

TADCASTER & VILLAGES u3a

ANNUAL REPORT

1st SEPTEMBER 2020 – 31st AUGUST 2022



St Mary's Church, Tadcaster

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16TH January 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

This report covers the two-year period to the end of August 2022. At the start of this period Covid restrictions were finally relaxed and as a result we held a relaunch meeting on 20th September 2021; we could all meet again face to face – at last.

During the lockdown periods your committee continued to meet virtually and managed to deal with a lot of routine, but necessary, business including agreeing on some core policies, such as equality, diversity and inclusion, data protection, finance, privacy, safeguarding, grievance and complaints procedures and members code of conduct. Please ask if you would like to see any of them.

This year we have spent a lot of effort seeking new members with various displays; firstly, we received permission from Samuel Smiths Brewery to take over and decorate a shop window (formerly the Granary restaurant) in Bridge Street; secondly, we took a stall in the Town's Jubilee celebrations in June 2022 and finally, we held our own event here in the Barn in September to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the creation of the u3a.

You may recall that at the last AGM we asked for no subscriptions during the period to September 2021 (for obvious reasons). However, with the restoration of life as usual, we have asked you to resume paying at the same levels as before. Sadly, we have lost some members who have moved home or not renewed – possibly because of the disturbance caused by Covid. This is not unusual and other u3a's are reporting falls of about 20% in numbers. We now have 76 members including 9 new ones resulting from our marketing efforts.

Your committee has seen changes. Jackie Clark moved house and thus resigned as Membership Secretary. Also, Sandra Butterworth resigned for family reasons. We are very lucky to have two new members Glenda Smith and Alistair Dickson, but even so our size is dangerously small and threatens our survival.

The lifeblood of u3a's is the number of groups; here I am happy to say we have good news: a coffee morning was set up and is flourishing, also a Flower Arranging group took root as has a recent Drawing and Painting group. A final item of good news is the success of our quarterly Newsletter which was very well received in its new format.

John Fielden - Chair

Introduction

We are pleased to produce the second Annual Report for Tadcaster & Villages u3a (T&Vu3a) and hope you, our members, will find the contents interesting and informative.

The purpose of the Annual Report is to inform our members on how we have managed and progressed Tadcaster & Villages u3a through the year, particularly through a difficult period when Covid lockdown was introduced.

Since lockdown ceased, members have slowly returned to monthly meetings but unfortunately we have to report a reduction in numbers owing to the impact of Covid19 and lockdown. *You will find further details on the Membership Secretary's Report.*

As the Chair has already mentioned in his opening report, Jackie Clark, who had been our membership secretary since T&Vu3a started, moved location and therefore resigned in May 2022. To the Trustee's relief Glenda Smith volunteered to take on the role into which she has settled into extremely well and is doing a grand job.

Having been the first u3a nationally to have used Beacon from the start of setting up our u3a we are pleased to report that many of our group leaders are using the system to contact their group members and to add new ones. This is a success and a move forward in our activity group management. Well done and many thanks to the group leaders.

1. Membership Secretary's Report

I am pleased to report that our present membership has increased to 76 which is made up as follows:

Individual members	-	46
Joint members	-	14
Associate members	-	14
Joint Associate Members	-	2
Total Membership	=	<u>76</u>

Members' details are recorded onto the Beacon system which is a secure database on which the committee locate membership details for contact purposes.

Our members meet on the third Monday of each month at The Barn, St Joseph's Street, Tadcaster. Refreshments have been provided by our friendly volunteers to whom the Committee is very grateful, thank you.

2. Interest/Activity Groups

We appreciate and value our Group Leaders who continue to volunteer their time and run their activity groups for the benefit of those who joined u3a to enhance their skills, to meet new people, socialise and have fun too.

We currently have 8 interest/Activity groups namely:

- Circle Dancing
- Craft
- Days Out
- Flower Arranging
- Nature/Wildlife
- Painting and Drawing
- Quiz/Social
- Walking

We are needing members to volunteer to help set up activities which were identified when we first set up. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the committee members.

3. u3a Website

You may recall that we were the first u3a to have a website up and running within a year of opening. Terry Welsh volunteered to set up the website for us and became Web Editor but later was forced to resign due to other commitments. When Covid lockdown was lifted and we resumed face to face meetings, a committee member offered to take up the web editor role temporarily until another member volunteered for the role. *(Of late the u3a website has been down owing to work being carried out to it nationally.)*

If anyone is interested in the role of Website Editor, please contact one of the committee members to have a chat.

4. Invitation to Committee Meetings

We shall invite members who are interested in helping with the running of our u3a, to come along to committee meetings where they can talk with us and find out what we do. We hope that they, with the committee members, can match their talents and knowledge and hopefully offer their help.

