

2022 AGM - Report of the Trustees

My task today is to confirm to you that the accounts have been kept carefully and properly throughout the year ended 31 March 2022. I can confirm that the examining accountants found them to be an accurate record of all transactions made. I can also confirm that your u3a has been managed in accordance with the constitution and with guidelines laid down by the Charities Commission.

These are the duties of the elected Trustees and have been part of our Constitution since 2015. Since then all day to day management has been delegated to the elected Management Committee. However, during the pandemic we acted together to maximise our decision-making capacity and avoid undue meetings and lost time. This worked well.

It is possible for four Trustees to be elected to join the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to form the Trustee body. Sadly, we have had only three independent Trustees for some time and only two for the past few months. It appears that a diminishing number of members wish to serve our u3a in this capacity.

It also seems to me that the presence of a separate Trustee body, rather than enhancing the work of the Management Committee, took away some of the responsibility from its members. Passing decision making between the two took unnecessary time and effort and resulted in delays.

Thus it has been decided, jointly, by the Trustees and the Management Committee, that the Constitution should be revised and a new version is presented to you today for consideration.

It is based on the national model Constitution offered to all u3as in the UK. It is approved by the Charities Commission and is totally up to date. Your Chairman will explain further what the changes are and why they are necessary.

But before I pass over to John Tomlinson, I want to tell you how proud I am to have been Chairman of the Trustees for the past four years, albeit that two of them were during the pandemic. I've been involved in one capacity or another in our u3a for the past 19 years and know that we could not operate successfully without effort on the part of officers and committees. So I want to thank your Management team for giving time and energies in making this u3a so worthwhile and enjoyable. In particular we are all indebted to our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, without whom we could not function properly and legally. The wonderful thing is that they appear to enjoy what they do and I personally am so grateful that they have been in place to take decisions and keep the important records of all our activities. Thank you John, Megan and Derrick from me, from my fellow Trustees and all our members.

And thank you all for your support and friendship over the period we have known each other. Belonging to u3a offers so much and I truly believe that the more effort you put

in, the more pleasure you take from it. Please volunteer to help keep it running successfully for many more years to come.

Sue Watkinson