

## Glossop U3A Group Annual Reports – 2020

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year started on a high note with our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the Cricket Club. There were displays by the groups demonstrating their activities for everyone to see and we awarded life membership to four of our long serving and hardworking members.

Then the virus arrived and everything that happened before March has become a distant memory. Since then your committee has been busy cooperating with Maureen Hobson and Alice Shaw to organise refunds for trips where possible. Many thanks to Maureen Brierley and Chris Blackett who have delivered the cheques. The committee has been holding meetings on Zoom and, as you know, we are having a 'Zoom' AGM. It would be logistically too difficult to hold an open meeting but you have had the opportunity to vote on resolutions before the meeting.

One or two groups have already started up again but it will not be possible to hold many meetings. Coffee mornings are suspended until further notice.

Unfortunately, some groups have had to close and I would like to thank all group leaders who have worked so hard in the past and are still working to keep things going. Thanks also to Barbara Craven who is stepping down from her post as Assistant Treasurer to concentrate on other important U3A activities including the Thursday Group.

Finally, I would like to thank Jean Lowcock for her work this year as Group and Activities Co-ordinator. Jean will be stepping down after the meeting.

Barbara Connah

### TREASURER'S End of Year Financial Report 2019-20

The purpose of this report is to inform the members of how the Trustees of Glossop U3A have used the members' money this year 2019-20.

All the Committee, as Trustees, have joint responsibility for the proper use and management of the U3A finances, including money paid at group meetings, and for trips and outings, and then to produce an annual statement in accordance to the laws applicable to charities. These Annual Accounts are a means to demonstrate the Trustees proper management of the members' money. During the year the Trustees are kept informed at regular committee meetings of the financial state of the U3A by the treasurer's reports, enabling them to have a regular and updated oversight of the accounts. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring our U3A is financially able to continue its activities and support of members' groups.

As a charity we come under the laws and rules of the Charity Commission and our annual accounts must include all income and expenditure and be reported to them. The Charity Commission rules specify certain financial bandings for the level of reporting and, whichever banding our charity turnover falls within, determines the extent and detail of accounts to be reported to them. Each year we calculate our charity's turnover based on all income and expenditure including all groups (even those with nil returns), and trips and outings. With our income, Glossop U3A produces Receipt and Payment Accounts.

Each group monitors its own finances, keeping their own records up to date throughout the year and then reporting their counter-signed end of year financial statements to the treasurer, (on behalf of the Trustees). The trips and outings organisers keep records for each individual trip or outing and reconcile each activity as soon as possible after the event has occurred, sending the reconciliation to the bookkeeper for agreement with the accounts and then on to

the treasurer. This is a legal obligation with which the leaders, organisers and committee must comply.

The accounts are examined half-annually and annually, but this year the half-annual examination, due the end of March, was cancelled due to the Coronavirus lockdown. The full year check and examination has been completed by our examiner, Chris Parrack and, in his opinion, they show a true and fair picture of Glossop U3A's financial position at the end of 2019-20 and that the financial statement has been properly prepared as required.

The Coronavirus has had a difficult effect on our U3A with most meetings and activities closed since March. This, obviously, has had an effect on our U3A finances with less members joining through the year but still having to pay Third Age Trust membership fees and licences. The rents for the rooms normally hired at Bradbury House were cancelled. Four theatre trips, organised by Maureen Hobson, and two of Alice Shaw's outings were cancelled and members refunded. Another trip has now been postponed until sometime in 2021.

The committee decided to keep our U3A subscription for 2020-21 at £9.00 as was agreed by members at last year's AGM (2019-20) and to monitor costs through the coming year with regard to any increases in rents or Third Age Trust Subscription fees, licences and the size of the membership.

I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and support during this difficult and different year. In particular many thanks to our assistant treasurer Barbara Craven for her work in banking monies received, to our bookkeeper Jo Mortlock for her assiduousness in keeping our books correct and to Chris Parrack for his end of year examination of our accounts.