We realize and appreciate that some members may have family commitments, and others may not be fit enough to take on roles, and therefore may not be able to volunteer their help.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Tadcaster & Villages u3a is managed and administered by your elected Committee of Trustees comprising no less than five and no more than 15, as set out in our Constitution. Every trustee is a paid-up member of the u3a.

The first Trustees appointed for Tadcaster & Villages u3a adopted the u3a Model Constitution 2018 on 7th May 2019. Since being adopted there have been minor changes to the current Model Constitution 2018 concerning the use of hybrid and online meetings) which was a decision made by the Third Age Trust.

The Committee operates within the legal and financial framework set out by The Third Age Trust and National u3a.

The Committee communicates with the membership through monthly meetings, emails, website, telephone, post, and Facebook. Members will be asked to contribute regularly to the u3a Newsletter and website and provide interesting topics.

6. Gift Aid

The Treasurer had planned to introduce Gift Aid in 2021 once T&Vu3a was established. This will involve tax recovery of 25% of relevant subscriptions that will be a valuable addition to T&Vu3a income, especially since we have lost 7.9% of our membership numbers in the last two years.

We also have to acknowledge that venue hire, materials, refreshments and printing costs to mention a few are increasing along with the cost of living.

7. Workshops

The Trustees attended a percentage of Yorkshire & Humber Regional Workshops to which they were invited. When Trustees were unable to attend, either due to ill health or other personal commitments, the Business Secretary requested feedback on the subject from the Workshop Manager and emailed the information to the Trustees to keep them up to date on matters.

Workshops are for sharing best practice and to discuss solutions to common u3a challenges and are important for keeping up to date with items of importance.

8. Treasurer's Report on the Two Years Accounts (2020 to 2022) (Annex A)

Since the last accounts submitted for approval were for the period ended 31st August 2020, this report covers a two-year period to 31st August 2022.

Due to Covid there was very little activity in the year to August 2021, as is shown by the low figure for venue hire and nil for speakers' fees. We were still bound to pay some u3a central costs such as our subscriptions to Third Age Matters and the fee for the use of Beacon.

In the last year 2021-22 however, our activity revived, as shown by the increased expenditure. The deficit for the year is partly due to our having to pay two year's contributions to the Third Age Trust.

The closing balance in the bank is lower than at the end of previous years and does reflect the fall in the number of members. Unless this can be corrected our financial position will be uncertain in the future. (Refer to Annex A for further information).

9. Challenges

The Trustees have again been challenged over the past 2-years due to the Covid-19 virus and the subsequent lockdowns. During this time some members resigned due to ill health and relocations thus reducing membership numbers, which in turn lowers our income.

Requests for volunteers to help on the committee have been constantly made at monthly meetings, on posters, Facebook, e-mail and by word of mouth, but none has been forthcoming.

It is hoped that attending local events and advertising our activities will encourage interest and new members to T&Vu3a.

On Monday, 16th January 2023 it is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and at least one of the Trustee's is obliged to stand down having completed the 3-years maximum service in a role. All Trustees step down at an AGM, but can self-nominate and or be nominated for the same or another role if the maximum service has not been reached in their current role.

Members need to be ready to volunteer for committee roles. The present Trustees will help any new committee member take up their positions until they are comfortable in their role.

The list of the present Trustees and Committee Members is at Annex D together with the current vacancies.

The Trustees/Committee would like to thank all its members and group leaders for their continuing support and help in keeping Tadcaster & Villages u3a alive and on track. We look for their continuing commitment to take T&Vu3a forward and help increase membership along with the Trustees.

Trustees acknowledge that it is the members that build a successful u3a and we look forward to Tadcaster & Villages u3a growth in the coming year with your help.

All the very best and thank you.

The Chair (Temporary) and Tadcaster & Villages u3a Committee.

ANNEX A

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period ending 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2022

		21/22	20/21
Income		£	£
Membership fees 22/23		153	-
Membership fees for year		417	466
Grants: u3a Day		57	100
Capital grant. Selby DC		0	0
Donations		14	0
Refreshments income		306	104
Sale of printer		0	99
Funds held for a Group	2	<u>240</u>	<u>13</u>
Income total		<u>1187</u>	<u>782</u>
Expenditure			
Cost of Third Age Matters		119	186
Dues paid to Third Age Trust	1	609	0
Purchase of equipment		137	0
Office/travel costs		85	31
Venue hire	2	459	47
Speakers fees		30	0
Sundry expenses: u3a Day		37	78
Beacon licence fees		84	163
Cost of u3a banner		0	56
Total expenditure		1560	561
(Deficit). Surplus in 20/21		-373	221
Closing balance at the bank		<u>£554</u>	<u>£927</u>

Note 1. The dues to TAT are for two years

Note 2. Funds held for a group are used to pay for venue hire.

