

Report of the trustees of Garforth, Kippax & District U3A for presentation to the AGM on 1st June 2022

Because our 2021 AGM was held late in the year, in September, this report covers the six months from that month until the end of March 2022.

In September 2021, two months after the final national lockdown ended, most of our interest groups were still inactive having not met during the pandemic or having been meeting under restricted circumstances such as Zoom. However, most began to return to normal face to face meeting during the following month of October 2021.

At the end of March this year our membership had risen from a low of 196 to 214 members. 214 was still relatively low – at its pre-pandemic peak our membership had been 250 - but we were on the increase again having been down to 78% of our pre-pandemic membership. Such a 20% loss was by the way, typical of U3As across the country during the pandemic.

We currently have 21 interest groups up and running which fits very well with what U3A National office tell us represents a healthy U3A. They say we should aim at a number of groups approximately equal to a tenth of our membership.

The U3A committee, our trustees, have continued to meet monthly and to carry out those functions essential to keeping our U3A running.

The committee agreed our Treasurer's proposed budget for the year based on our membership subscriptions as income and determining the limits of spending on groups, administration, members' meeting and committee meeting venue fees etc.

The committee has continued to maintain a set of policies which govern our U3A's functioning and behaviour. Issued currently are a data protection and a privacy policy, a finance policy which sets out what expense claims our treasurer may reimburse, a members' code of conduct, a complaints policy, a grievance policy, a disciplinary policy, an equality diversity inclusion policy and a safeguarding policy. We also have an activities check list and an incident report form.

Our Publicity Secretary has looked after our Facebook pages, published our regular newsletter and co-ordinated with our webmaster to keep our website updated. The publicity secretary together with our webmaster recently performed a comprehensive review of our website to ensure that it is easy to use and is accurate in all respects.

Also on committee we have our Groups Co-ordinator who has worked with our Group Convenors to ensure the smooth running of our interest groups and recently organized a meeting with convenors to pass on essential information and to hear and resolve any problems that they might have encountered in running their groups.

Our Venues Secretary has maintained a list of local venues suitable for our groups to use with information, prices and a risk assessment for each venue.

We have a Speakers Secretary who has found and engaged the speakers for our monthly members' meetings. Over the period of this report for various reasons we booked speakers for only three of the meetings and these were a demonstration of the art of glasswork, how to run your home heating etc. as economically as possible and an astronomy lecture on our solar system.

Several of our committee attended events run by the Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team held in Garforth and Kippax in November and December 2021 and March this year. These events invited local residents to come and meet up with representatives from local community organizations such as ours and we took publicity material and ran a desk to chat with prospective new members.

The committee are aware that we need to increase our membership and begun to make plans for a recruitment drive in this coming U3A year.