

# **ANNUAL REPORT and Accounts of the Great Glen Interests Group U3A 2017/18**

**Registered Charity Number 1099411**

## **1. Overview of charity**

The Great Glen Interests Group U3A was established in November 2001; it is affiliated to the Leicestershire Network of U3As and nationally to the Third Age Trust.

About 40% of current members live in Great Glen, 20% in Oadby, and with a few exceptions the remainder are from other locations within five miles of Great Glen.

The Objects are:

- to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle-aged and older people who are not in full time gainful employment in Great Glen and its surrounding locality, and
- to provide facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

Great Glen U3A is one of over 1,000 U3As in the UK and one of 30 in Leicestershire & Rutland. It is a self-help organisation.

## **2. Committee Structure and Members, and in-year Changes**

There is one Committee which meets on the first Tuesday in each month. The members at the year-end are Chairman/Webmaster: Peter Russell, Vice Chairman/ Speakers Secretary: Patricia Mansfield, Secretary: Stella Orbell, Treasurer: Roger Edwards, Membership Secretary: Sue Russell, New Members: Rachael Snashall, Newsletter Editor: Robert Mansfield and Media Officer: Toni Smith.

Liz Adams stepped down at the AGM in May when she was succeeded by Sue Russell.

### **3. Overview of year**

The membership numbers remained broadly unchanged from recent years. To enable more people to benefit from our groups, we continued a reduced subscription for 25 members of other U3As.

Our group programme evolves throughout the year and we added Beginners French to our regular programme in May. We offered several one-off short courses in the autumn/ winter. Our trial of Learning Spanish using internet learning materials closed in May. Our first Singing for Pleasure session was in December 2016, and this is being continued quarterly.

In November the Great Glen Village Carpet Bowls group was wound up and we were delighted to enable this activity to continue by offering it to all U3A members.

Early in 2018 we started a weekly T'ai Chi Group which was immediately fully subscribed.

Our Ukulele group performed at several U3A events and for the first time undertook concerts at two nearby residential homes.

We did not hold our traditional Open Morning but instead promoted the U3A at the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race and Fair in September. Static displays were set up to interest and inform current and prospective members.

During the summer improvements took place to the Methodist Church, our main base; the building works, in particular the loss of the car park, disrupted attendance at our meetings. Several groups especially those with disabled members met at the Village Hall instead. In late February/ early March further work was undertaken and most groups stopped meeting during this period.

The Evening Bridge group was fortunate to gain several members from another local group which was being wound up though loss of members. In order to meet every week the group makes use of the Community Library for one of its sessions each month.

Several groups increased their average attendances. English Country Dancing peaked at 22 members in January and History had 25 in February and March.

We revised our format for welcoming New Members to a less formal basis with two small meetings and fewer Committee members present.

#### **4. Overview of Finance**

The U3A received total annual subscriptions from members of £5k plus sessional contributions from those attending meetings. The U3A pays for the provision of lifeguards at the weekly term-time swimming sessions at Leicester Grammar School and swimmers pay a fee to cover these costs. A few educational trips are organised and members pay the full costs of these prior to the trip.

The U3A has incurred deficits in 5 out of the last 6 years. In view of the projected shortfall in year and the larger shortfall forecast for next year the Committee took the decision to raise session contributions from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. Reserves at the year-end were just in excess of the target of one year's subscriptions.

#### **5. Governance:**

The Committee members are Trustees and meet every month and most Trustees attended every meeting. The Trustees reviewed the risk register at their February meeting. We received advice from Action on Hearing Loss on improving facilities for those with hearing difficulties in 2016. We investigated options throughout the year. We were not able to find practical ways to manage a portable system nor obtain agreement to the related adaptations to all buildings which we rent.

We started to review our arrangements for Data Protection to ensure we have processes which meet the new Data Protection Act 2018.

We invited prospective Trustees to attend a Committee meeting before seeking nominations for election. We held a Group Leaders' meeting in April 2017 to brief the leaders and their deputies (or prospective deputies) on issues affecting the U3A.

We have kept the Third Age Trust's new membership, group administration and finance system for U3As (known as BEACON) under review. We have deferred usage as we have insufficient volunteers to form an implementation project team.

We are seeking more members to enable more to benefit from groups which are below capacity, and we continue encouraging those with the ideas and the energy to set up new groups.

## 6. Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The Balance Sheet shows £9k in the bank including £3.5k prepaid subscriptions.

	2017-18	2016-17		2017-18	2016-17
<b>INCOME</b>	(£000)	(£000)	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	(£000)	(£000)
Subscriptions	5.1	5.0	Rent	10.7	10.7
Groups	7.5	7.1	Third Age Trust Levy & Magazine	1.8	1.8
Gift Aid	2.2	3.2	Running costs	2.3	3.1
Trips & Swimming Fees	6.2	4.8	Trips & Lifeguard Charge	6.1	4.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>20.5</b>
			Loss	0.875 (£875)	0.447 (£447)

We reviewed our financial controls in February and decided these were appropriate for our U3A.

Peter Russell  
Chairman

Roger Edwards  
Treasurer

April 2018