Maureen Brierley

#### COMMITTEE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year started off with routine activities which for the Secretary means mostly taking minutes of meetings. There is very little correspondence in the post with most communication arriving by email. We get a newsletter every month from the Third Age Trust but it doesn't need me to circulate it as anyone can register to receive it. With the new website up and running we also receive enquiries direct to the Chair, mostly potential speakers.

Then the virus struck and we had to close down all our meetings. It also meant a large amount of information from the Third Age Trust advising us each time the government guidelines changed. They also sent out a lot of ideas about keeping in touch. Chris Blackett has been putting all of this on the website so I hope that you have been checking it out from time to time.

Recently There has been a lot of work to do preparing letters to send out relating to the AGM which is to be a closed meeting on Zoom this year. Also, as groups prepare to restart, I will be collecting covid risk assessments. Let's hope that we can restart safely.

Glyn Connah

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have enjoyed holding the position of Membership Secretary for the past 12 months. Obviously, things turned out not as planned working with our successful routine.

I have worked hard & consistently along with our dedicated committee to keep Glossop U3A members connected during uncertain times. I feel that I know all our members as I have contacted via phone or email.

Our members are very important to Glossop U3A. We look forward to renewing our membership for 20/21. We are always open to new ideas for groups & activities.

To me the most important part of U3A is that there really is something that everyone can engage with.

Diane Butterworth

#### GROUP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The following groups have closed. Not all due to COVID-19, most age related & ill health: Easy Listening, Flower Arranging, Fun With Flowers, Genealogy, Jewellery Making, Strollers. Some of the leaders have asked if any of their members wanted to take over the group. So far nobody as far as I know have taken up the request.

Jean Lowcock

#### ALICE'S TRIPS

What a disappointment this last year has been. Obviously due to this Coronavirus Pandemic all our lives, one way or another, have been seriously and have lost out in a very important way – wellbeing. Locked in our homes unable to see family and friends and no trips/outings or holidays to look forward to. We must all stay positive and hopefully next year at least there will be Alice's Trips to look forward to. Just a LITTLE ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

Two of my trips have been cancelled. The Shibden Hall outing was very popular and we were all pretty much devastated not to be going. Just a few had put their names down for the Dads Army Themed lunch at Gorton Priory but this was again canceled.

The Manchester Police Museum trip has been postponed until next year. I am hopeful this will go ahead with a few tweaks when a mutual date can be agreed upon.

My first outing in September last year was "first class" – Lancaster's Hidden History. The day was kick-started with an extremely interesting visit to Lancaster Priory. We had coffee/biscuits and a fascinating tour. Then on to the 'Borough' Lancaster for an excellent lunch. Off through the Forest of Bowland hearing tales of Pendle Witches and a potted history of the area culminating at the quaint hamlet of Scorton. The weather was kind to us and I think a good/pleasant and interesting day was had by all.

No year would be complete without our Annual Trip to Boundary Mill. November saw us off for a 'Christmas Spend' and lunch at this favourite outlet.

Sadly 'that was it' for last year. So I am afraid it's 'here's to the next time' whenever that will be.

To conclude I must add that your support for my trips is greatly appreciated

#### BRIDGE

Membership of the group had grown to 19 and we were having regular meetings with 3 or 4 tables before they were cancelled due to Covid.

Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions it will not be practical to resume normal bridge without a lot of additional precautions and it is unlikely we will resume in the near future. Some members are playing online and there is help for anyone who would like to take this up

Chris Blakett

#### CROCHET

Not much to report. We were still meeting up with Amaya in Whitfield House to crochet squares and chat. Still only a small group of stalwarts.

Barbara Connah

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Current Affairs Group meet on the last Friday of the month at 10-00pm in Bradbury House. We discuss topics, both large and small, that are currently in the news. All views are welcome. We are a

friendly group, as well as serious subjects we also have light-hearted ones that provide plenty of laughs. All new members would be made very welcome.

Barbara Roberts, Group Co-ordinator.

#### DANCING FOR FUN

Normal routine up until Lockdown, some new dances this year. All members of the group with internet connection were sent demos of dances to help with their exercises. We will see how well they did next September.

Maureen Brennan

#### FLOWER ARRANGING

Sadly, this is the last year for the group as I must step down.

