

East Antrim



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity Registration n° NIC 103317

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST FEBRUARY 2024 TO 31ST JANUARY 2025

The purposes of East Antrim University of the Third Age (East Antrim u3a) are to advance the education of the public, particularly the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in East Antrim, including the Boroughs of Newtownabbey, Larne and Carrickfergus. Membership of East Antrim u3a enhances the lives of retired people in the Boroughs of Newtownabbey, Larne and Carrickfergus, through improving the mental and physical well-being of 3rd Agers. We are governed by our Constitution. Trustees (Committee members) during the reporting period were:

Jennifer Baker; Teresa Connor; Christine Harpur; John Cunningham; Helen Eagleson; Moira Foster; Paul Gray; Marion Mahaffey; Frances McIlhinney; Eveline Service.

Throughout the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purposes and provided a benefit to the beneficiaries.

East Antrim U3A has a comprehensive programme, both educational, physical and social, available to all retired and semi-retired people within the East Antrim district. The emphasis is on learning with fun. The various Interest Groups encourage and enhance the mental, physical and social well-being of the members and provide friendship, social interaction and help combat loneliness in our community.

During the reporting period our membership increased, mainly due to PR events at various venues, an Open Day at our hall and Summer Workshops. We had over 30 groups including: French, Spanish, German, Reading, Walking, Canoeing, Art, Crafts, Needle Natters, Tai Chi, Calligraphy, A Bird for all Seasons, Family History, Gardening, Armchair Yoga and Quizzers. Our monthly meetings are successful with a variety of speakers throughout the year.

These interests and shared learning experiences enhance the quality of life and are available at a minimum or no cost. We are particularly grateful to all our convenors and member tutors who volunteer their time and knowledge. This is the ethos of u3a.

We are very grateful to the National Lottery Community Funds for All programme, from whom we were fortunate to obtain a grant of £20,000 in October towards our accessible garden project. This project provides an accessible pathway round the back of our premises, a level area and space for setting out a garden. The building work was due to start at the end of the reporting period, weather permitting.

We are grateful to our members for their continued support and for their voluntary donations towards the running costs of the hall, ie. Gas, electricity, phone etc., particularly as these continue to rise each year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Connor'.

Teresa Connor

Honorary Secretary

On behalf of the Trustees