

Trustees Report AGM 28th June 2022

General Position

Most of our activities have returned to the positions enjoyed before the pandemic caused so much restriction on meetings and indoor activities.

Committee members and particularly group leaders, have worked hard to restore activities and revise or reinvent groups and explore new venues.

Our paid-up membership as at the time of preparing this report was 673 compared with 627 last year, very encouraging and we continue to attract new members.

The Treasurers Report shows that we have worked within our reserves and are well placed to continue and expand our current level of activities.

Groups

Our U3A is run for and by its members.

Our groups vary in size from small home-based activity to larger meetings and presentations at a number of local venues. The Nursteed Centre, Wyvern Club and the Conservative Club are all continuing as locations used by groups, in addition to the outdoor activities provided by the walking, geology and other interest groups.

Visits to places of interest continue to be attractive as venues re-open and transport is now safe.

Filling voluntary roles

We continue to seek members to fill additional voluntary roles, and some of the committee roles should be “shadowed” so that in the event of absence or illness, there is a smooth transfer of effort.

To support this requirement, we seek volunteers through the Newsletter and website.

Going forward, we will hold a Leaders & Trustees Workshop in October to brief and encourage members to take up key vacancies.

Website

In addition to the provision of information of general interest to members and anyone looking at the site to see what we do, the website provides a secure Members Section where member-specific matters can be found. Members comments can also be entered there.

Copies of all documents of interest to members are displayed, their currency and any updates managed by the Webmaster.

Membership application forms are also available and members can apply online if they wish.

Social Media

One of our committee members with relevant experience has launched a Facebook page for our U3A and it is attracting new followers. We hope this form of communication will appeal to perhaps the younger element of our membership, and assist with attracting new members.

Networks

Our U3A is represented at, and contributes to, the Bath and Wilts U3A Network, where representatives from our neighbouring U3As share experiences and plan any joint initiatives.

Meetings are typically held quarterly and are now established as ‘online meetings’ as members would need to travel considerable distances to meet in person.

Members Protection

As a Registered Charity, Devizes & District U3A has a duty of care to our members, that informs the actions we implement.

Monthly Meetings and Coffee Mornings are now back on a monthly basis and are popular with members.

All Group Leaders have been advised to follow current government guidelines.

Communication

Groups and individuals have been using various video conferencing applications, including Zoom and WhatsApp to stay in communication, this will remain as one of their options, as reduced travelling for meetings appeals to some members.

The Future

It is a requirement of the Charity Commission, the Third Age Trust and our own Devizes and District U3A Constitution that we hold an Annual General Meeting by a specific annual date.

For this year we have drafted changes to our Constitution to allow meetings to be held as either face-to-face, postal or hybrid to enable us to cope with varying circumstances.

Our 2022 AGM will be a conventional meeting with key documentation displayed in the public area of our website and meeting notices communicated by email and in the Newsletter.

Our U3A has coped well as an organisation with the many difficulties presented by the pandemic and subsequent recovery, and I very much appreciate members' support for actions taken in what has been challenging circumstances for us all.

On behalf of the Trustees,
Martin Houghton
Chairman
Devizes and District U3A