The highlight of the year was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Glossop U3A. The group worked so hard to produce a wonderful display which was much admired.

I hope they will carry on flower arranging. It is such a rewarding hobby.

Joan Collier – group leader

#### FOOD APPRECIATION

This group meets about every six weeks, we go to different restaurants, cafes & will sometimes have a pleasant themed lunch at one of our members home. We have a yearly cheese & wine buffet lunch which is always a huge success.

Jean Lowcock

#### GENEALOGY

This year has been a difficult one, I am sure the group will have spent some of their time on research. Before the Lockdown we spent some time researching DNA and several members took the test. They had some interesting results.

Maureen Brennan

#### GERMAN CONVERSATION

This small, but select group meet on Monday mornings at Glossop Cricket and Bowling Club for an hour. We practice reading, listening and speaking with the emphasis on modern German and relevant themes, such as holidays, leisure, food and drink, with a mixture of worksheets and recordings. We look at the difficult structures and patterns of the language and try to master the complexities of word order, the case system, use of the past tense and genders. The atmosphere in the group is relaxed and although there is a wide range of ability and language competence the sessions are fun and hopefully the members enjoy the experience!

Roger Mays - Group Tutor

#### GETTING CRAFTY

Having met as a group only the once there is perhaps not a lot to say.

Our one and only meeting had everyone making Easter cards that were pop-up or 3D. I think the 12 people who came along enjoyed themselves, so much so that I think the group was going to be about 20 the next time.

I had planned to show how to make Origami boxes at our second meeting which I will do as and when we can get together. I have also planned whilst being in lockdown some other projects including iris fold Christmas cards, decorations and a table centrepiece.

Brigette Manchee

#### GLOBETROTTERS

Globetrotters seem to have crammed a lot of travel in this year even though our programme was unexpectedly cut short. We went to the far side of the world to see New Zealand, enjoyed a world

cruise, and went to Egypt - at last getting to Africa - a continent that has been sadly lacking from our travels so far. We travelled from Peaks to Polders, then took in the Royal Yacht Britannia too. We are looking forward to next year - whatever it brings

Pam Zuntz

### GOOD COMPANIONS

This still appears to be a popular group consisting at the moment of all women although the group is open to all. We currently have 65 members. We meet once a month – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 10.30am. The venue – Glossop Cricket Club – North Road.

The meeting commences with a social half hour chatting over tea/coffee and biscuits. Trips and relevant dates are announced – occasionally a speaker – then the time is spent money collecting for days out. Once a month we enjoy a Sunday Lunch at various venues.

We have had a couple of speakers this last year. In October Martin and Nic amused us with details of their experience appearing on ‘Pointless’. Then in February Jo Osborne came along to talk about Anne Lister of Shibden Hall a fascinating story of “Gentleman Jack”. This was obviously meant to tie in with our cancelled trip to Shibden Hall. Our Christmas Celebrations were held at Dunkenhall Hotel – the theme being “Christmas with the Beatles”.

Unfortunately, there have been no trips specific to Good Companions partly because we had to cut short our U3A year. Our last meeting in March had an attendance of only 8 members.

We are hopeful that next year will bring some normality and we will be able to make up for lost time. We look forward to once again meeting up with friends – having a chat over a cup of tea/coffee – enjoying Sunday Lunches together and to have days(1/2 days) out. But no early starts!!!

Alice Shaw

### GROW YOUR OWN

Just as the ban on group gatherings came into force we were about to start with our programme of speakers and planning our trips/outings. Two speakers had to be cancelled and any plans put on hold. We are hoping that the restrictions will be over and we can start again in September.

Maureen Hobson

### HISTORY1

Sadly our group leader Norma Wright passed away earlier this year, and the caretaker leaders Barbara Craven and Maureen Brierley have now taken over the running of this group. Norma will be sadly missed. We had arranged a trip to Manchester Cathedral in April which was postponed due to the corona virus. The group has listened to some interesting talks this year and collaborated on group topics. Zoom is our way of holding meetings during the corona virus outbreak, but our usual venue is Bradbury house, 2nd Friday 10.30-12.00. We will probably be looking for new members in the near future.

