

## WARRINGTON U3A

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020

Although the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our U3A ended so well last summer, celebrated by the commemorative report edited so ably by Andrew Young, I don't think that anyone could possibly have imagined how this year would end. However, the year started well and it might be pleasant at this point to remind ourselves of the good things.

At the start of the year our online membership renewal system seemed to work very well and membership was fairly consistent compared with previous years. We currently have some 1232 members, which is an increase of around 140 on the start of the year and about the same as this time last year. It seems a feature of the U3A movement as a whole that recruitment of new members is just about keeping pace with the loss of old members so, while disappointing, this is by no means unusual. Members of the WU3A had access to almost 70 interest groups this year, using 13 different venues scattered across the greater Warrington area. In addition to the groups meeting at fixed venues, the Walking group has offered members the chance to cover more than 500 miles in total this year (which is the equivalent of walking from Warrington to John o'Groats!), there have been Garden Interest trips, and the Awaysdays group has taken members as far afield as the Austrian Tyrol, Buxton Opera House, Bridgewater Hall, Grassington Christmas Market and Chetham's School of Music. Warrington has one of the largest and most active U3As in the country and certainly in the north west. Altogether something to be proud of and due entirely to the hard work of our members, group leaders and committees. The philosophy of the U3A is a self-help group for members, with no-one paid and as much as possible being organised and delivered by the members themselves. I think we meet those criteria very well.

It is always good to see new groups form and sad to see others decline. This year we have had five new starters but another five which have either not made a start or have had to close. In particular, we welcome Morris Dancing, additional groups for Ballet Focus and Harmonica, another Bridge Improvers' group and a new Guitar and Mandolin group. Unfortunately, we have had to say farewell to Ballet and Tap, Whist, Transport and Chess, while an attempt to form a male close-harmony singing group was sadly unsuccessful. Two groups changed their names to reflect their growing development, with Blues and Skiffle becoming Blues, Skiffle and Rock and Roll, and Transport and Engineering changing to Transport, Engineering and Technology (not enough to save it, sadly) while, as above, several have increased either their number of sub-groups or their number of meetings to reflect increased demand and interest. Indeed, it was B5andRR that added a Guitar group to expand their members' interests in this area. We wish them all the very best in these uncertain times.

We have now adopted the technology to allow on-line and credit card payments for membership, which seems to have gone well, and may even be the way forward for membership renewal if face-to-face enrolment becomes impractical. While accommodation still ranks as our highest cost, the increase in the membership fee to £30 seems to be keeping us ahead at the moment. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Social Committee, who organised an excellent and well attended social event after Christmas, though plans for the next one may have to be put on hold for a while! We have continued to try to keep our equipment up-to-date during the year, with new laptops and projectors and updates to software, but wear and tear take their inevitable toll. Advice for any members requiring help with equipment or with giving talks and presentations became routinely available at informal sessions at Wimarleigh Hall on the mornings of General Meeting days, and several members were given advice and training at these times. This time was also made available for any member to discuss matters relevant to our U3A with members of the Executive Committee.

On a personal note, the year has brought particular challenges in ensuring that we all operated within the very strict new guidelines for data protection, but we seem to have adapted well.

Unfortunately, all of this came to an abrupt end in March with the global coronavirus crisis, and matters came to a head with surprising and rather frightening rapidity. From the first stirrings of disruption to total shutdown of all activities took only a matter of weeks. We have had to postpone our 2020 AGM because of the current impossibility of meeting with a full quorum of members (at least 120 in our case, 10% of the membership) but hope to be able to hold one before too long into the new U3A year. We are offering members a reduced subscription for the next year in the hope that we can make a rapid start-up when circumstances allow. In the meantime, the existing Executive Committee will continue to administer the WU3A's affairs. What the "new normal" will look like we, of course, have no idea. I just hope it is one where the U3A as a whole, and the Warrington U3A in particular, can still exist.