ANNEX B

GUEST SPEAKERS

In the previous Annual Report 2019-2020, we reported that on 17th February 2020 our final guest Speaker was Michael Bainbridge of the Salvation Army.

There were a further four guest speakers planned to entertain our members during 2020-2021 but due to the Covid pandemic, meetings and Guest Speakers were postponed.

When the Speaker Co-ordinator resigned a member of T&Vu3a committee volunteered, on a temporary basis, to arrange further guest speakers for the rest of the year 2022-2023.

Isobel Stones was booked for July 2022 to speak on her topic but, unfortunately, the heatwave we encountered during that month was too much for the members and our guest speaker and the meeting was postponed.

There wasn't a meeting in August due to the school summer holidays and the September meeting was cancelled in honour of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

ANNEX C

ACTIVITY GROUP LEADERS' REPORTS:

SOCIAL/QUIZ: Group Leader Jan Burg.

Unfortunately, the lockdown temporarily put an end to further group meetings but to maintain interest Jan set up a social group for members on 'WhatsApp' adding quizzes randomly for added interest. It proved a great idea especially for bringing the group members together. A couple of members were isolating alone and Jan hoped that the group offered some support and social contact, which it did.

The group leader had intended the Quiz group to be a social occasion rather than an intellectual one and wished to promote that aspect once the group started meeting again. Having found the space in The Barn too big and impersonal for her small group, the group leader eventually found the ideal venue at the Kelcbar Community Centre.

Here is a brief in Jan's own words:

"The first meeting of the Quiz was in March 2020 prior to lockdown. We met at the Barn and it was not an auspicious meeting since only five people turned up. A couple of weeks later lockdown restrictions were imposed and social activities closed down.

However, I did learn from that first meeting ie:

- It is best to have teams rather than have people compete individually;
- Don't have too many quiz rounds;
- Have the coffee break halfway through the meeting to enable people to chat and socialise.

The group convened in September 2022 at the new venue, Kelcbar Community Centre but again it was a shaky start. Since then, the group has grown in numbers and now between 10 to 15 members attend. We would welcome more people to join us.

To reassure you the quiz is not Mastermind! We have 5 easy rounds on different subjects. A member of the group sets a round of their choice which has resulted in some interesting themes. For example, we have learned that it is only female ducks who quack – who knew?? You will be most welcome if you decide to come along and if you are coming solo please don't worry as you can always join one of the teams.

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 10.30am at the Kelcbar Community Centre, Tadcaster. Please contact me on 01937 919253 or email: skipper17120@yahoo.com Alternatively just turn up!"

DAYS OUT: Group Leader Denise Gent

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 lockdown meetings were put on hold but the group had plenty of ideas for visits in the future.

In September 2021 six people visited Bolton Percy Church and enjoyed a guided tour. They were shown the work that had gone into making the records of the parish for everyone to have access. We saw a beautiful stained-glass window installed in the Millennium.

Forthcoming visits:

There are plans for 2 visits in March 2023. The first to visit a family run business where bespoke juke boxes are purpose made for customers and

The second visit being considered is to The Arium which is Leeds City Council's plant nursery, which is located on the outskirts of Leeds, just off the A64. The site can be accessed by car or bus.

PAINTING AND DRAWING GROUP: Group Leader Sue Notley

When the previous group leader resigned, Susan Notley volunteered to trial a Drawing and Painting group and arranged three group meetings to determine interest.

Since then, the group has proved to be successful and provides what members were wanting.

Members from the previous group and Sue herself agreed that the current venue arrangements were not suitable for the group and the lighting was poor. Sue spoke to the venue manager and it was agreed that the group could use another room which had larger windows and let in the right amount of light for the groups activity.

Sue's report: "This is a newish activity group and we held our second meeting last month setting up a still life using bottles (unfortunately they were empty). Different media was used to depict the scene. Everyone seemed to enjoy what they were doing. We learnt a lot while looking and talking about each other's work.

Next month we will be experimenting with texture in watercolour."

ANNEX C Cont/d.....

WALKING GROUP: Group Leader Felicity Hill

Members walk on the first Saturday of every month and the walks are less than 5-miles. Following are a few itinerary details of the walks taken during 2022:

April 2nd – Members walked to Jackdaw Cragg, through an unnamed wood, down Garnet Lane back to Tadcaster.

May 2nd – Walked to Grimston Park and down to the Church. There followed a guided walk through the park with talks given by locals. There were 10 members from the walking group, members from Wetherby u3a and people from local areas.

June 4th – Walked to Ebor Way via Copmanthorpe and back to Tadcaster.

