catering were well received by members. As we do not charge for the party, those attending were invited to make a donation to Playlist for Life and a total of £356 was raised.

External Relations

The Chair and Group Coordinator have attended Greater Glasgow network meetings regularly along with representatives from Bearsden & Milngavie, Glasgow Westend, Glasgow Southside, Lenzie, Paisley and Helensburgh u3as and the Trustee for Scotland (now known as the Council Member for Scotland). They have also attended the Central Belt Network Zoom meetings.

Over 200 people enjoyed the Glasgow Network BBQ event which was held in June and organised by the Chair of Glasgow West End, the Chair of Glasgow Southside and East Renfrewshire u3a's Group Coordinator.

The Chair and Group Coordinator also attended a meeting with Dr Liz Thackray the then Chair of the Third Age Trust whilst she was touring Scotland. They have since met the new Chair Iain Cassidy online.

The Group Coordinator and the Vice Chair attended the u3a Scotland Spring meeting online.

The Webmaster ran a very popular workshop 'Drug Discovery - where our medicines come from' at the u3a Summer School, Stirling in August.

The Compliance Officer held an across Scotland training course covering Gift Aid and Charity Law.

A team from East Renfrewshire u3a regularly take part in the monthly Interu3a Quiz organised by Linda and Ian Matheson of Ayr u3a. The Quiz group also enter a team into Glasgow West End u3a's annual Quiz.

Our Cycling Offroad group have joined up with Bearsden & Milngavie u3a to share knowledge and outings and the Backgammon group held an Inter u3a match against Bearsden & Milngavie u3a and they have since received an Invitation from Ayr u3a.

Publications and Website

We produced twelve editions of our monthly newsletter, Chit-Chat, which is available on our website. This gives information about current groups, proposed groups, and various other items of information and news about our u3a. Some members also post on our Facebook page which is a private group page.

Over the summer our new website came on stream and is easier to navigate. Potential members can see our extensive list of groups and forthcoming events.

All our policies are available on our website and the Committee minutes are available on the site once approved. It is now easy to join online.

We continue to use the secure Beacon System, which is managed by the Third Age Trust to hold our members information and for internal communications by our facilitators with their groups and for committee communications

Acknowledgement

The Trustees want to thank all our Facilitators for their commitment and unstinting efforts without which East Renfrewshire u3a would not exist. We also acknowledge the help of volunteers who help in Hospitality roles, making new members feel welcomed and serving tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. Their efforts are indispensable.

Financial Review

Subscriptions and Gift Aid are the main sources of income.

Gift Aid of £1091 received in the current year relates to 2023-24. Gift Aid for year ending 2025 will be received in 2025-26 once approved by HMRC.

£521 was received as a donation from Riviera Travel which has an affinity arrangement with u3a pledging up to 10% of the total basic holiday cost as a charitable donation.

Groups requiring indoor accommodation continued to increase resulting in the Hire of Hall costs for the current year being £10,724, an increase of £823.

Operational Funds and Reserves

The closing bank balance is high at £20,068. The recommended reserve level should be equivalent to 3 – 6 months expenditure, estimated as £4K to £8K. The reserves balance has reduced slightly this year mostly due to increased accommodation costs.

From the subscription of £24, £8.63 is paid to Third Age Trust leaving £15.37 to cover all other expenses.

Subscriptions cannot be returned to members under the u3a constitution so a reduction in subscription would be required to reduce reserves.

East Renfrewshire u3a

Receipts & Payments 12 months to 31st March 2025

Income	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions	14870	14426
Gift Aid	1092	873
Other Income	587	878
Activity Account	10185	11529
Interest	130	
Total	26864	27706
Expenditure		
Hire of Halls	10724	9901
Speakers' Expenses	325	181
Stationery, Postage & Sundries	534	439
Third Age Subscription	2384	2208
Magazine Delivery	1927	1804
Beacon	597	553
Catering Costs	499	404

Group Expenses	1697	86
Marketing	356	60
Activity Account	8105	10803
Total	27148	26439

Surplus (Deficit)	-284	1267
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Funds as at 31st March

Opening Balance as at 1st April 2024	21293	20026
Surplus (Deficit)	-284	1267
Closing Balance at 31st March 2025	21009	21293

Bank Balance	20068	20593
Floats	3	3
Activity Account	938	697
	21009	21293

Notes

1. Assets are purchased but not capitalised. A list of owned assets is maintained and reviewed on an annual basis. Redundant assets are sold or written off.
2. Gift aid receipts are in respect of 2023-24. 2024-25 claim will be received in financial year 2025-26.
3. £521.82 was received from Riviera Travel under an affinity arrangement.
4. £130.28 received was in respect of interest on a 32 day notice deposit account opened in September 2024.
5. No Trustee received payments or expenses of a personal nature.

6. The balance left in the Activities Account at year end is restricted. It is deposits and will be paid out for forthcoming bookings.

7. Accounts are prepared on a cash basis.

The Annual report and Financial Statement were approved by the Trustees on 14 April 2025 and sign on their behalf by:

(Signed). Marbe McNeill

Chair

Ann Scott

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Statement:

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

Have not been met, or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be rendered.

(Signed) David Miller

Date 15.5.2025

Address supplied