

VER COLNE VALLEY u3a

Committee & Trustees Report for 2021/22

This was a year of transition in common with all u3as and other similar organisations nationally. Planning and activity were by necessity constrained and adapted to meet the changes in government restrictions; this was especially the case during the first nine months of the reporting period.

There was a paper membership of 430 during the year based on free subscriptions made available in view of the restricted level of activity in 2020/21. New members joining paid a subscription as normal. The committee were concerned that the membership of the VCV might be fading away due to the limited amount of social interaction during the restrictions.

In order to counter the above use was made of the Beacon Management System provided by the Third Age Trust to ensure that members received essential information via the internet including the monthly newsletter which is the prime communication vehicle of the VCV. Also use was made of Zoom in order to enable committee meetings to take place and also for the monthly general meetings so that they could be resumed although in a limited format.

There was little group activity during the first part of the period reported and similarly theatre visits and day trips were being deferred as the restrictions had to be observed. This was a period of continual adjustment for the VCV organisers and also the venues affected. The report of the Treasurer illustrates the overall level of financial activity during the year for events.

It was apparent that while some members were very hesitant about any form of controlled social interaction there was nevertheless a desire for many to get activities underway as soon as restrictions permitted. Finally in late summer matters began to ease gradually and a spaced seating committee meeting took place followed a month later by a spaced seating general meeting.

In October restrictions were limited sufficiently for the social activity of the VCV to reactivate bearing in mind the need for spacing at meetings. The deferred AGM was held during that month.

A dance was held in November which was a morale booster, the group activity was increasing and deferred theater visits were going ahead. In December the Christmas Party rounded off a frustrating year for the members but also heralded the fact that the VCV was underway again.

January to March was a period when planning and activities took place in a spirit of growing confidence. Day trips were evaluated for the summer and a full programme of theatre trips took shape. The committee was fully involved in ensuring that the VCV could resume operating as it did pre Covid. Membership renewal procedures and the relevant subscription fee were confirmed. The early response to membership renewals was very encouraging and showed that the VCV was in a healthy state as in embarked on 2022/23.

Thanks are due to all in the VCV who helped steer it through a difficult twelve months and who had the confidence to plan ahead regardless. This particularly applies to the committee members during the period [including the previous Chair and committee members who stood down at the AGM]. It also includes the group organisers, the volunteers who have helped in so many ways and not least the members.

Ron Fenn, Chair Ver Colne Valley u3a.

VCV Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2021/22

The General Account is presented in a format that records receipts and payments occurring during the accounting period. As is customary, the corresponding figures for the previous year are also shown. Normally, these provide a useful year-on-year comparison. However, such comparison is likely to be of limited value this year, because Covid-19 restrictions applied throughout 2020/21 and into the early part of 2021/22, severely impacting VCV's operations. With the exception of *Beacon* and *TAT fees*, most figures were significantly reduced.

In recognition of the impact of Covid-19 on member benefits during 2020/21 and the surplus funds built up over this and preceding years, the committee proposed that subscription renewals for 2021/22 should be free. This was agreed at the 2020 AGM held on 18 February 2021. As a result, the surplus funds at the end of 2021/22 have reduced significantly and now stand at £7018.96. Please note that, due to TAT's procedures, we have not yet been invoiced for the bulk of our 2021/22 Third Age Matters magazines. We estimate this to be about £558, which means the true surplus is around £6,460.

The current Events balance of £11,238.02 includes £8,810 (eg: venue fees, coach costs) that has yet to be paid out on events for which members have already bought tickets. The true balance is, therefore, £2,428.02. This serves as a float for any costs that may have to be incurred prior to the sale of tickets to members, in the coming year.

Ken Pragnell

			VCV General Account			
Receipts/Payments			Ongoing Funds			
Receipts for	2021/22	2020/21	B/Fwd from 2020/21	12,850.58	Current a/c at 31/3/22	1,985.57
Member subscriptions	320.00	7,895.00	less Deficit	-5,831.62	Deposit a/c at 31/3/22	5,033.39
Book sales	53.00	0.00	Total carried forward	7,018.96	Total at bank	7,018.96
Other	20.52	31.81				
Total receipts	393.52	7,926.81				
Payments for	2021/22	2020/21	VCV Events Account	2021/22	VCV Group Accounts	2021/22
Administration	196.10	439.84	Opening balance	4,499.15	Opening balance	1,401.64
Asset Purchase	818.97	0.00	plus Receipts	26,291.00	plus Receipts	9,600.98
Beacon	443.00	464.00	less Payments	19,552.13	less Payments	8,985.30
Catering	52.43	26.40	Closing balance	11,238.02	Closing balance	2,017.32
Hall hire (GWP)	962.00	211.50	Notes: The General account covers the day to day operations of VCV and is funded by membership subscriptions. It is split between current and deposit accounts, at the bank. The Events account is concerned with events and trips that are funded from payments made by the members participating in those events/trips. Both the above accounts are subject to examination by the person appointed at the previous AGM. Each interest group that involves funding from its members, maintains its own set of accounts. Examination of these accounts is a matter for each group. The figures above are a consolidation of those provided by each group. No monies have been transferred between any of the above accounts in 2021/22.			
Herts Network	15.00	30.00				
IT costs	151.40	151.40				
Miscellaneous	339.67	0.00				
Newsletter	442.42	771.45				
Speaker fees	600.00	190.00				
TAM subscription	38.38	370.60				
TAT fees	1,550.50	1,687.00				
VCV-funded events	615.27	0.00				
Other expenses	0.00	234.00				
Total payments	6,225.14	4,576.59				
Surplus/Deficit(-)	-5,831.62	3,350.22				

Ver-Colne Valley University of the Third Age

Registered Charity No 1156215

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Ver-Colne Valley U3A

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ver-ColneU3A for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Ver-Colne ValleyU3A you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Ver-ColneValley U3A accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination. I therefore have no cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in respect of the Ver-Colne Valley U3A as required by Section 130 of the Act or that the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *E.E.P. Brown*

Name: Mrs Eve Elizabeth Polanska Brown

Inland Revenue Accountancy qualified

Address: 5 The Rise, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2NT

Date: *23/7/22*