

Exmouth and District U3A AGM 10 March 2018 - Trustees' Report

All our Committee members are Trustees of Exmouth and District U3A so this report is on behalf of all your Trustees (apart from the Treasurer and Groups Co-ordinator who will be presenting their own Reports.)

Our amazing Exmouth and District U3A continues to grow and flourish. We are the second biggest in the South West (after Plymouth) but we still retain our friendliness, informality and welcome. This is due to you ...

Our membership:

This time last year, during our five year history. 1096 members had enrolled
This year: 1298

Before renewals were due, we had: 860 members. Currently, we have 778 members

70% - female

30% - male

96% on email - the envy of all neighbouring U3As!

554 Exmouth (71%)

107 BS (14%)

23	Lympstone	3	West Hill
20	Topsham	3	Woodbury Salterton
18	Woodbury	2	Otterton
16	Exeter	2	Ottery St Mary
13	East Budleigh	2	Whimple
4	Clyst St Mary	1	Clyst St George
4	Honiton	1	Colaton Raleigh
1	Exminster	1	Exton
1	Newton Pop	1	Sidmouth
1	Bideford		

Growth and Transparency

We are a very large U3A and your Committee strives to be transparent in everything that we do. All our Committee meeting minutes are on our Exmouth and District U3A website, along with eleven policy notes. Many thanks to our Secretary, Keith Phillips, for full and reliable minutes and everything else he does to keep our U3A on the 'straight and narrow'. Thank you, Keith.

Talking of 'straight and narrow' our Treasurer, Richard Morgan, who will also be presenting his own report, has supervised the transfer of our funds from HSBC to Lloyds to improve the ease and simplicity of our U3A financial transactions. For financial probity, he has also introduced an expenses form for all members to complete as appropriate. Thank you, Richard.

More 'open' groups

During the year, we managed to achieve 95 groups. We now have 87 groups - 52 of which have vacancies.

Many thanks to Nigel Day, our Groups' Co-ordinator, for all his efforts in supporting our fabulous organisers.

Equipment for organisers

I am glad to report that our equipment: laptop - projector - screen - stand - flip charts - laminator are being increasingly used to support our groups. Many thanks to David Gingell, our Equipment Officer, for co-ordinating this crucial role. Please remember: The equipment is available for your use.

Publicity - Lyn Holmes

Lyn is an inspiration to all of us: volunteered to join the Committee at a New Members' Meeting. Lyn continues to distribute posters and contact local media on our behalf - and actually managed to get a photo and article about our Study Day in the Exmouth Journal. Well done, Lyn!

Newsletter - Mary Solway

During her tenure as Newsletter Editor, Mary has increased the production of our informative and colourful newsletter from ten to twelve per year - a real commitment on her behalf. Thank you, Mary.

NB: This is your Newsletter - it reflects members' interests and opportunities so please continue to send in your contributions to our new Newsletter Editor.

The Beacon database - Administrator Melanie Parker

As well as being our extremely efficient **Membership Secretary** Melanie has continued to update and amend the database so that it is as accurate as we can make it. If there are any errors, it is because you haven't let us know!

It's fair to say that our volunteers would struggle to manage with the vast number of our membership were it not for the Database. It makes it possible for us to communicate with you. Thank you Melanie.

Speakers - Cliff Rebbeck

Cliff kindly stepped in as a co-opted speakers' organiser, and has been courteous and conscientious in welcoming our monthly speakers.

We have continued to support two local charities per year - since last year, these have been: Devon Air Ambulance Trust and East Devon Citizens' Advice.

Thank you for your support. And thank you, Cliff.

Exmouth and District U3A Website - Marion Ricketts

Over the past year, there have been 67,005 visits. Page visits per month have varied from about 4800 in May to nearly 7400 in November. Most visited pages are groups and meetings, but so too are Hot News and Member news.