Dr Ian Lancaster  
Chairman, Warrington U3A  
Date: 04 June 2020

# Warrington U3A

Charity Number: 1085069

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1st April 2020

### SOCIAL ACCOUNT

| EXPENDITURE                              | 2018/2019        | 2019/2020        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Groups</b>                            |                  |                  |
| Art for All                              | 1,270.00         | 2,520.38         |
| Photography                              | 160.00           | 111.90           |
| Walking                                  | 852.00           | 1,168.50         |
| Garden Appreciation                      | 34,305.97        | 11,174.39        |
| Away Day                                 | 28,228.55        | 13,170.95        |
| History                                  | 0.00             | 397.50           |
| Family History                           | 437.50           | 562.49           |
| Social                                   | 2,165.71         | 5,614.84         |
| Transport                                | 483.50           | 686.75           |
| Supper                                   | 270.00           | 0.00             |
| Stroller                                 | 1,443.00         | 1,311.65         |
| Birdwatching                             | 30.00            | 220.50           |
| Ukulele                                  | 0.00             | 0.00             |
| Food Appreciation                        | 390.00           | 0.00             |
| Egyptology                               | 0.00             | 1,617.00         |
| Other                                    | 896.50           | 1,401.00         |
| <b>SUB - TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>           | <b>70,932.73</b> | <b>39,957.85</b> |
| <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b> | <b>2,739.97</b>  | <b>0.00</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                 | <b>73,672.70</b> | <b>39,957.85</b> |

| INCOME                                   | 2018/2019        | 2019/2020        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Groups</b>                            |                  |                  |
| Art for All                              | 1,480.00         | 2,751.90         |
| Photography                              | 50.00            | 50.00            |
| Walking                                  | 97.50            | 2,182.50         |
| Garden Appreciation                      | 37,307.35        | 7,573.00         |
| Away Day                                 | 26,422.05        | 13,510.33        |
| History                                  | 397.50           | 0.00             |
| Family History                           | 0.00             | 870.00           |
| Social                                   | 2,782.00         | 4,943.74         |
| Transport                                | 568.50           | 557.65           |
| Supper                                   | 100.00           | 270.00           |
| Stroller                                 | 2,047.00         | 707.65           |
| Birdwatching                             | 34.50            | 220.50           |
| Ukulele                                  | 130.00           | 0.00             |
| Food Appreciation                        | 390.00           | 0.00             |
| Egyptology                               | 0.00             | 1,620.00         |
| Other                                    | 1,866.30         | 539.36           |
| <b>SUB - TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>73,672.70</b> | <b>35,796.63</b> |
| <b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b> |                  | <b>4,161.22</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                      | <b>73,672.70</b> | <b>39,957.85</b> |

### MAIN ACCOUNT

| EXPENDITURE                              | 2018/2019        | 2019/2020        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Room Hire                                | 30,707.50        | 30,745.24        |
| Reprographics                            | 2,004.78         | 1,408.90         |
| Affiliation Fees Third Age Trust         | 4,158.00         | 4,287.50         |
| Purchase of Equipment                    | 191.96           | 832.46           |
| Administration, Licences                 | 2,022.15         | 1,202.73         |
| U3A Magazines and Diaries                | 1,941.16         | 0.00             |
| Speaker and Tutor Fees                   | 1,609.00         | 1,792.00         |
| <b>SUB - TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>           | <b>42,634.55</b> | <b>40,268.83</b> |
| <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b> | <b>0.00</b>      | <b>12,036.06</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                 | <b>42,634.55</b> | <b>52,304.89</b> |

| INCOME                                   | 2018/2019        | 2019/2020        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Members Subscription                     | 30,883.00        | 36,608.00        |
| Gift Aid Refund                          | 4,970.01         | 5,022.39         |
| Group Contributions                      | 296.00           | 0.00             |
| Donations & Refunds                      | 0.00             | 0.00             |
| Sale of Diaries                          | 0.00             | 0.00             |
| Bank Interest                            | 25.87            | 0.00             |
| Other                                    | 0.00             | 10,674.50        |
| <b>SUB - TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>36,174.88</b> | <b>52,304.89</b> |
| <b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b> | <b>6,459.67</b>  | <b>0.00</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                      | <b>42,634.55</b> | <b>52,304.89</b> |

|                                |                   |                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b> | <b>116,307.25</b> | <b>92,262.74</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|

Prepared by Richard Kong, Treasurer, Warrington U3A

Signed.....

Dated..... 20/04/2020

Audited By Pauline Thompson, Hon Auditor

Signed.....

Dated..... 24.4.2020

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts



## Independent Examiner's Report

### Section A

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

WARRINGTON U3A

On accounts for the year ended

010420

Charity no (if any)

1085069

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below):

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

*Pauline Marie Thompson*

Date

20.4.2020

Name

PAULINE MARIE THOMPSON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

Retired Tax Official

Address

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GREAT SANKEY  
WARRINGTON  
WAS 3BH