

A SUMMARY OF OUR TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The full report will be uploaded to the Charity Commission website. This is a brief summary of that report.

This year from April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022 has seen our u3a bounce back from the effects of the global pandemic, with long-running groups restarting and new groups forming.

Our membership at the end of March 2022 was 692, with an additional 41 Associate Members (those who are also members of other u3as).

At the beginning of this period our activities were constrained due to the impact of Coronavirus with no indoor meetings. Committee meetings (meetings of the trustees) and Membership meetings were successfully conducted online using Zoom. Many outdoor groups were meeting as normal while following the appropriate government advice. We had a stand outside the Knutsford Methodist Church for u3a publicity day (2nd June). Our first organised outing was to the new RHS Bridgewater in early July, which was so popular that it was followed by two further visits to the same location. Highly successful outings also were made to Adlington Hall and Chatsworth House. There were also several trips to cultural events including to see an Alan Ayckbourn play in September, and in December, the Nutcracker and Handel's Messiah.

The Committee agreed guidance for the restarting of indoor groups on 27th July. In September our activities moved decisively towards normality with the restarting of indoor activities including our first face-to-face members' meeting and a group leaders' coffee morning. We also held a group "showcase" event in early September which provided group leaders with an opportunity to advertise their activities to a wider audience to attract new members. Our October committee meeting was the first to be held face-to-face. This sense of getting back to normality continued until January when rising rates of the new Omicron variant caused indoor groups to suspend their activities and the January members' meeting and Committee meeting to return to Zoom. Fortunately, this interruption was brief and by the end of this period our u3a was fully open, albeit with a lot of testing and some disruption as members had to self-isolate at short notice if they had a positive Covid test result.

Unlike the previous year we were able to hold a face-to-face AGM this year in December. During this time period we recruited four new members to the Committee who were duly elected at the AGM. We now have a Committee of 11 with one vacancy.

A significant achievement was our first membership renewal drive (in April 2021) using the software system Beacon which is designed to streamline the administration of our u3a and reduce the workload on Committee members.

By the end of the period, we had 52 active groups including some new additions such as a Singing group and a Railways Interest Group

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for all their hard work during this turbulent year. Since April 2022 our activities have continued as normal and we hope for no further interruptions. We look forward to a bright future.

Mark Barley, Chair.
Knutsford & District u3a