

LEIGH BELFAIRS u3a

Registered Charity No.: 1186713 Principle Address: 26 Green Lane, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 5AP

Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2021

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 members. All committee members are elected annually and serve in accordance with our Constitution.

The Trustees for the year 2020 to 2021

Officers:

Gillian Knight – Chair

Alf Levy - Vice Chair

Paul Stalham - Treasurer

Maureen Eldred - Secretary

Non-Officers:

Diane Levy - Minutes Secretary

Beverly Wohl - Membership Secretary

Sharon Foreman - Assistant Membership Secretary

Sharon Waller - Group Co-ordinator

Janet Monk - Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

Vivien Fletcher – Committee Member

Charitable Purpose

The Charitable purpose of the u3a is to participate in shared common ground, providing a framework of education, social activities and personal development for those who are retired from full time work, and is open to all Leigh Belfairs u3a members.

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 as at 31st March there were 85 members. New members can join at any time during the year. We are a very friendly and welcoming based u3a.

Currently we have 15 groups, although not all are able to meet face to face due to Covid restrictions. Some groups have been able to continue to meet electronically via Zoom. Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment where members are able to make new friendships, whilst sharing their interests and knowledge with others. All our activities are organised and run by members who volunteer their time and experience.

Activities

Throughout the restrictions due to Covid 19, technology has played an important role. Maryann's Bridge group has had strong support, continuing to play on line. The Book group had successful Zoom meetings and some Psychology members managed to meet. Both the Book group and Psychology have resumed face to face meetings following government guidelines. Judith Goodenough started a new group "Interesting Essex" who meet via Zoom, and they are hoping to visit some of the places that they have researched, in the future.

The group co-ordinator is always keen to hear from any member who has knowledge to share or wishes to learn something new. Under normal circumstances some groups meet in each other's homes and some in hired premises or other locations. We would love more members to be involved and full support will be given to members who wish to be a group leader or host.

The Book sale is always popular with members and in normal circumstances would successfully raise funds throughout the year. We must thank Shirley, Betty and Rita for all their hard work in organising our book sales at the meetings. An equally big thank you to Loraine and Barbara who will be taking over the running of the book stall, when we are back in the hall.

Committee

Whilst the committee has been unable to meet face to face, we have been busy and have continued to meet regularly on Zoom. Due to meetings, such as the AGM, having to be undertaken electronically, the National Office reviewed the legal requirements surrounding this and as a result has introduced a New Model Constitution. The committee has worked hard on reviewing this and it has now been put forward for adoption by the membership. We have also continued to review all policies and procedures to ensure we comply with current legislation.

Janet our Webmaster and Newsletter editor has worked hard to provide our members with Newsletters which contained many interesting articles.

Finally, I must come to the retirement of committee members who have worked so hard to ensure we have a successful u3a. The last two years has seen at least 8 Committee members retiring and we can't thank them enough for their amazing contribution in running your u3a. Vivien, who stepped down from the Secretary role last year, is leaving the committee this year. Vivien is one of the original steering committee members and her vast knowledge will be very much missed. I do have to give her a big thank you for the help and support she has given to our new post holders throughout what has been a difficult year.

We cannot continue without sufficient Committee members; therefore, we are hoping that some of you could consider joining the current administration to help Leigh Belfairs u3a continue being a happy and successful group.

Gillian Knight

Chair

On behalf of Trustees Leigh Belfairs u3a August 2021