FORTH VALLEY UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year to 31st March 2026

u3a Forth Valley

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC037928)

Forth Valley University of the Third Age
Annual Report & Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2026

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Forth Valley University of the Third Age
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For the year ended 31st March 2026

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31st March 2026

Charity Name	Forth Valley University of the Third Age		
Charity Number	SC037928		
Principal Address	c/o Dr Neil Fairweather 7 Queens Road Stirling FK8 2QY		
Website Address	www.fvu3a.org.uk		
Current Trustees	Neil Fairweather	Chair	
	Hazel Martin	Secretary	
	William Watson	Treasurer	
	Barbara Easton		
	Leslie Fisher		
	Nicoll Fletcher		(Appt 12.06.2025)
	June Johnston		
	Rosalind Heslop		(Appt 23/09/2025)
	Patricia Hall		
	Anne Preston		
	Kay Ryan		

Others who served during the year

Moira Fairweather	(Ret 30.05.2025)
Mhairi MacLeod	(Ret 30.05.2025)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Forth Valley University of the Third Age (FVu3a) was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Regulator (OSCR) on the 12th March 2007. It became Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) after converting from an Unincorporated Association on 20th June 2014 and is governed by its constitution.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board which meets at least six times a year, are the Charity Trustees. Membership of the Board is open to any full member of Forth Valley u3a and is interested in furthering the purpose of the FVu3a. The trustees are appointed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). During the year the trustees may co-opt other trustees to serve on the board if they believe it is in the interest of the charity to do so. All trustees retire at the AGM but are eligible for re-election. The constitution allows for a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve trustees.

Organisation Structure

The FVu3a is entirely run by volunteers. The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The FVu3a exists:
a) For the advancement of the education, learning, and personal development of older people and those who are no longer in full time employment in the Forth Valley and its surrounding locality; And
b) To facilitate associated leisure time and recreational activities for its members with the object of improving the quality of their social life.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

The first event of the 2025/26 financial year was on 18thApril 2024 when the FVu3a held our annual 'Grand Quiz'. The Quizmaster for this very popular light-hearted event was again George Johnston, who tested our general knowledge. The quiz was followed by selection of home baking provided by the catering team.

Our enrolment event took place on 22nd August 2025 at two venues; the Cochrane Hall in Alva and the Bridge of Allan Parish Church Hall, both of which were very well attended. Following this event, by the end of August we had a total of 584 members, 98 of whom were new members.

In September, our monthly meetings began with a talk by David Brown entitled "A Life On The Ocean Wave" who gave us humorous account of his life of an engineer ate sea. In October we were treated to a return visit by Brian Young who gave us an interesting and enlightening talk on Hadrian's Wall. In November the Gilbert and Sullivan fans amongst us were fascinated by a talk by Bernard Lockett on the music and satire of these composers.

In December the FVu3a organised a successful Christmas lunch for all members at the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling, and other Christmas lunches were arranged by each of the interest groups.

January 2026 saw a very different type of talk – The History of the Electric Guitar. Our own member Kelvin Martin brought along several of his own guitars and gave a fascinating talk on rock and roll history which was very well received. Our final talk of the year in February was by Rosalind Holmes "A hundred years of Chinese history through the lives of the women of one Beijing family". This excellent talk reminded us of the cultural differences and similarities between those living in China and in Scotland.

As the year has progressed membership numbers have steadily grown from some 584 members after enrolment in August 2025 to a current year end (end of March 2026) total of a record 651 members. The numbers of interest groups has also grown, but not at the rate of membership. This leaves us with a problem of many groups being full, but we are working hard to resolve this.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

In 2024, we decided to introduce the "Beacon" software system, used by over 600 u3as throughout the UK, which aids communication with our members and records our membership, and financial records. In addition, in the 2025/26 year we replaced our website with the newer Siteworks web site. I am pleased to inform members that these changes have been well received by our members. In particular our new website makes it easy for members to see the wide range of groups on offer.

Over the 2025/26 year, our u3a had proved to be resilient, vibrant and innovative, and it is hoped that this trend will continue in the forthcoming 2026/27 year. Membership numbers continue to grow and there is quiet confidence that this trend will continue during the forthcoming year, together with an increase in the number of groups we are able to offer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

The charity has continued to carry out work on behalf of its members. The principal source of income continues to be from the membership subscriptions. Increases in the cost of electricity and gas over the year have resulted in substantial rises in the cost of local hall and room hire and a consequential increase in outgoings. Apart from hall hire costs the Association's main running expenses have been in respect of the publication of the newsletter and magazine, website and speaker costs and zoom licenses. The charity also pays branch dues to the Third Age Trust, and u3a Scotland, and a membership subscription to the publication 'Third Age Matters'.

CACH Project (Cultural Activities in Care Homes)

The CACH project continued its work during 2025-2026. This work was funded by a £1440 grant from The Hugh Frser Foundation and private donations of £765. This provided the funds to deliver music performances, reminiscence sessions and individual life story work in care homes for older people. These activities supplement those already provided by the homes, to promote health and well-being, and to bring enjoyment and stimulation to vulnerable older residents including those with dementia. We are also providing reminiscence sessions in three Community Cafes for older people in Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Doune.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The total income for the year was £25,747 (2024/25 - £27,716) The total expenditure was £24,096 (2024/25 - £22,696).

