

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2017 TO 31ST AUGUST 2018

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

Overview

The committee have had a busy time during the past year, both in writing policies and being involved with the wider U3A movement, including the Cumbria Network and North West Region. Janet and Maurice attended an intensive course on the General Data Protection Regulations whilst Hilary attended the Third Age Trust's Conference and AGM. The delicate financial balancing act reported in the annual report to 31st August 2017 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 31st August 2018, membership was 839; this includes 180 new members. New members are always going to be part of our continued success as they contribute to activities and forming new groups.

Sadly, several members have passed away this year: Maureen Smith; Tom Branney formerly Group Leader for Leisurely Walks; Pauline Pearson; Bill Johnson; Joan Reay; Winifred Henderson formerly Group Leader for The Quilters; Gilbert Hutchinson; Mary Teasdale; June Swinhoe Asher; and Aileen Rosie who had been Group leader for Art History and some years ago served on the committee as Treasurer.

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. New groups formed this year include Bridge without Tears, Digital Camera, Quiz, and Journey into the Bible. Two groups have changed leader and renamed themselves: Creative Gardening has become Gardening for Pleasure whilst Inclined to Ramble has become Sole Mates. We wish all of these groups and their members a successful and enlightened journey.

Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings have continued to take place at the Crown & Mitre, this is an ideal time to meet other members who do not form part of your interest group and for new members to meet and discuss the groups they would like to join.

Monthly Meetings

We continue to use the Harraby Community Campus and Theatre for our Monthly Meeting and talk by a guest speaker. Elspeth Cooke has organised a variety of speakers for 2018, some unusual and unexpectedly interesting ones. This year we introduced a "Summer Shindig" at the July Monthly Meeting, giving our performing groups and arts and crafts groups a chance to "show off".

This was similar to Rhona Marr's "Spring Fling" without the tea but as we were using the Harraby Theatre it meant that all our members were able to attend and enjoy the afternoon.

Communications

Maurice Dutton has continued as editor of the Newsletter and the printing of it continues to be done expertly by Colophon.

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. Besides the Constitution and minutes of committee meetings, we have added our new policies. Any new policies will be added as they are written and had committee approval.

Finance

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

Beacon

We have changed our membership and accounting records to the Beacon system, a service provided by the Third Age Trust through a team of volunteers who manage a software company to maintain and support the system. Our initial usage has found this to be a secure and efficient way of managing our day to day business functions and it is hoped that group leaders will start to use Beacon in the coming year.

Committee

The committee have met six times and various sub-committees have met to formulate policies which are in line with advice given to us by the Third Age Trust. Policies written to date are: Social Events & Travel; Procurement of Equipment for Group Use; Problems & Grievances; Newsletter; Data Protection and Equality & Diversity. These policies give both the committee and members clarification and guidance of how our U3A is managed.

Group Leaders Meeting

We have had two Group Leaders Meetings this year. Our November meeting looked at different organisation styles of our groups and for the committee to answer questions on issues arising. April saw the second one which was necessary to pass on information about the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in May.

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
- Bob Reed - although he is no longer a committee member he continues to support us with IT and the Website.
- 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

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