July 2nd – Walked to Newton Kyme via Rudd gate and Smaws.

The walking group did not meet in August.

The group leader informs the walkers that they can shorten their walk if they wish and either walk or catch a bus back to Tadcaster.

THE CIRCLE DANCE GROUP: Group Leader Felicity Hill

There are 18 members in this group and dances are practised from all over the world including Israel, Russia, Scotland, Azerbaijan, England, Romania, Greece and South American.

There is always a break for coffee and biscuits halfway through the session and time for a social chat and for the dancers to catch their breath.

THE WILDLIFE/NATURE GROUP: Group Leader Gil Firth

Gil's Report:

The wildlife Group meets once a month to walk, mostly in the local area and to look at the wildlife in that season. This involves combining our experience to identify flowers, birds, fungi, trees, animals, or any combination of these that we find.

Our walks have included the riverbank in Tadcaster, Smaws Wood and Oxtan Hall parkland.

ANNEX C Cont/d ...

Going further afield, we have walked round Stutton and driven to Kirkby Wharfe, RSPB Fairburn Ings and RSPB St Aidans.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members who are inquisitive about what we see around us.

CRAFT GROUP: Group Leader Glenda Smith

This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Barn.

Glenda helps her group whenever they need guidance and her members have created - gift boxes and 'Thank You' cards to name a few.

Members are encouraged to take along to meetings their own craft ie knitting, crochet or any other craft they are working on.

New members are welcome and if you are not sure the group is for you, just go along for a 'taster' and see what the group does at a meeting.

FLOWER ARRANGING: Group Leader Julie Goldthorpe

Julie's group meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at Stutton Village Hall.

Since the group began members have increased their knowledge and skills in the art of displaying and creating flower arrangements.

Photos of the arrangements are displayed in the u3a Window on Bridge Street, Tadcaster. Photos can be viewed on the u3a website <https://u3asites.org.uk/tadcaster>

COFFEE MORNINGS: Organiser Pat Simms

Since starting this group, members and the visiting public have enjoyed meeting up with their friends and members alike. The Coffee Mornings are held on the first Thursday of every month from 10.30 – 11.30am at the Barn.

It is a social and friendly environment and a good place to catch up and keep up to date with what's going on in u3a and the local villages.

Pat Simms with the other volunteers ensure people at the Coffee Mornings are looked after and enjoy their refreshments. Our thanks to Pat for organising this essential monthly morning group which we know members and visitors look forward to.

As always there is room for more people.

ANNEX D

TADCASTER & VILLAGES U3A COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair	John Fielden (Temporary)
The Vice Chair	Vacancy
The Treasurer	John Fielden
The Business Secretary	Chrissie Des-Forges
Assistant Treasurer	Alistair Dickson
Membership Secretary	Glenda Smith
Group Coordinator	Vacancy
Speaker Coordinator	Chrissie Des-Forges (Temporary)
Website Editor	Chrissie Des-Forges (Temporary)

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Chair and Vice Chair
 Business Secretary
 Minute Secretary
 Group Coordinator
 Newsletter Editor
 Website Editor
 Publicity Manager

Volunteers are needed to help with:

Meet and Greet at monthly meetings and
 Refreshments at monthly meetings.

NOTE: If anyone is interested in any of the above vacancies, please contact the Business Secretary email secretary1tadu3a@gmail.com or mobile 07887 557298.

ANNEX E

EVENTS

Tadcaster & Villages u3a celebrated its 1st National u3a Day on Wednesday June 2021 at the Barn, Tadcaster. Sainsbury's agreed to let T&Vu3a have a table outside near the car park where members could display u3a information and spread the word about the National u3a Celebration Day.

The Group Leaders put on a grand display outside the Barn and banners and u3a flags were placed in view to attract members of the public. The Town Mayor cut the ribbon and opened the event at 10.45 and visitors came throughout the day which luckily was warm and sunny.

The event was deemed a success as several people signed up for membership whilst others took information with them and membership forms.

T&Vu3a PROJECT WINDOW

In the autumn of 2021 Samuel Smith's Brewery Limited gave us permission to fill the windows of a nearly derelict restaurant (The Granary) in the High Steet with our promotional material. We have spent some time cleaning and tidying up the windows which now look attractive. Whilst updating it a few weeks ago we had a visitor call in the shop to ask when the next meeting was and say that she wanted to join u3a.

The posters and reading material need to be changed on a regular basis so as to maintain interest in the window display.

In the meantime, many thanks to those members who have helped update the window during the year. I hope we can call on you again to help with the display.

THANK YOU FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Thank you for reading the Annual Report and the Committee thank all the members for their continued support during the year.

The Chair and the Committee Members.