

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2017

Our performance over the past year is in line with the objectives as laid out in the Constitution.

### Overview

The year has been one of changes, specifically of the retirement of Dave Stevens after his three-year stint as Chairman, we thank him for his hard work during that time. We have been very active as a committee with Beth, Janet and myself attending various meetings concerning the wider U3A movement. The delicate financial balancing act reported in the annual report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 has been continued and I am pleased to report that a continued healthy balance means that we are able to maintain the annual membership fee of £10.

### Membership

The Membership Secretaries have looked after the many aspects of membership and have reported that at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, membership was 797; this includes 160 new members. New members are always going to be part of our continued success as they contribute to activities and forming new groups.

Sadly, a number of members have passed away this year: Joan Oxley; Robert Bell; Barbara Robinson; Ted Ford and John Eden – both Ted and John were founder members of our U3A.

I apologise if I have left anyone out. Please notify our secretary and we will include the names in the minutes of the AGM.

### Groups

Groups are the lifeblood of our U3A and they continue to change, sometimes because the group leader is unable to carry on and no-one feels able to step up to the role, or the venue has changed and no suitable venue has been found. However, as some groups decline others have taken off successfully including Birdwatching; Dietetics; Greek; Italian; Table Tennis; Tai Chi and Zumba.

### Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings have continued to take place at the Crown & Mitre and the room often buzzes with conversation, which is a very pleasing sound.

### Monthly Meetings

We are settled in the new Harraby Community Campus and Theatre for our Monthly Meeting and talk by a guest speaker. Judy Cherrie has successfully arranged a number of talks for 2017 but has decided to step down from this role, we thank her for her hard work. Elspeth Cooke has agreed to take on this role for 2018 and we hope you will support her by attending these events.

## **Communications**

On Ken Parkes retirement Maurice Dutton took over as temporary editor of the Newsletter and is still doing the job therefore we are still looking for someone to take over this vital job. The Newsletter has, for many years, been printed by Opening Doors, unfortunately they ceased to operate in June and we have therefore had to change printers. We are pleased with the quality of the print carried out by Colophon and hope that you are too.

## **Website**

The website remains a place to find information and is updated at regular periods, this includes links to events organised by other U3As open to the general membership. Over the past year we have added our Constitution and, at our last committee meeting, it was agreed that Minutes of our meetings be published on the website.

## **Finance**

Detailed Accounts and the Balance Sheet have been sent to all members.

## **Committee**

The committee have met six times and a sub-committee to consider changes to the Constitution met once.

## **Group Leaders Meeting**

Our annual Group Leaders meeting was held in September and was chaired by Maurice Dutton, Vice Chair in Hilary's absence.

## **Interest Break**

This year saw another successful Interest Break, this time to Malvern with visits to Little Moreton Hall and Hanbury Hall. Thank you to Ali Holman Marr for arranging this. On advice from the Third Age Trust we need to review how this type of break is organised, as the current format breaches the insurance cover provided by the Third Age Trust. Gillian Bamford and Elspeth Cooke are looking into this and an announcement will be made in the next Newsletter.

## **Acknowledgements**

- Treasurer – Beth Banks and independent examiner Steve Rogerson
- Committee Members who have each discharged a particular area of responsibility
- Membership Secretaries – Maurice and Janet Dutton
- Group Leaders on whose enthusiasm and dedication we all depend
- All those who have helped and assisted group leaders and the committee at the Monthly Meeting (serving refreshments)
- Our Members who have contributed to make Carlisle & District U3A a success over the year
- Lastly and not least, Rhona Marr for her dedication as Group Leader of the Creative Gardening Group; organiser of Interest Breaks and the (now dormant) Spring Fling, we hope that she has a happy "retirement" and is able to enjoy the Creative Gardening Group activities without any worries or responsibilities. The committee does appreciate the hard work that Rhona has done over many years and extends a big "Thank You" on behalf of all our membership.

I commend this Report to the floor – Hilary Farrer, Chairman