

# Trustees' Report for 2021

## The Organisation

Thornbury U3A (Tu3a) is a registered charity (number 1080095) constituted in 1999. Its purpose is the advancement of education and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full-time work, by means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Thornbury and its surrounding locality.

Thornbury u3a is operated as a collection of interest groups (people drawn from a common membership to follow a particular interest). The interest groups are the primary means of satisfying the object of the organisation. The groups have a large degree of operational independence, with the central committee (the Charity Trustees) providing:

- Recruitment and administration of the overall membership
- Setting-up and support to the interest groups
- An internal communications hub
- Running events with a cross-group interest
- Governance of the organisation

## Achievements 2021

### *Open Meetings & Talks*

All Open Talks and Visits in 2021 had to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus. We did plan to start Tea & Coffee mornings around the local area but again these social gatherings also have to be postponed due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. However, we have arranged a presentation by Sir Steve Webb, the former Minister of State for Pensions, to be held on Zoom on Thursday Feb 24th at 2:30pm.

### *Recruitment and administration of the overall membership*

Membership numbers have somewhat recovered from the low we saw in Jan 2021. They now stand at 1600 some 250 below the peak of 2019. Some of this recovery is due to us holding a very successful "New Members" meeting in October 2021. We had advertised the meeting throughout the locality and over 60 people attended at St Mary's Hall.

### *Support to the interest Groups*

There are currently 85 interest groups within our organisation. Two new Groups, "Spanish" and "You On Your Own", have started during this year. Both are well attended and we wish them every success for the future. Many of our Groups are still functioning in the light of the restrictions, either by using virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom or by creating smaller groups for such activities. To try and ensure Groups that do restart face to face meetings, but suffer a financial loss through lack of attendees, do not close, the Committee is offering financial assistance to cover any shortfalls. The situation regarding each Group is being closely monitored and the Committee will support all Groups wanting to restart.

### *Trustees*

Norman Taylor (Chairman), Frank Tustin (Vice Chair), Ian Macdonald (Secretary), Steve Hughes (Treasurer), Jackie Gitsham (Membership Secretary), Barbara Jones (Beacon Administration), Mike Farquhar (Equipment), Don Grundell (Webmaster), Louise Ingsley (Group Co-ordinator), Sue James, Anne Reed. Trevor Daniels was co-opted onto the Committee in Oct 2021. Overall, the Trustees believe Thornbury u3a can continue to be a successful and thriving organisation with strong finances and a friendly, helpful and supportive atmosphere.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees Norman Taylor, Chairman, Thornbury u3a 15th January 2022