**Third Age Trust**

**Board Meeting: 26 January 2023**

**Summary Report to be used when sharing with members**

Main focus areas of the meeting was:

* **Chair’s Report**. Unusually heavy workload on all Regional and National Trustees, Officers and staff. A number of key areas requiring focus and attention by the Board in 2023 such as the strategic aims of the movement, implementation of a digital strategy, the new governance ideas, and moves to improve transparency and communication post AGM.
* **Treasurer’s Report**. Following the resignation of the Group’s auditors, Haysmacintyre, after the 2022 AGM, Goodman Jones were approved as the new auditors.
* **2023/24 Budget and Forecast**. A number of uncertainties remain unresolved in an early draft, and Q3 figures no yet available. Final budget for approval at the February Board when the longer term position will be reviewed. Options discussed for widely circulating further financial and statistical information to illustrate the use of funds and current activity levels.
* **CEO Report.** The Report included options for diversifying income sources through developing a fundraising code of practice, fundraising events, generating legacies and seeking donations. Discussions had taken place with the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce) to identify options for jointly seeking funding. The Newsletter now has a circulation of over 42,000, and apparently last September and October had seen over 850 u3a mentions in local, regional and national media.
* **Volunteering**. The Board approved a new policy for the recruitment and support of the current 300 Trust Volunteers, and noted a proposal to develop and apply for accreditation as Investor in Volunteering.
* **Festival 2024**. Initial development work to scope out a possible Festival in 2024 noted. Held at a suitable location over three days in the summer, the Festival could operate on a self help and self funding arrangement, showcasing the range of activities and talents of u3a members. A project plan will be developed for approval and trailed with u3as.
* **Conference 2023**. Proposals and costings being developed for approval for a two day conference in August 2023 at possibly Aston University, Birmingham.
* **Archiving**. Further costings and options for funding before any decision is taken.
* **40th Anniversary Quilt**. To remain exhibited at the Blanket Museum for the foreseeable future.
* **Influencing and Social Change**. Following the completion of training for the initial group, further pilot sessions are planned along with promotion of initiatives to build member awareness. A pilot campaign will be used to gain feedback and member consultations will be required to set up a process for identifying and evaluating campaign issues. A 5 year vision will then be brought to the Board for approval.
* **2022 AGM Minutes**. Draft approved and to be available on the website.
* **EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Committee.** Step change from member awareness on an individual basis to a more strategic approach noted. Committee to seek additional membership from u3a members with lived experience of disability.
* **Social Prescribing**. Current group needs expanding to add breadth of knowledge and experience. To advertise/canvass for additional u3a members.
* **Digital Strategy**. Digital strategy being transitioned from TATTL to Trust by end of March.  Revised project plan and implementation phase noted.
* **Ambassador For Ageing**. U3a to join with other similar organisations calling on the UK Government to appoint an Older People and Ageing Commissioner.
* **New u3a**: Ipplepen & Surrounds u3a (South West Region) approved.

**Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings. This is a summary of the main discussions and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact your Trustee.**