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Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
01	01	2023	31	12	2023
From			To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Postcode

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Robin Terry	Chair		
2	Trevor Peel	Vice Chair	01.01.23-12.04.23	
3	Keith Watson	Treasurer	01.01.23-12.04.23	
4	Mary Laslett	Membership Secretary	01.01.23-31.10.23	
5	Angela Tippett	Course Administrator		
6	Ursula Steiger	Director of Studies		
7	Robert Matthews	Business Secretary	01.01.23-12.04.23	
8	Jane Dennett		01.01.23-03.04.23	
9	Ian Ward		01.01.23-01.09.23	
10	Christine Hughes	Vice Chair	02.03.23-31.12.23	
11	John Wetherell	Mem Sec from 01.11.24	02.03.23-31.12.23	
12	Lizzie Arrow	Mem Sec from 01.11.24	02.03.23-31.12.23	
13	Keith Watson	Vice Chair	13.04.23-31.12.23	
14	Trevor Peel	Treasurer	13.04.23-31.12.23	

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees are members of the U3A and collectively form the committee which runs it. The AGM elects the committee members, but more can be co-opted as required during the year. Each Trustee is required to answer questions regarding their suitability and probity to act as a Trustee for the charity.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

u3a Canterbury & District (C&D) is a learning co-operative which draws upon the knowledge, experience and skills of its members to organise courses, interest groups, events and activities in accordance with the wishes of the membership. Learning is purely for pleasure with no distinction made between group leaders and learners. No accreditation or certificates exist and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained. The organisation exists for members to share and enjoy learning and members are encouraged to both lead and learn.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

A steady increase in membership and a full programme of courses and events took place in 2023. Executive Committee meetings were held monthly.

The Chair, and Vice Chair, attended the Third Age Trust (TAT) AGM in October. The Chair attended Kent u3a Network events; and participated in monthly u3a online Chairs' Forum meetings which launched in August. The University of Kent (UKC) supports u3a C & D, through a Memorandum of Understanding, as part of their commitment to engage with the public through its research, and to strengthen its links with the community. The arrangement supports the u3a Cinema Interest Group with film screenings in the Gulbenkian Arts Centre, as well as enabling u3a C & D members to volunteer to take part in some social research topics. Links were established with the Former Staff Association (FSA) at UKC. Links were re-established with Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU).

Guidance from the Charity Commission, as well as that received from TAT, is reviewed by the committee when received and action taken as necessary.

For more details, see section D below.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

There were 1,100 members at year-end. A Joining Session was held in most months. Hosted by the Membership Team and a band of volunteers it informs potential new members of the u3a ethos and principles as well as explaining current courses and activities available. All new members received a personal welcome letter from the Chair and a copy of our latest Courses programme.

An Open Day took place in May to "showcase" activities within u3a C & D. Information and taster sessions were provided to attract potential new members.

An Information card is produced annually, listing committee members, key contacts, and the Monthly meeting programme. In addition, a monthly News Bulletin is distributed by an editorial team to all members.

We are proud of our extensive programme of over 100 courses which run over the autumn and winter period. They cover both academic and non-academic subjects. All the Tutors, Activity Leaders, Hosts and Coordinators who are involved in the courses are a committed and dependable group of people who share their knowledge, expertise and understanding of a subject or activity. The Summer programme gives tutors and activity leaders an opportunity to run taster sessions in new subjects and ideas. At the annual lunch in April for them, a lively discussion took place and many useful suggestions for the committee were made, some of which are now being developed. During the summer period more outdoor activities complement the learning and social activities programme. A new courses' booking system was successfully launched in September.

The u3a C & D website continued to be a useful platform to publicise details and course activities.

A research group working with the UKC has been active since 2014, with 21 projects currently listed on the national u3a research database. In December the group presented their most recent project, which explored the potential benefits to health and wellbeing of engaging in arts and creative activities by u3a C & D members during Covid-19 lockdown. They were able to identify a range of artistic creative activities which individuals had engaged in, with a variety of related health and wellbeing benefits being expressed.

Three one day outings were organised during the year to "Hidden London", Romney Marsh and Sussex. We also procured two five-day coach holidays to Wales and the Isle of Wight which were enjoyed by all the participants.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The committee agreed the reserves policy in June 2013. It takes account of advice by the Charity Commission and that of the Third Age Trust. The committee on recommendation by the Treasurer determines the actual level.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our u3a is supported through funds received from its members from subscriptions and course fees. These are used to fund our objectives as detailed in section C and D of this report through the hire of course venues, rental of the office accommodation at Orange Street, payment of speaker fees etc. In addition, we receive Gift Aid from HMRC.

A small sum is received as interest payments from the bank.

In 2023 we took the decision to re-instate course fees, which had been discontinued during the COVIC epidemic. During that period, we had greatly reduced hiring of halls and general expenses. We have now fully recommenced our activities, and fees as well as subs are necessary to ensure the financial viability of our u3a.

The committee regularly reviewed financial reports during the year.

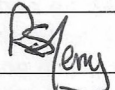
Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Robin Stuart Terry	Trevor Peel
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer

Date 14th March 2024