

REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF SEVENOAKS U3A TO THE 2019 AGM

This report to the Sevenoaks U3A membership complies with the requirements of the Charity Commission and The Third Age Trust.

Organisation

Sevenoaks U3A is a charity registered with the Charities Commission. The Executive Committee (EC) currently consists of 9 members, all of whom are Trustees of the charity. The EC is further supported by a number of Sub Committees covering specialist areas. As from June 2019 there will be a vacancy on the EC for the position of External Affairs.

Philosophy of Sevenoaks U3A

Our U3A is a learning cooperative. Our success depends on everyone contributing in some way - by participating in and contributing to a study group or groups, open meetings and day trips, but also by putting something back into our U3A. There are many ways in which members can make a contribution, large or small, by volunteering to help or by joining a committee or sub-committee. We encourage everyone to contribute in some way. It is also another way to make new friends.

Group Activities

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Group Organisers and the contributions of our members, our study and activity groups continue to flourish. We currently offer more than 100 groups and as some groups wither and die, there is a welcome enthusiasm to start new groups.

Our open meetings and events continue to be popular with a variety of interesting talks offered at our General Monthly Meetings, supplemented by more specialist topics presented by our Science, Computer and Apple Groups.

Social Events

The Social Committee has offered an interesting range of visits and activities for the enjoyment of members. These have included theatre trips, day outings by both coach and train and the Festive Lunch.

Study Day

The Science Group continue to organise intellectually challenging annual study days. This year's offering is "Forensics: The Expert Witnesses".

Membership

Membership has continued to remain steady at just over 1,000 members. New members bring new skills and talents to help us maintain a vibrant U3A. We continue to hold coffee mornings for new members to introduce them to our U3A and get feedback on their particular interests.

Membership Database

With the introduction of new legislation for data protection (GDPR) we continue to monitor our membership database. At each EC meeting we report on (the lack of) known safety breaches and minute this.

Beacon – alternative database

The Third Age Trust is offering a new database system known as Beacon. We have a working party assessing its benefits and ease of use. The Beacon system is said to be more secure than our current system. If Beacon proves useful, we will close our Excel system and transfer to Beacon. There would be ongoing costs associated with using the Beacon system.

Finance

Our Accounts for the year continue to be healthy as is shown in The Report & Accounts for 2018-2019. Our Executive Committee is committed to ensuring that our U3A is run as efficiently as possible for the benefit of members.

Communications

We continue to deliver the Newsletter to members by both email (colour edition) and post (black & white edition). The Website is the main conduit for our membership enquiries. In addition all Executive Committee minutes and Newsletters are posted on the Website.

Thanks

Our thanks are due to all our members for keeping our U3A vibrant, especially all our Committee Members, Group Organisers and Volunteers.