

## Trustee's Report 2022-23

The last three years have been a struggle for everyone and as a result Hope Valley U3A has been through a difficult time. Hopefully we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The members of the committee did sterling work during the pandemic and have kept Hope Valley U3A alive. However, several committee members, have come to the end of their period in office or need to step back from their significant commitment to HV U3A. These committee members have already retired or resigned from the committee. This has made it difficult to follow the precise procedure for electing committee members. This needs to be remedied, however the remedy will take time. To make this time and provide continuity the six current committee members are standing for re-election.

The committee should have a minimum of five to a maximum of fifteen members. Being a committee member does take some commitment, which is sometimes difficult to fulfil. To spread the load, we would like to recruit new members to the committee to make the numbers up to a minimum of ten to twelve. Hopefully, the new members will join the committee over the course of the next year. The volunteers would initially be seconded to the committee for them to decide if they want to serve as an elected member. If they do, they will stand for election at the next AGM. We have already had two volunteers who would like to be seconded to the committee. If you think you can contribute to the running of HV U3A but would like to find out more about the roles before making the commitment you are welcome to come to one of the monthly committee meetings as an observer.

The trustees are delighted that so many interest groups have restarted and would particularly thank the members who are striving to establish a Games, intermediate German and the Real Ale and Wine (RAW) groups. The trustees have allocated seed funding of £40 to help establish each new group.

Trustees have begun to develop relationships with other U3A's and held an initial meeting with committee members of Bakewell U3A to explore areas for collaboration.

Membership increased from a low of 77 to 110 by the end of the year. To consolidate this growth the Trustees are looking to publicise Hope Valley U3A by refreshing the web site and Facebook page to compliment a newsletter and articles in local village magazines. The Trustees would welcome volunteers to generate the publicity materials with the help of the Group Conveners.

Hope Valley U3A has also been able to reach out into the community by supporting Ukrainian Summer School.

The Trustees' thanks go to Paul McGreavy, Jacque Bevan, John Anderson who have retired from their offices and are sad to see Ann Middleton step down as secretary.

It is the membership and the group convenors who make Hope Valley U3A. It is the membership and convenors who create and run the interest groups and forums that stimulate and support its members. The Trustees role is to help facilitate the members create and run the interest groups and events. Thanks must go to the all the members of Hope Valley U3A who create and environment where they can express and enjoy themselves.