

Bourne U3A – Trustees’ Report 2022-2023

The last year has seen us slowly get back to running almost as normal and although Covid is still there in the background I think that we have now got used to living with it.

We have continued to meet in the Corn Exchange for our monthly meetings and we certainly have had some very popular speakers including one of my favourites “The King of Jazz” which saw us with near capacity audience.

We celebrated our belated 21st birthday party in the Corn Exchange with a Afternoon Tea party with Bourne’s Mayor as a Guest and a cake cutting by one of our longest standing members.

Our membership has held up quite well and we have had 68 new members since last July, and our membership now stands at 551 members, which shows we are very popular. It’s always a very busy time at renewals, our Membership Secretary Jean Parsons has done a splendid job.

The number of our groups running have slowly increased during the year and we now have some 52 groups with more in the pipeline. Obviously, no groups can run with our wonderful group leaders who have all worked hard to ensure that we are a successful U3A. Looking after our groups and new members this year has been expertly done by our Group Coordinator Pat Howes. Whether its groups without a leader or new members wanting to join groups Pat has got it done.

Big thanks to John Boss who has been our secretary this year and has coped with having to take a record of the minutes and has somehow contributed to discussion’s as well while doing so.

You will see attached to the annual accounts a separate report from our treasurer Mike Alexander, which shows that we have financially weathered the storm very well considering the drop in membership levels. I would also like to thank Mike for the hard work involved in changing banks this year and embracing a more modern online banking system that makes our finances much easier to run. Thanks also to Mike Alexander who after the transfer of our bank accounts to a new bank and sorting out new ways for groups to handle cash when on trips and visits.

We have also made a big change this year by allowing members to renew, and new members to join online. This has been a learning curve for everybody involved and has resulted in well over 50% of the membership renewing by that method. Also, most of our new members have also used that method as well. I am sure you will agree that it has been a great success.

A thank you to all our other committee members for the work they do. Martin Adkins for looking after our website, Screen displays at our monthly meetings and posters for around town. Bill Reid for arranging rotas for our general meetings, Paul Smith for our excellent newsletters, Phill Pavier for looking after Beacon, Janet Burton for looking after the raffles, Gillian Stoneman for the excellent speakers we have had this year.

For a successful Bourne u3a it is important that we have new members volunteering for the committee every year, so that we can continue to be as good for Bourne and surrounding village’s people in there third age, as we have been for the last 22 years.

John Owen

Chairman