

## Trustees' Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024

### ELECTED TRUSTEES (COMMITTEE MEMBERS) 2023-24

<b>NAME</b>	<b>COMMITTEE ROLE</b>
Sarah Browne	Membership Co-ordinator
Kathryn Crook	Business Secretary
Pauline Dean	Chair
Pam Dickinson	Treasurer
Tricia Forrester	Vice Chair
Chris Inch	Speaker Programme Organiser
John Polley	Trustee
Martin Ringrose	Policy & Development Officer
William Upsdale	Webmaster

SUB-COMMITTEE TEAMS Most Trustees also serve on one of the following):

#### **Communications Team 2023/24**

NAME AND ROLE

Carrie Ansell (Newsletter Ed from 1/1/2024)  
 Jean Cox (Social Events and Publicity)  
 Clare Fairburn (Social Media)  
 Judith Green (Facebook)  
 Peter Hayes (Publicity Officer to 31/12/2023)

#### **Group Support Team 2023/24**

NAME AND ROLE

Simon Cartwright (GS -Outdoor Pursuits)  
 Chris Edmonds (GS – General Studies)  
 Pam Hayes (New Groups Facilitator)  
 Jane Lawrence (Beacon Administrator)  
 June Snell (GS – Social Activities)

### Foreword from the Chair (Pauline Dean)

Teignmouth & District u3a is one of more than a thousand u3a's in the UK, operationally independent but a member of the Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.

As a self-help, mutual aid organisation we need members to participate in the running of our u3a as well as paying the annual membership subscription. We are fortunate to have several active teams of volunteers working behind the scenes to 'run things' on behalf of members. Central to the success of Teignmouth & District u3a is the contribution made by our Group Leaders, who have adapted and developed established Groups, and put their energy and enthusiasm into setting up new Groups.. .

This report would run into several pages if it were to include the names of every member who is deserving of praise and gratitude, and there is always the danger of missing someone off the list!. So instead I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the part they have played in ensuring Teignmouth & District u3a continues to thrive. I do hope I will see many members in person at the forthcoming AGM. I will be stepping down as Chair, so thank you all for your encouragement and support during my 'term of office'.

## Membership

We started the year (April 2023) with 428 members, and ended (March 2024) with 496. 107 new members joined during the year. Some members moved away or did not renew their membership last August, but they will always be made welcome if they re-join in the future.

## Interest Groups

Over the past year 10 new Groups have been formed, and we currently have 61 active and flourishing Interest Groups, with a further 4 in the process of starting up. 410 members belong to one or more Groups, and the total membership of all Groups is nearly 1500. This means, on average, each member belongs to 3.5 Groups.!

## General Meetings and Social Events

Our General Meetings with Guest Speaker Presentations and the Coffee and Information Mornings both offer an opportunity for members to meet in a social setting outside of the Group meetings. Wendy Viner (Accessibility Officer) looks after members who need extra assistance when they come along to these meetings each month, and Eileen Webb (Helping Hands Group) organises a rota for the serving of refreshments at Guest Speaker meetings.

Attendance figures average at around 75 members and visitors at each event, and feedback indicates these meetings should continue on a monthly basis in the current venues and format.

The Social Events Team has worked tirelessly to provide a varied programme of social activities during the year, including a Bowls Evening, Quirky Quiz and Skittles Night. These are always over-subscribed – a testament to the level of interest there is in the opportunity to meet, and enjoy the company of, other members in convivial surroundings.

## Communications

### Newsletter

Carrie Ansell took over as Editor of our monthly Newsletter from Tricia Forrester in January 2024, and continues to provide members with information and photos submitted by Group Leaders, as well as newsworthy 'snippets' which enhance the content.

### Publicity

Peter Hayes stepped down from the role of Publicity Officer in December, after 2 years sterling efforts to keep our u3a 'in the news'. Changes in the editorial team at the Mid Devon Advertiser (Teignmouth Post), have resulted in less press coverage, but Jean Cox (who now covers all publicity) continues to submit press articles, and posts Group news on our u3a Facebook (Metta) pages

### Social Media

We have two Facebook (Metta) Accounts, a members' only Social Group Page, and a Community Page which is used to promote our u3a events and group activities. Judith Green is now the Administrator for both pages, whilst Clare Fairburn is 'taking a break' from this role. Contributions from members are always welcome.

## Website

The new u3a Site Works website will replace the existing one in the next few months, and our Webmaster (William Upsdale) has been working with a small team on a project to look at various website options which will include a facility for members to join and renew 'online'.

## Administration

### Beacon Database

We've been using the Beacon Database to store all our membership, financial and group records since February 2020, but are aware that many members are still uncertain about the purpose and function of the system. Jane Lawrence, our efficient and well-organised Beacon Administrator, offers 'one-to-one' support sessions to enable members, and especially Group Leaders, to become more confident with using the system. Jane is also the Minutes Secretary for all committee meetings.

## Public benefit

The Trustees ensure that they use Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of Teignmouth & District u3a.

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