

# Leigh Belfairs U3A

Registered Charity No. 1186713

Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2020

## **The Charity and It's Organisation**

Leigh Belfairs U3A is a charity and the trustees serving it are its Executive Committee who are responsible for financial management, development and co-ordination. The Committee meets monthly. It is made up of 4 Officers, who are the Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary and up to 10 other members. All committee members are elected annually and serve in accordance with our Constitution.

## **The trustees for the year 2019 to 2020**

### Officers:

Maryann Perry	Chair
Glenis Daynes	Vice-Chair/Membership
Paul Stalham	Treasurer
Vivien Fletcher	Secretary

### Non-Officers

Clare Blaney	Catering
Maureen Eldred	Minutes Secretary
Freda Fitzpatrick	Speaker Secretary
Sharon Foreman	New Group Support
Judith Goodenough	Charity Commission Registration /Financial Support
Christine Hawkins	Group Coordinator
Elaine Lennon	Membership Secretary
Janet Monk	Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

## **Charitable Purpose**

The charitable purpose of the U3A is the advancement of education and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Leigh Belfairs and its surrounding locality.

## **Public Benefit**

The Trustees are required by the Charity Commission to demonstrate that their objectives are for the public benefit and that they conform to its charitable objective.

Membership is open to older people who are no longer in full time employment and at 31 March there were 130+ members. New members can join at any time during the year. We are a very friendly community based U3A.

Currently we have 15 groups, a monthly general meeting and various outings throughout the year. Our aim is provide a welcoming environment where members can make new friendships while sharing their interests and knowledge with others. All our activities are organised and run by members who volunteer their time and experience.

## **Activities**

The Group coordinator is always keen to hear from any member who has knowledge to share or wishes to learn something new. Some groups meet in each other's homes and some in hired premises or other locations. All our groups are popular but as many are held in members' homes numbers attending are limited. We would love more members to be involved.

Full support will be given to members who wish to be group leaders/hosts.

Some groups have been running for many years and continue to be popular and special thanks must be given to Brenda Kirk, a founder member who has hosted many groups at her home since our U3A was established. This year the Gardening Group members inspired us when they opened their gardens for us to visit and in 2019 a new group – Floral Art and Design was set up by Christine Allen.

The Book Exchange, always popular with members has successfully raised funds throughout the year. We must thank Shirley, Betty and Rita who after 5 years have retired and handed over to Lorraine and Barbara to continue their great work.

Jan and Rita along with support from their husbands have successfully followed in Jack's footsteps and organised great outings including visits to Chatham Docks and Kensington Palace. Maryann and Vivien have also booked tickets for local theatre productions.

We have held two Christmas events, our Lunch at Affinity and our Christmas tea at the December monthly meeting, both organised by Maryann and well supported by the committee and members.

Freda has continued to book a varied and interesting selection of speakers for the monthly meetings.

Our thanks also to the team of volunteers who made tea and coffee during the year and to Richard who not only displays our banner every month but also ensures our PA system is in working order.

Finally thank you to all those who willingly give their help and support to our U3A in so many other ways.

## **Committee**

The Committee has been very busy this year.

It has been necessary to register our U3A with the Charities commission because our total income exceeds £10,000. The major work has been undertaken by Judith who we would like to thank for her hard work, energy and commitment.

Janet, our Webmaster and Newsletter editor has worked hard to set up a membership database so that we can email important documents to members. This saves lots of time and money so please keep our membership team up to date with your details and remember you can find lots of information on our website.

The committee has continued to review all policies and procedures to ensure we comply with current legislation.

We have participated in meetings of our local network of U3A's. Paul and Judith have also attended a financial workshop held by the Essex Association.

Finally I must now come to the retirement of committee members who have worked so very hard to ensure we have a successful U3A. Vivien and I are stepping down as Secretary and Chair. Vivien will stand for nomination for the committee for one more year in order to provide help and support to the new post holders. I am stepping down to concentrate on running the on-line Bridge group which has been very successful.

Sadly Judith, Christine, Clare, Elaine and Glen are all leaving the committee at this AGM. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our U3A.

Judith is the last member of the original Committee that established this U3A in 2014. The Committee on your behalf would like to extend our grateful thanks for all her contributions throughout her years of service; for her help, advice and friendship. Although she is retiring from the committee I know she will always be a valued and valuable member of our U3A.

Maryann Perry - Chair

On behalf of Trustees Leigh Belfairs U3A

August 2020