



NORTH WEST REGION OF U3As

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Charity Registration no 1159091

2022-2023

On 6th November 2014 the North West Region of u3as was registered as a Charity and is administered by Trustees who are also members of the Executive Committee. The North West Region of u3as is subject to the Charities Act and associated regulations and the Trustees are accountable to the Charity Commission as well as Member u3as for the administration of this charity.

The Trustees (Executive Committee) until AGM June 2022

Chair Maureen Eccles
Vice-Chair Jacqui Owen
Secretary Mary Waters from September 2021;
Angela Bond from April to September 2021
Treasurer Alan Hough
Shared Learning Maggy Simms
Member Bill Woods
Member Hilary Scarratt
Member Gill Russell

from June 2022-April 2023

Mary Waters (Retired February 2023)
Gillian Russell (acting chair from Feb 2023)
Hilary Scarratt

Alan Hough

Bill Woods
Anthony Cheetham (acting V.C from Feb 2023)

North West of England Trustee, Third Age Trust Neil Stevenson

The charitable purposes are set out and governed by the Constitution, as adopted at the AGM on 10th June 2014, amended at the AGM on 4th June 2015 and then on 14th September 2021. There are 99 u3as and around 43,000 members in the NW Region, representing approximately 10% of u3as and members in the UK.

ACTIVITIES 2022-23

The main role of the regional committee is to support the regional trustee and, under his guidance, to provide a service to the Members, the u3as and the Networks in our region to advance education. We do this in three main ways:

- Firstly, we help with the formation of new u3as and networks. There has been one u3a this year now known as Upper Eden u3a. A new network has formed in South Lancashire to which 8 u3as were invited. We also help to support existing u3as. A group of Regional Contact Volunteers is responsible for maintaining contact and support to groups of u3as around the NW Region. They have kept members informed of planned national and regional activities and have also provided a focus point to channel queries.
- The second thing we do is organise and run a variety of events for members. This usually includes workshops, seminars and conferences on topics of value to u3as in the region. Several events have been held, some as using Zoom as a medium, other being held face to face as confidence grows following the effects of the pandemic. These included:
 - o The 13th Annual General meeting and Conference of the North West Region was held on 15th June 2022. It was attended by 48 members and the feedback was very positive. The Conference included a talk on Cyber security from Lancashire Constabulary's Cyber Crime Unit; a workshop on 'Meeting Made Marvellous'; a keynote speech by Liz Thackry, Chair of the Third Age Trust and a display of research projects and various activities from around the region. Those attending found that the event had given them new ideas and an opportunity to share ideas with other members. During the AGM, Maureen Eccles stepped down as Chair, Mary Waters stepped down as Secretary and was elected Chair, Gillian Russell was elected Vice Chair, Hilary Scarratt became Secretary and one new member was elected to the committee – Tony Cheetham.
 - o 28th October: Retention and Recruitment workshop; a face to face event attended by 41 members representing more than 20 u3as. The purpose was to develop strategies for increasing membership and the feedback indicated that this was achieved.

- On 14th December 2022 we held a Zoom event called 'Festive Moments' which included readings and songs linked to the pre-Christmas season. It was attended by 24 members who expressed enjoyment and would like to do this again in the future.
- A Zoom workshop 'Beacon for Group Co-ordinators' was held on 10th March 2023. It was a successful event attended by 32 members, led by a Beacon Support Volunteer in the North West.
- A National and Shared Learning Conference was held in Preston on August 3rd 2022, led by the national co-ordinator for Research and Shared Learning, who is a North West member. The programme included displays of members' projects and presentations.
- The NW Summer School was held in Carlisle from August 16th - 19th. It was good to see this enjoyable and worthwhile event being well supported after the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.
- 40th anniversary of the u3a movement. Around the region, u3as organised their own events. These included open days with displays of activities to promote the local groups, a French language day and a u3a garden at the Southport Flower Show which won both a trophy and a gold certificate. Five of our groups provided winning contributions to the national 40th Anniversary Quilt competition.
- Local Networks began to organise events including an enjoyable afternoon for a 'Ukulele Singalong'.

It is recognised that the North West u3a website is an important tool to help to keep our members informed. Some of the members of the committee have continued to update and revitalise this site throughout the year. One of these developments has been to increase the catalogue of speakers available to u3as. We have also successfully continued to implement the Beacon system for use with networks this year. This is proving to be a useful communication tool.

-The third area where the committee supports our regional trustee is helping u3as who are having problems and ask for help.

RESOURCES

Between the end of March 2022 and the start of April 2023, the committee has held 6 planning meetings and attendance has averaged 98%.

FINANCE

The North West region held £11954 in the bank at 31st March 2023, £3324 lower than the balance of £15278 as at 31st March 2022. This deficit was due primarily to the need to use the Summer School Contingency Fund to reduce operating loss for the 22 Summer School; face to face committee meetings and a loss of £1776 due to the illness of the tutor and last minute cancellations.

Looking to 2023/2024 overall reserves are still healthy at £10774 at the start of the year. £5000 is held in general reserve and £5774 in accumulated revenue reserves.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Events planned for 2023– 2024 include:

- Conference and AGM at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool– July 2023
- Residential Summer School at the University of Cumbria - August 2023
- Big Sing May 2023

Members of the committee will continue to support the regional trustee in helping our u3as.

The trustees have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Gillian Russell.
Chair, North West Region of U3As
Dated: 6th April 2023