

**Annual Report of the Executive Committee for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020**

The Executive Committee was as follows:

<b>Chairman</b>	Brenda Kember	<b>Groups' Coordinator (Leisure)</b>	Doreen Van-Cauter
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Doreen Van Cauter	<b>Groups Co-ordinator (Fitness)</b>	Nick Photi
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ron Fenn	<b>Events and Holiday Organiser</b>	Mary Gotts
<b>Secretary</b>	Catherine Jones	<b>Front of House</b>	Steve Bowler and Nick Photi
<b>Webmaster</b>	Barbara Berry		
<b>Catering</b>	Steve Bowler		
<b>Co-opted members</b>			
<b>Sub Editor</b>	Dick Downs	Co-opted Jan 2020	
<b>Shadow Treasurer</b>	Ken Pragnell	Co-opted Feb 2020	
<b>Shadow Webmaster</b>	David Collins	Co-opted March 2020	

**The following report was written prior to COVID 19 restrictions, introduced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. Since that date, all events, holidays and meetings have been suspended.**

By its Constitution, the **Charitable Purpose** of Ver-Colne Valley U3A (VCV U3A) is the advancement of education and in 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, in Ver-Colne Valley and its surrounding locality.

VCV was granted official registration by the Third Age Trust (TAT) on 9 April 2009 and achieved charitable status on 17 March 2014, entered on the Register of Charities with number 1156215. All elected members of the Executive Committee act as Trustees.

**During the period of this Report:**

- 1. Membership** reached 486 members. Our monthly General Meetings have continued to be very well attended throughout the year. The meetings continue to feature Guest Speakers representing a wide range of interests. In May 2019 we celebrated VCV's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a well attend Groups Fair, where we welcomed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, David Cansdale, the Mayor of St Albans and the Chair of St Stephen Parish Council.
- 2. STUDY GROUPS** The centre piece of the Anniversary Event was a **Study Groups** Fair which showcased the activities of many our 60 Groups and included contributions from some of our "performing" Groups too. Membership of our Groups continues to be healthy, although willingness amongst members to lead new Interest Groups has at times been disappointing. The Committee is at pains to remind the Membership that any U3A is a learning cooperative of equals and that, as long as a number of members are willing to share their knowledge or enthusiasm, or simply have the desire to know more, they can and should form an interest group. Twelve of our Groups are run jointly with neighbouring U3As.
- 3. EVENTS, TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS** continue to be a major feature of the VCV programme throughout the year. Our monthly day trips to a great variety of local places of interest have been as popular as ever and, for the more adventurous, our burgeoning schedule of holidays at home and abroad have been similarly well-subscribed. Our programme of theatre trips has also expanded in response to increased demand. However, due to the CORVID-19 virus outbreak, many of the planned events have had to be cancelled or postponed.
- 4. COMMUNICATION** with members continues to be mainly through our monthly Newsletter, in addition to our monthly General Meetings. However, we have continued to encourage the use of computers for notifications, with non-computer users being requested to participate by using a 'buddy system'. Members are urged to make full use of our website as a prime source of information on VCV's forthcoming activities, events, guest speakers and study groups. Current and past editions of the Newsletter are also available on the website. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, a weekly e-news has been published by email, and a VCV Facebook page has been set up. Members of the Executive Committee are also keeping in touch by telephone with members without e-mail
- 5. THANKS** are due to so many people for the support and enthusiasm they have shown for VCV during the past year. The Committee owes a great debt of gratitude for the enormous amount of work that has been done by dedicated VCV members to make the organisation function and flourish. Our Study Group Leaders and Really Useful Members are greatly valued by us. As part of VCV's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and to show their appreciation, the Executive Committee invited both the Group Leaders and the RUMs to afternoon teas at prestigious venues. However, there are many other members (often unsung) who give their time and energy to help ensure VCV's continued success.
- 6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** is the backbone of any U3A, and the Chair extends her thanks to them also.