Of the groups, those most visited include:
book groups, French, geology, line dancing, table tennis, walking groups, and yoga.

Thanks to members and group editors who have helped to keep the site active and interesting with contributions and photographs.
Marion has been managing the website since its inception - a special vote of thanks to her.

Meeters and Greeters and Time Team

Our wonderful Meeters and Greeters and Time Team help and support the Committee in improving our service to you. We have had many positive comments from new members and visitors about the friendly welcome they receive here in Exmouth. As with all great organisations:
'many hands make light work'

Membership Fee

Just to remind you all that, in agreement with neighbouring U3As, any member of another U3A who wishes to join us can do so as an Associate Member (less capitation fee of £3.50 which is paid to National).

Events over the last year: Devon County Show

Devon County Show: with other Devon U3As (34 in all).
Our U3A was instrumental in getting funding from National for this iconic event, plus a Charity rate from the Devon County Show.

Special thanks to Rosemary Walsh who worked tirelessly behind the scenes - and on the stand - to make sure that everything ran smoothly. Also, to volunteers who helped to staff the stand and came to see us.

What I think we learnt most of all was that, whatever the weather predictions, always take waterproofs and boots!

Our lovely map was made by one of our own members:
Alan Lascelles

Last (but not least) Fifth Anniversary Celebration event:

Wednesday 28 June evening cruise - sadly I was out of the country but was told that everyone who attended had a great time, despite the torrential downpour, with good food and company. A fitting end to our anniversary celebrations!

Annual Organisers' Tea Party

This took the form of a lunch afternoon tea at the Royal Beacon Hotel and this year for the first time it was held in August. Many thanks to Nigel Day for organising this very enjoyable event.

Christmas Lunch - happens every year in January -

Many thanks to **Alice and John Robson** for organising this.

Alice has been an indefatigable member of our committee, and supervised the start of our Social Committee.

Many thanks, Alice.

New Members' Meetings

I'm sure Nigel will talk more about these in his report but I just wanted to thank him for improving our information and welcome to new members - I know how much new members appreciate it.

Study Day

This was extremely successful: informative, enjoyable and sociable - as all such events should be. We sold all 150 tickets - and everyone on the waiting list and beyond who wanted a ticket, got one in the end.

Apart from the speakers, what made the event so special were the cakes! All made by our own members. And our volunteer team. As well as the MAGS and TT, Terry Walsh videoed the whole event and John Hunt was our computer guru. Thank you, gents.

A huge vote of thanks to Rosemary Walsh and Mary Solway who, made the Study Day the tremendous success that it was.

Thank you, Mary and Rosemary. We were a great team!

Looking forward:

New General Data Protection Regulations - thanks to Melanie, we have fulfilled all the requirements of these new Regulations, which are to protect us all. Coming into force on 25 May 2018. The 110 of you who haven't yet returned your completed membership renewal form, *please do so as, otherwise, we will be unable to communicate with you.*

Links to other U3As

Hopefully, these will continue, both with the Devon and East Devon Link. *Lots of cross fertilisation and creative ideas*

**Thank You - above all, to my husband, Geoff
'the vicar's wife'**

To all our members - for your enthusiasm, support

To all our organisers - you are stars!

To our Meeters and Greeters

To our Time Team

To our Independent Examiner of our Accounts: **John Ward**

To all our committee, past, present and future, particularly those stepping down to-day:

Melanie Parker
Alice Robson

Cliff Rebbeck
Mary Solway

EDDC

many thanks to EDDC and, in particular, Sue Bater
for continuing to support our U3A.

The Pavilion, and Posh Nosh, for their help and support throughout the year -

I should like to say a particular 'thank you' to Jay Shewry without whom the visuals would
be even less clear than they are

As National constantly reminds us:

U3As grow and develop - if we don't, we fossilise and die.

Which is why I ask you to please support your new Committee and Chair - we know we
can do even better!

Just Keep the good ideas coming!