



Littleborough u3a - Annual Report 2022

The Annual General Meeting of Littleborough u3a was held on Monday, 13th June 2022. For the previous two years it had been necessary to hold the AGMs via the Zoom Video Conferencing facility so Mark Pearson, Treasurer and Acting Chair, welcomed seventy-three members and two guests to a much appreciated face to face meeting at the Coach House. Minutes of the AGM are published on our website in draft form until they are approved at the 2023 meeting.

Bob Coley, Chair, was unable to be present at the meeting but his annual report (transcript below) was read out by Sue Temperley.

I am sure none of us would have believed that during the whole of 2021 the monthly meetings would be held via Zoom especially when 9 months of 2020 was also via Zoom as our past Chair Sandra reported last year, as well as last years AGM.

All but one of our monthly speakers during 2021 were via Zoom, which were all very good, but it does not make up for the get-together at the Coach House that so many U3A members look forward to and enjoy, and this is where I must thank Marilyn for her outstanding work and time organising a great variety of guest speakers for us all.....Thank you Marilyn.

There has been one thing I have looked forward to each month, and that has been Littleborough's own U3A Newsletter that has been put together by our News Letter Editor.....Sue, which has kept us up to date with Group News, Jokes, Lynn's Quiz, Barrie's competitions etc Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its content over the past year.....Thank you Sue for the editorial.

There is an onerous job of any U3A group which is that of the Treasurer, and for this I thank Mark who does a good job of looking after our finances.

Gillian's first year as Groups' Coordinator has not been an easy one due to the Covid restrictions but I am sure she will find her tasks will get more rewarding as time goes on. Thank you... Gillian.

*Liz, our Business Secretary was thrown into this position many months ago and has done an excellent job of looking after our business affairs such as the Charity Commission etc..
Thank you Liz*

And, of course, Lynn took over the Membership Secretary's Role as well as looking after Beacon's administration, both tasks are very important and I thank Lynn for undertaking them.

Our Website and the Media for the last 3 years has been undertaken by Barrie who has kept information flowing around Littleborough and

surrounding areas. The sound system at our Coach House Meetings has also been managed by Barrie. Barrie is retiring from the Committee this time and I thank you for all you have done as part of the Committee and for Littleborough U3A.

I would also like to thank our valued committee members, Pearl and Chris who are also retiring, for their commitment during their time on the Committee.

Our many groups are led by our amazing Group Convenors who also deserve a big thank you.

Last but not least I would like to thank all the helpers at our monthly meetings.

Littleborough U3A is a thriving group which continues to grow. There are a lot of interesting and exciting groups and our monthly speaker meeting is regaining in popularity.

Finally, I would like to thank all our wonderful members at Littleborough U3A for their continued support.

Bob Coley
Chair - Littleborough U3A

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the Annual Accounts

Annual Accounts, audited by David Costa, a local independent accountant, had been previously circulated with the AGM papers and were unanimously approved at the meeting. Mark Pearson, Treasurer, reported.....

Our U3A operates two bank accounts, a Business Account (for the day to day running of the organisation) and a Social Account (in which is held monies ring-fenced to certain interest groups). Each year, these accounts are examined by an independent local accountant, David Costa. Our business year is 1st April to 31st March and we bank with Barclays Bank in Rochdale.

In April 2020, the Business Account starting balance was £8,148.25. This balance was sufficient to enable the committee to offer members a subscription-free year; a decision taken due to the pandemic forcing groups such as ours to suspend a number of its activities which rely on social interaction. Even though we did not charge a membership subscription for existing members in 2021-22, we did incur the annual fees payable to the central U3A organisation, comprising capitation fees and an annual licence fee for the use of Beacon, the online database used to manage membership, interest groups and communications.

Our U3A remained active over the year, concentrating on the provision of activities online and through an enhanced monthly newsletter. Wherever possible, speakers who could deliver talks over Zoom were engaged and in brief periods, a restricted return to the Coach House for some limited face to face activities took place. This mainly online activity hopefully offered something to our members and we did attract 12 new members during the year.

Our operating costs increased during the year, primarily as a result of funding a Third Age Matters magazine to all members and through the fees paid to run online monthly speakers and other virtual events. Investment in a colour inkjet printer enabled us to print hard copies of the enhanced newsletters for those members without email addresses whilst reducing our annual stationery and postage costs. We continued to subscribe two Zoom licences, for hosting online meetings, reducing this to one licence and eventually investing at the end of the year, in a 12-month licence for the 2022-23 financial year.

Our activities over the year, despite the pandemic, helped to keep membership renewals at a high level and the largest proportion of our income for the year, was membership renewals for the 2022-23 year. I thank you all for promptly renewing your subscriptions.

The Social Account comprises money that is ringfenced to some of the interest groups that operate within our U3A and is used for income and expenditure relating to any trips or social occasions for which members pay a fee and for which all income is then disbursed in providing the event (in other words, our U3A does not profit from this income and expenditure). The account includes an unallocated balance of £389.03 which is not ringfenced to any interest group. Rather than transferring this back into the Business Account, it has been left in the Social Account to ensure that there is never a nil or negative balance in that account. Within the examined accounts is £409 paid by members for two 'foodies' events; a meal at the Bellavista restaurant which was held in April 2022 and afternoon tea at Love Grows, subsequently cancelled and deposits returned to those members who paid in advance for this event.

We ended the year in a strong financial position and a decision was taken by the Committee to open an investment account with our bank and to transfer into this account a sum of money representing annual turnover. Due to poor continued interest rates, the account attracts very little interest, but it ringfences a sum of money which could be used to finance our U3A for 12 months should another event outside of our control take place. It also protects those funds from potential banking fraud, which is a continued threat despite the additional checks and counter-authorisations that we have in place on our accounts.

I will end by thanking my fellow committee members for their support in my first year as Treasurer, group co-ordinators who have been very helpful with the management of interest group funds and also Angela Lorimer from whom I took over the reins in June 2021 - for her detailed hand over of the finances and background support in my first few months in office

Mark Pearson
Treasurer.

Littleborough u3a Committee Elections

The following members were elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve as members of Littleborough u3a committee for the year 2022 to 2023

Robert (Bob) Coley	Chair
Sue Temperley	Vice Chair
Mark Pearson	Treasurer
Liz Walker	Business Secretary
Marilyn Aldred	Speaker Co-ordinator
Gillian Pearson	Groups Co-ordinator
Lynn Wild	Beacon Co-ordinator/Acting Membership
Secretary	
Sandra Kokocki	Committee Member
Co-opted Members	
Barrie Whitehead	Website and Communications Manager
Josephine Wiggans	Committee Member

**Report compiled by Liz Walker - Business Secretary
October 2022**