

U3A

**Banbridge District University of the Third Age**

**Trustees Annual Report for the year**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Name of the Charity**

The name of the charity is the Banbridge District University of the Third Age.

**Other names by which the Charity is known**

Banbridge U3A

**Registered Charity Number**

NIC107631

**Address of the Principal Office of the Charity c/o Chair, Banbridge U3A**

4 Oakdale, Castlewellan Road, Banbridge. BT32 4RW, Co Down

**Names of Trustees**

Veronica Barrett

Sharon Henry

Keith Roper

Peter Kearns

Anne Lavery

Gabrielle Graham

Florence Chambers

Jill Noble

Anne Buggy

**Structure Governance and Management**

The governing document of the Charity is its Constitution as adopted initially at the Annual General meeting, held on 12th April 2016 and reviewed/updated at the Special General Meeting held on the 14th January 2020. The Trustees are the members of the Executive

Committee, elected by the membership at the Annual General meetings (or occasionally co-opted) The Charity is affiliated to the Third Age Trust (Charity no: 288077) , the co-ordinating body for U3A groups within the UK.

#### Objectives and Activities, Achievements and Performance

Banbridge U3A is devoted in its commitment as set out in article 3 of its constitution i.e. to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their third age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependency and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Banbridge District.

The activities undertaken during the year as outlined in reports below are evidence of that continuing commitment.

#### Financial Review

See accounts and Treasurer's report for 12 months ending 31st March 2023. These have been approved by the charity's independent examiner (See separate reports)

#### Committee Activities

With the ending of Covid restrictions, monthly executive committee meetings returned to being held in the community room of a local store. These meetings consider and agree on governance issues as they arise. A new venue for the monthly general meeting was found in a local church hall from September 2022 and the meetings were maintained throughout the year. Communication with the membership continues to be maintained via newsletter. The membership fee continues at pre pandemic levels which is enough to maintain liquidity in respect of essential business of the charity and to continue membership of the Third Age Trust.

#### Membership

In April 2022 we had a membership of 103 members and are delighted to report that this has now increased to 120 members despite the loss, due to changes in their circumstances, of some long term committed members.

The monthly Newsletter is sent by email or post to all the membership - 95% are on email. This updates everyone on both the monthly meetings and on small group activities but most of the small groups also use What's App messaging in respect of their particular activity. Our website is kept updated and details how new people can get in touch and become involved. The annual membership subscription continues to be paid into our charity account and is now overseen by a new Treasurer.

#### Interest Groups and Activities

In keeping with the U3A movement, Interest Groups are the evolving life blood of Banbridge

U3A with new groups emanating and older groups ceasing, based on the current interest, knowledge and skills of members. Activities currently include groups for Walking, Badminton, Art, Photography, Craft, Family History, Historical Outings, Flower Arranging and Pickle Ball. One interest group has recently been lost due to a membership change but others have started up or attracted a higher level of participation. Since March 2022 venues have been available and all of the groups enjoy meeting physically, as social mixing is an essential part of the U3A ethos. Each group is led by a facilitator and depending on group size, facilitator/venue availability and interest, meetings occur on weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Meetings not only prevent social isolation and encourage learning, but also support mental and physical health in a membership made up of third agers.

#### Monthly Meetings of members

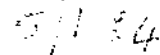
These meetings, with a speaker, to which all members are invited, are held each month with the exception of the holiday months of July and August. There is also a traditional change of format in June and December which applied also in this year. In June 2022 there was a day outing to a historical house and in December 2022 a social event took place, at which a quiz was held and finger foods were provided. The executive committee pools its knowledge to come up with a wide variety of speaker topics, (local history/culture to Wills or funerals) during the year which results in an excellent mixture of culture, entertainment and education. We hope to continue with this mixture of talks and events which meet the wishes of our membership.

#### Concluding remarks

We are delighted to say that Banbridge U3A has not only survived but continues to grow and change with members learning new skills and exploring new avenues for living full and active lives after retiring from full time work.

Signed 

Veronica Barrett

Dated 

5 January 2024

Veronica Barrett, Chairperson, on behalf of the Trustees of Banbridge U3A