

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 31ST AUGUST 2019

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

Overview

The committee, besides overseeing our own U3A's business have continued to be involved with the wider U3A movement, including the Cumbria Network and the North West Region. Janet and Maurice attended the Third Age Trust's Conference and AGM. The delicate financial balancing act reported in the annual report to 31st August 2018 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 2019, membership was 845; this includes 134 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: Donald Cook; Ted Darling, group leader of Talkin II Art; Marjorie Howarth; Naomi Hurst; Vivian Rees and Wallace Wood.

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 Reiver Riders, a motorcycle group; Introduction to Mindfulness & Meditation and Mahjong. We wish all of these groups and their members a success.

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 organised a variety of speakers for the year. We had another "Summer Shindig" at the July Monthly Meeting, giving our performing groups a chance to "show off".

Communications

Maurice Dutton has continued as editor of the Newsletter and the printing of it continues to be done expertly by Colophon. We now have 416 members/homes receiving Newsletters by email and 364 by post or delivered by hand.

Finance

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

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. One change has been that Group Leaders' contact details are no longer shown on the website, instead members are asked to look at the Beacon portal to access this information.

Beacon

We have continued to use the Beacon for our membership and accounting records. It has also proved to be very useful in enabling us to communicate with the members, by sending emails in bulk. This has been useful as it takes some pressure off the Secretary in sending out communications, it also enables the Chairman to access the database and send emails to members.

Group Leaders Meeting

We had one Group Leaders' meeting in the last year. The leaders were introduced to Beacon and many have signed up to use this system, where they have access to information about their group members only, are able to add members to their group and are able to send emails to members of their group. Members of the Committee were also on hand to answer questions on issues arising.

Holiday to Ireland

In July a group of 28 members went to the Republic of Ireland for a short holiday, staying at the Trim Castle Hotel with visits to the Irish National Stud; Powerscourt Estate and Dublin.

Committee

The committee have met seven times in the past year.

Acknowledgements

- Treasurer – Beth Banks and independent examiner Catherine Garrett
- 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.
- Ena Hutchinson and Gillian Bamford for organising the holiday to Ireland.
- 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