

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020/21 of the Great Glen Interests Group U3A

Registered Charity Number 1099411

1. Overview of Charity

The Great Glen Interests Group U3A was established in November 2001; it is affiliated to the Leicestershire & Rutland Network of U3As and nationally to the Third Age Trust. About 40% of current members live in Great Glen and 20% in Oadby, with the remainder generally from other locations within five miles of Great Glen.

The Objects are:

- to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle-aged and older people who are not in full time gainful employment in Great Glen and its surrounding locality, and
- to provide facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

Great Glen U3A is one of 1,050 U3As in the UK and one of 25 in Leicestershire & Rutland. It is a self-help organisation.

2. Committee Structure and Members, and in-year Changes

The Committee of Trustees meets routinely on the first Tuesday in each month. The members at the year-end are Chairman: Robert Mansfield, Vice Chairman and Groups Co-ordinator: John Johnson, Speakers Secretary: Patricia Mansfield, Treasurer: Roger Edwards, Membership Secretary: Janet Fanko, Newsletter Editor: Lynda Williams and Gift Aid: Bill Maxted. Co-opted Business Secretary: Elaine Ball-Norbury. Business Secretary to the June AGM was Stella Orbell and Elaine Batchelor was Secretary from the AGM until February 2021.

The Committee is supported by three non-Committee posts: Peter Russell our Webmaster and Beacon Administrator, Lynn Francis our Accessibility and Welfare Officer and Learn Something New Co-ordinator Sue Russell.

3. Overview of Year

Membership dropped by over ten percent from its peak to 340 at the end of March 2021. To enable more people to benefit from our group activities, we continued to set a reduced subscription for 45 members of other U3As. As a result of the pandemic we recruited a handful only of new members.

As from early March 2020 group meetings were suspended as a result of Covid-19. Considerable efforts were made to acquire and use communications technology, including email, telephone, Zoom teleconferencing and *You Tube* videos to sustain contact and engagement and to develop new formats for activity, where practical.

Our first *Zoom* monthly speaker meeting was held in August. Eventually we established nearly half our groups as virtual groups. The groups concerned were: the two Book Groups, French for Fun, Family History, History, Military History, Mini bridge, Ukuleles, Countdown, Singing for Pleasure, Quiz and Writing for Pleasure.

Learn Something New ran some new virtual craft sessions, periodic Cryptic Crosswords, Countdown, Would I lie to you? and a Murder Mystery.

The Group Leader for Mini bridge sent out daily challenges with number 351 being sent on 31st March. The Table Top Games leader sent fifty-one weekly cryptic word and number challenges sourced by members.

Our group programme continued to evolve during the year. The Writing for Pleasure Group started to meet regularly in 2020, and members and friends wrote a book "Our Memories – Their History" which was published in November 2020.

The format of our Christmas production was changed to include an external speaker and a variety of contributions from members.

In March, we converted our website to the TAT Site Builder application. This has enabled us to spread the workload by having more web page editors and to make use of the new u3a branding. It allowed us to add more images, an events diary and the community noticeboard.

We had periodic discussions with our landlords about handling the Covid health and safety implications and came to an understanding with the Methodist Church of how we would return to face-to-face meetings later in the year.

We were pleased to award life memberships to Sue and Peter Russell for their exceptional service to the Great Glen u3a over many years.

4. Overview of Finance

The U3A received total annual subscriptions from members of £4.8K but many were paid prior to the covid-19 outbreak. Our sessional income was trivial as all Zoom meetings were free.

Our total income dropped so significantly, i.e. to below £10K, that we shall be registered with the Charity Commission as a very small charity.

Reserves at the 2021 year-end were significantly in excess of the target of three months' turnover. This will help us to promote the u3a, to recruit new members and to open up groups where members are cautious about returning to face-to-face meetings. The redevelopment of the Village Hall and Youth Centre looms on the horizon and will present us with challenges in providing accommodation for five of our groups and our monthly meeting.

5. Governance

Committee members, who are also Trustees, met in excess of the regular once per month; most Trustees attended every meeting. The Trustees reviewed the risk register in February and concluded that adequate arrangements for risk management were in place.

We invited prospective Trustees to attend a Committee meeting before seeking nominations for election.

We joined The Third Age Trust's membership, group administration and finance system for U3As (known as BEACON) in January 2020. We have used it to maintain contact with members.

The voting at our June AGM was undertaken virtually, as permitted by the Charity Commission. WE were advised that this permission would expire at the end of 2020, and we therefore held a Special General Meeting to change the constitution to permit virtual meetings in future. The Charity Commission was notified of this change in December 2020.

We updated virtually all of our policies and our Group Leaders' Handbook. We now have a revised Privacy and Data Protection Policy, Accessibility Policy, Disciplinary procedure, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Financial Policy. We also reviewed our portable appliance electrical testing (PAT) arrangements to ensure all items, especially those provided by members, were included.

6. Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

The Balance Sheet shows nearly £15,700 in the bank including £3,500 of prepaid subscriptions.

| | 2021-21 | 2019-20 | | 2020-21 | 2019-20 |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| INCOME | (£000) | (£000) | EXPENDITURE | (£000) | (£000) |
| Membership | 4.8 | 5.2 | Rent | 0 | 13.6 |
| Income from Groups | 0.1 | 11.7 | Third Age Trust Membership & Magazine | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| Gift Aid | 2.9 | 3.1 | Running costs | 2.3 | 3.3 |
| Book sales, etc | 0.6 | | Book production | 0.5 | |
| Trips & Swimming | 0 | 2.5 | Trips and Lifeguard Charge | 0 | 32.6 |
| TOTAL | 8.4 | 22.5 | TOTAL | 4.6 | 21.6 |
| Actual Surplus | £3,818 | £984 | | | |

We reviewed our financial controls in January and concluded that these were appropriate for our U3A.

Robert Mansfield
Chairman

Roger Edwards
Treasurer

10 April 2021