

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2018/19

of the Great Glen Interests Group U3A

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, with the remainder generally 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 1,033 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

The Committee of Trustees 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, Membership Secretary designate Janet Fanko, New Members: Rachael Snashall, Newsletter Editor: Robert Mansfield and Newsletter editor designate Lynda Williams, Gift Aid: Bill Maxted and Group Co-ordinator: John Johnson. Janet Fanko and Lynda Williams were co-opted to the Committee in 2019.

We adopted a Data Protection policy to comply with the revised General Data Protection Regulations and adopted a Safeguarding policy in November to meet the requirements of the Care Act 2014. We have considered how to communicate these policies to the membership. We will review the operation of the policies periodically.

3. Overview of year

Membership increased to a peak of nearly 400 at the end of March. To enable more people to benefit from our group activities, we continued to set a reduced subscription for 40 members of other U3As.

Our group programme evolves throughout the year. In the autumn a 'Walking without Stiles' Group started and is meeting most months. We added Astronomy to our regular programme in November. Several one-off short courses were provided in the autumn/winter.

Early in 2018 we started a weekly T'ai Chi Group. Shortly after the group was established the recognised leader became unwell but the group continued to meet to practise within its competence. The History of Art Group was temporarily suspended early in 2019 because of the indisposition of the Group Leader. The Calligraphy Group, which had met for many years, closed down.

Our Ukulele Group performed at several U3A events and continued with concerts at nearby residential homes.

In August we held our traditional Open Morning to promote our U3A. Static displays were set up to interest and inform current and prospective members. The format of our Christmas production was changed to include more individual contributions and a seasonal buffet.

Several groups increased their average attendances. English Country Dancing peaked at 29 members and History had 25 for several months. The other groups attracting large numbers are Swimming with 25 and Mini-Bridge with 33.

We continued our revised format for welcoming New Members with a single smaller meeting and just a few Committee members in attendance.

4. Overview of Finance

The U3A received total annual subscriptions from members of £5.5k 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 were organised with members paying the full costs of these prior to the trip. Trips were arranged to Beaumanor Hall World War Exhibition, Barnsdale Gardens and Newstead Abbey. Rent is paid for rooms for most groups; charges from the Methodist Church and Community Library increased during the year.

In view of the projected shortfall in 2017-18 and the larger shortfall forecast for 2018-19 the Committee took the decision to raise session contributions from the 1st April 2018. Reserves at the 2019 year-end were in excess of the target of three months turnover. The redevelopment of the Village Hall and Youth Centre still looms

on the horizon and this will present us with challenges of providing accommodation for four of our groups and our monthly meeting.

5. Governance

The Committee members are Trustees and meet every month; most Trustees attended every meeting. The Trustees reviewed the risk register at their January meeting and concluded that adequate arrangements for risk management are in place.

We reviewed our arrangements for Data Protection to ensure we have processes which meet the new General Data Protection Regulations. All members have been requested to validate the data we hold and to opt into receiving the Third Age Trust magazine.

We invited prospective Trustees to attend a Committee meeting before seeking nominations for election. Two prospective Trustees took advantage of this facility. We held a Group Leaders' meeting in April 2018 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 uptake of the system as we have insufficient volunteers to form an implementation project team and the project is being relaunched with different functionality.

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.

Our Constitution was amended at the May AGM to bring it line with the recommendation from the Third Age Trust, which had reached an agreement on charitable status with The Charity Commission. We also made changes to make explicit our practice of granting Life Membership and awards for Outstanding Contribution to our U3A. Awards were made to two founder members: David Brooke and John Lawson.

6. Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019

The Balance Sheet shows £11.5k in the bank including £4.2k prepaid subscriptions.

	2018-19	2017-18		2018-19	2017-18
INCOME	(£000)	(£000)	EXPENDITURE	(£000)	(£000)
Annual Subscriptions	5.1	5.1	Rent	12.9	10.7
Income from Groups	11.6	7.5	Third Age Trust Membership & Magazine	1.9	1.8
Gift Aid	2.3	2.2	Running costs	1.6	2.3
Trips and Swimming Fees	3.2	6.2	Trips and Lifeguard Charge	3.2	6.1
TOTAL	22.2	21.0	TOTAL	19.6	21.9
Surplus	1.6k		Loss		0.875
	£1,662				(£875)

We reviewed our financial controls in January and concluded that these were appropriate for our U3A.

Peter Russell
Chairman

Roger Edwards
Treasurer

12 April 2019