Summary of Grants received by FVu3a to March 2026:
A grant of £1440 was received in April 2025 from the Hugh Fraser Foundation

Reserves Policy
The trustees' policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to meet operating costs of approximately six months within the general fund; this amounts to circa £5,000. Unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £ 22,765. The trustees are aware that this is above the required amount but will use the excess to continue its activities.

FUTURE PLANS

The FVu3a has grown substantially over the year, with a record number of members and a large number of groups for them to participate in. Given our increasing membership, the Board aims to develop an enlarged programme of meetings and activities which will recommence from September 2026.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on the 29 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

[redacted]

Neil Fairweather

Date 29/5/26

Chair

[redacted]

William Watson

Date 29/5/26

Treasurer

Forth Valley University of the Third Age is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Scottish Charity No. SC037928

Forth Valley University of the Third Age
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For the year ended 31st March 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FORTH VALLEY u3a SCIO: SC037928

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2026 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of the Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply.
It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express and audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 following requirements have not been met: - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section44 (1) (a) or the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - To prepare accounts with accord with the accounting record and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

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

12TH May 2026 Date of signing

[redacted] Independent Examiner

Independent Examiner

Name and Address: **Richard Muir-Simpson CA**
Redmarley
Kippen
FK8 3HS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

		Note	2026 £ Unrestricted	2026 £ Restricted	2026 £ Total	2025 £ Total
Receipts						
Grants		5		1,440	1,440	2,220
Donations & Gift Aid			2,502	765	3,267	2,860
Sale of asset					0	0
Membership & Subscriptions			9,647		9,647	8,661
Hall Hire Contributions			9,984		9,984	11,570
Group Events			1,409		1,409	2,405
Other Charitable Activities						0
TOTAL RECEIPTS			23,542	2,205	25,747	27,716
Payments						
Charitable Activities		6	21,136	2,050	23,186	22,047
Governance						
Accounts Preparation	Accounts Production				0	0
	Independent Examiner				0	0
	Trustee Expenses		910		910	649
TOTAL PAYMENTS			22,046	2,050	24,096	22,696
Surplis/Deficit for the period			1,496	155	1,652	5,020

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

		Note	2026 £ Unrestricted	2026 £ Restricted	2026 £ Total	2025 £ Total
Funds Reconciliation						
Balance as at 1st. April 2025			21,269	19	21,288	16,267
Surplus/Deficit			1,496	155	1,652	5,020
			22,765	175	22,940	21,287
Bank & Cash Balances						
Cash at Bank	Main Account		22,674		22,674	21,268
Cash at Bank	CACH Account			175	175	19
Paypal	Paypal		91		91	0
			22,765	175	22,940	21,287
Other Assets						
Gift Aid Due	24/25				0	1,401
	25/26		1,374		1,374	0
			0		0	0
			1,374		1,374	0
Liabilities	Hall Rentals & Expenses	7	1,168		1,168	955
			1,168	**0**	**1,168**	**955**

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 29th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

[redacted]

Neil Fairweather
Chair

[redacted]

William Watson
Treasurer

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	As at 01/04/2025	Receipts	Payments	As at 31/03/2026
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	21,269	23,542	22,046	22,765
	21,269	23,542	22,046	22,765
Restricted Funds				
CACH Fund	19	2,205	2,050	175
	19	2,205	2,050	175
TOTAL FUNDS	21,288	25,747	24,096	22,940

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with:

a) The Charities & Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2026

There have been no changes to the preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2 Fund Accounting

a) Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the committee in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for a specific purpose.

c) Any purposes are set out below in the further notes.

3 Taxation

a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities

b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4 Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) No remuneration was paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year

b) No travelling expenses were reimbursed to trustees this year or last annual period.

c) The charity's insurance policy includes trustees indemnity insurance cover for all of its trustees.

d) The charity pays subscriptions to the Third Age National Group, u3a Scotland and Third Age Matters. The charity's trustees have opted to showing this expenditure within the Statement of Receipts and Payments as the full amount brought into the organisation from members and the full amount paid to the umbrella bodies.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
5	**Grants**				
	Bank of Scotland Foundation			0	2,100
	Hugh Fraser Foiundation		1,440	1,440	0
		0	**1,440**	**1,440**	**2,100**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
6	**Cost of Charitable Activities**				
	CACH Project		2,050	2,050	2,479
	Events	4,183		4,183	2,780
	Hall Rental	10,344		10,344	10,994
	Postages, Stationery & Printing	1,263		1,263	1,310
	Branch Dues	5,088		5,088	3,905
	Sundries	48		48	400
	Telephone & IT	195		195	81
	Pubs & Subs	16		16	98
		21,136	**2,050**	**23,186**	**22,047**

7	**Hall Rentals & Expenses**				
	Dunblane Centre	643		643	641
	Dunblane Cathedral	46		46	0
	Stirling City Halls	222		222	154
	Braeport Centre	0		0	0
	Bridge of Allan Parish Church	88		88	88
	Cambusbarron Community Centre	72		72	72
	Alloa Old People's Welfare Committee	96		96	0
		1,168	**0**	**1,168**	**955**