
Trustees' Annual Report – To Year End 31/08/2021

Charity Details

Charity Name	Thorley U3A
Charity Registration Number	1182852
Address	c/o The Chairman Thorley U3A Meadow Cottage Butlers Hall Lane Thorley Bishop's Stortford CM23 4BL

Trustees – Officers

Carmen Konopka	Chair (elected 4th January 2021)
Jenni Kemp	Vice Chair
Sue Warren	Vice Chair (elected 4th January 2021)
Duncan Palmer	Business Secretary
Ken Blethyn	Treasurer

Trustees – Non-Officers

Anne Willett	Membership Secretary
Rosemary Hoskins	Groups Co-ordinator
John Bailey	Assistant Treasurer
Diana Austin	Committee Member (elected 4th January 2021)

Advisers

Nick Ambrose	Web Support (Non Trustee)
David Aitken	Website (Non Trustee)

Others who served as Trustees for part of the financial year:

Linda Ketteridge	Chair (Retired 4th January 2021)
------------------	----------------------------------

Governance

The governing document of the charity is its constitution adopted on 4th March 2013, as amended at an Emergency General Meeting on 9th April 2018.

Thorley U3A is an un-incorporated charitable organisation with a financial turnover of between £25,001 and £250,000. As such, the charity is required to file a Charity Commission Annual Return.

The Return comprises an online form, a PDF copy of accounts (independent examination required), and the Trustees' Annual Report. These items are due to be filed within ten months of the charity's financial year-end of 31st August.

Trustees are nominated and elected by members, usually for a period of three years. Appointment of new Trustees takes place at the AGM in January. The Trustees manage the charity by way of monthly committee meetings which all members are welcome to attend.

Thorley U3A is a member of the Third Age Trust.

Financial Review

Principal sources of funds are membership subscriptions and payments by members for the activities in which they participate.

The Trustees constantly review the level of reserve funds and will adjust membership fees according to our financial expectations. Our aim is to maintain a level of funding approximating to between 6-9 months' annual income in reserves.

As there was both a reduction in our activities and reduced costs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to give our members a subscription holiday from 1st September-31st December 2020. Subscriptions for the remainder of the financial year to 31st August 2021 were not payable until 1st January 2021 and were then at a reduced rate of £8.00. It has been decided that subscriptions for our next financial year (to 31st August 2022) will return to normal at £15.00 per member.

Accounts for the year to 31st August 2021 have been approved by the charity's independent examiner and are appended to this report.

Public Benefit Statement

In carrying out their duties, the Trustees have had full regard to the guidance issued by the Charities Commission on public benefit and that of the Third Age Trust.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, for those residing in Thorley, Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding locality.

Activities for achieving objects

- Held monthly meetings available to the entire membership at which invited people delivered talks on topical and educational subjects. This was via Zoom during Covid-19 restrictions.
- Introduced ad hoc 'Wednesday Workshops' on Zoom, available to all members. Many of these were presented by members, with topics as diverse as Lasting Powers of Attorney, Wine, Scams, Hearing and European Boating. Also introduced a 'Thursday Elevenses' virtual coffee morning available to all members.
- Operated more than 40 Interest Groups, covering topics such as art, customs & cultures, languages, gardening, bridge, history, photography, walking, singing, pilates, etc. Many of these groups continued their activities on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube and other online platforms during the Covid restrictions, while those that meet outdoors (such as Walkers, Strollers and Garden Groups) were able to continue in-person at times. Almost all went back to normal following the lifting of restrictions.
- Continued the creation of a programme of some 40 self-guided walks in the locality. The walks are all tried and tested and are available to everyone on our website. They include detailed instructions, maps created by our members and photographs.
- Covid restrictions meant there was only one face-to-face event open to all members during this year – a gathering in July at the Henry Moore Foundation, an outdoor sculpture park. A postponed coach trip to Wales for 50 members finally took place in July. And in mid-August there was a lunch for all Group Leaders and Volunteers to kick-start face-to-face meetings and activities.
- Developed guidelines and user-friendly risk assessments to promote safer meetings.
- Continued to develop the website and issue monthly news Update emails to promote the organisation's activities and provide access to members' news and Interest Group activities.
- Ongoing programme to maintain and expand the activities offered.

The operation of Thorley U3A relies upon the dedicated contributions made by members on a voluntary basis.

Achievements and Performance

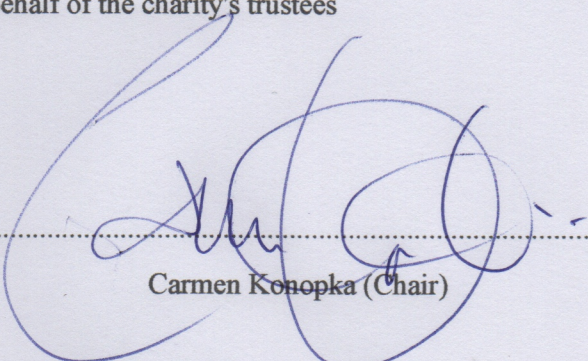
- Provided a University of the Third Age for approximately 550 retired and semi-retired residents of Thorley, Bishop's Stortford, and the surrounding locality.
- Provided educational and informative talks for members attending monthly meetings.
- Provided Interest Groups for members covering a wide range of educational and associated activities.
- Provided news and information to all members about Thorley U3A and the wider U3A movement's activities.
- Enabled members, some of whom are isolated people, to make new friends and acquaintances and to participate more fully in the local community.
- Membership as of 31st August 2021 is 542.

Declaration

The trustees declare they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:



Carmen Konopka (Chair)

Date:

8th November 2021

References:

Prepare Annual On-line return

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-a-charity-annual-return>

Send Annual On-line return

<https://www.gov.uk/send-charity-annual-return>

Charity Reporting and Accounting Essentials

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials-november-2016-cc15d/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials-november-2016-cc15d--2>

Document Date

13th October 2021

Page 5