Merton U3A

Treasurer's report for the year ending 31 December 2025

The final accounts for 2025, which are compiled on a receipts and payments basis, show the income and expenditure for the year. The income is often offset by expenditure such as the income from members for visits is met by the expenditure on the costs of visits. There may be a slight discrepancy either way.

The working model for Merton U3A is that any costs incurred in the running of an activity group are borne by the members of that group. However, the Third Age Trust, our overarching organisation, requires that we note any receipts and payments from group activities should be shown by the local U3A in their accounts. This is shown under group activities. However, the expenditure is split between room hire, groups equipment and coaching and miscellaneous, which has the effect of distorting the amount spent on these activities though the income and expenditure match. The room hire charges for Merton are £1165 and miscellaneous is £274.

We have had a very good year financially making a surplus of £4013. As your Committee realised, this is unnecessary as we have substantial reserves, and so steps have been taken to reduce it. Firstly, the annual subscription was lowered to £13 from its previous £15, though this was slightly offset by requiring that couples do not have reduced rates, and the monthly talks are now free. However, the surplus still increases.

If you look at the expenditure, you can see that the cost of the bimonthly newsletter has decreased, which also decreases the postage, as more of us are opting for an email copy. Also the number opting to have the TAT magazines has fallen. Gift Aid was larger this year as it covers about 18 months, rather than the usual 12 months. This is part of the problem in changing roles as it took me a little time to work through the Gift Aid application. Next year it will be lower again.

The accounts have been scrutinised by Susan Thurlow, who took over a Treasurer from me after my first time in the role.

I would also like to thank David Drummond, my predecessor as Treasurer, for the huge amount of help he has given me this year, especially as I am away a lot, and the systems had changed dramatically after my first stint.

Ruth Cooke 9 January 2026

Treasurer – Merton U3A

Merton U3A Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS	**£**	**£**
Subscriptions	11850.82	13,742.50
Gift Aid	4164.93	2,294.59
Talks	229.45	571.10
Visits	2668.15	3,592.00
Group Activities	8741.00	6,013.86
Social (Christmas Lunch)	2690.00	3,195.00
Bank Interest	205.75	114.17
Total Receipts	**30550.10**	**29,523.22**
PAYMENTS		
TAT Affiliation	3528.00	3,384.00
TAT Magazine	2031.68	2,698.32
Stationery & Postage	468.86	1,015.78
Printing & Publicity	1101.69	2,040.22
Visits	2447.40	3,357.00
Room hire	6723.12	6,355.90
Catering	927.06	1,484.37
Talks	1084.01	831.00
Equipment - Technical	59.95	330.97
Groups' equipment and coaching	2120.00	1,930.00
Social (Christmas Lunch)	2894.82	3,104.28
Beacon and other IT	1492.60	1,027.38
Bank Charges	320.24	352.00
Miscellaneous	1337.00	279.53
Total Payments	**26536.43**	**28,190.75**
Surplus for year - General	**4013.52**	**1,332.32**
Surplus on Table Tennis grant	**0.15**	**0.15**
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	**4013.67**	**1,332.47**
Balances b/f	39890.71	38,558.24
Balances c/f	**43904.38**	**39,890.71**

Balances as at 31 December	**2025**	**2024**
CAF Cash account	9521.09	24,577.68
CAF Gold account (Norah)	23888.54	3,709.04
HSBC	10285.56	8,924.62
HSBC Restricted account	0.15	0.15
PayPal	209.04	2,679.22
	43904.38	**39,890.71**

Ruth Cooke 9 January 2026

Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts Merton U3A for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (“the Trust”) for the year ended 31/12/2025

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Susan Thurlow
9 January 2026

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