Barbara Craven

### HISTORY2

It has been a roller coaster type year for the group. Our meetings on the first Friday of the month were varied with very interesting talks by our members. It was a pleasure to have such a wide variety of topics and these were excellent in their presentations, thoroughly enjoyable.

However it is with great sadness that we lost two of our valuable members; Brian Daley who died in Autumn and John Hamshere died at Christmas. Both will be sadly missed by the group and our sympathy goes to their families.

We had some interesting talks in the pipe-line but these will have to wait for the okay to commence meeting again when we look forward to seeing everyone and anyone who wishes to join the group will be welcome.

Dorothy Shaw - Coordinator

#### LOCAL HISTORY

Like other groups, Local History has only had five meetings this year. Hopefully we will be up and running as soon as possible with an interesting program of topics. We have kept in touch by a weekly email which although not ideal, is better than nothing.

Pat Searle, Group Co-ordinator, Local History Group.

#### KNIT AND NATTER

We meet in a lovely room in Whitfield House and have a wide range of knitting and nattering abilities. We have cups of tea or coffee and eat biscuits, most of us doing this and knitting at the same time. We are a friendly group but are full at the moment.

Sue Wraight

#### MONDAY WALKERS

Our small group continued to walk on Monday mornings for two to three hours, until lockdown.

We usually walk about five or six miles.

New members are always welcome.

Geoff Truelove.

#### MUSIC APPRECIATION

The first half of 2019-20 was full and enjoyable, with a wide range of presentations from members. Starting in September we shifted meetings to the afternoon on the third Thursday of the month, 1pm for a 1.30 start and finishing at 3.30pm. This proved to be a great success with a number of former members being able to return. As with all other U3A groups and the wider world, everything came to a halt at the beginning of March. We have a good model in place but we need to know when we can start again safely.

Alan Conchie

#### PLAY READING

We are happy, would be thespians who enjoy our monthly meetings. Drama, murder mystery, comedy & pantomime. We enjoyed them all.

Sylvia Rogerson

#### POETRY READING

Another successful year – perhaps too successful in a way as our numbers have increased, meaning that at meetings, there is reduced time for each member and not everyone can read their selected poems.

During the Lockdown period we created an email network, sending members a weekly email containing at least 1 poem, so that instead of a monthly Poetry fix we were able to have a weekly Poetry fix, which hopefully, ensured the continuation of our Group and members enjoyment.

We have collected the “emailed” poems and put them into a booklet, if anyone would like a copy please let me know.

Graham Sharratt.

### POSH NOSH

What Posh Nosh involves is going to one another's houses sharing food. There are 12 in the group at the moment. The host chooses the menu, ie German, Italian, Greek food, etc. and delegate members to prepare segments of the menu. We have a really good time preparing the food.

Joyce Wilson

### QUILTING

Monica Haggart

### SACRED GEOMETRY

As there are only four of us, we meet monthly at my house. I charge £1 for refreshments and what we need. Three of us have been doing it for sometime but the latest member requires a lot of help when she attends. We use a compass and ruler, starting off with a circles in our books which is then developed into different shapes. It keeps the brain active! There is also a good social atmosphere.

We stopped our normal work to draw a selection of work that was presented, with other groups' work, at the 'open' day. Some visitors thought it was an extension of the Art groups work.

Since lockdown we have not met.

My table will accommodate six people. So there is room for two more people, preferably men as there is only one man in our group.

Elsie Gleadhill

### SCRABBLE

We meet every week on a Thursday. It should be 10 to 12 but it usually runs over. Four people play. It is held at 5 Howard Close. I provide coffee each week. It is free of charge.

Barbara Sharp

### STROLLERS

With a core number of 25 members we continue to enjoy our monthly strolls including some old favourites and a few new additions. Always ending in pleasant surroundings for lunch

Carol Littlewood

### THEATRE

Maureen Hobson Theatre Group.

### THURSDAY GRUOP

The Thursday Group enjoyed the Talks & Themes up to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 when we then had to go into lockdown. The programme was full until the end of July but then we had to cancel the speakers. Hopefully sometime in the future we may be able to restart. The speakers have asked to be informed when we start again.

Rita France