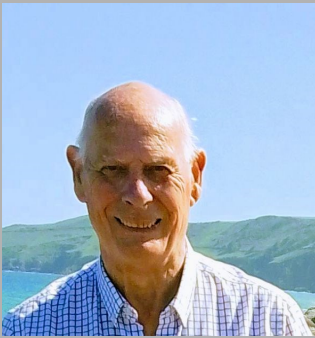


NORTH WEST REGION

Trustee Newsletter November 2024



TRUST AGM & BOARD MEETING

This newsletter has been produced in order to report on the recent Third Age Trust Board meeting held on 17th October. Pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter contain briefing notes on the discussion and actions taken at the Board meeting. This brief summary of the main topics discussed should not be taken as an authoritative statement. The actual meeting minutes are the official report on the Board meeting.

The u3a held its national AGM on 16th October in Milton Keynes and was well attended both in person and online. At the meeting the resolution relating to the Fit For The Future proposal was overwhelmingly supported and its adoption ratified.

REGION WEB MANAGER REQUIRED

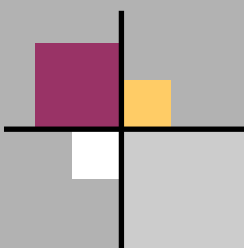
The North West Region is in the process of having its current website converted to the new website format based on the Third Age Trust's website building system "Siteworks". The region's current web manager wishes to relinquish the position when the new website is up and running. Hence the region is looking for a volunteer from within the North West Region to manage and maintain the new website. Please consider volunteering for this position. It would perhaps be suitable for a person who currently supports their own u3a website.

Your support would be really appreciated, please contact me if you are able to assist, my email address is below

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, do please contact me if I can assist you in any way

David Blanchflower NW Region Trustee

Contact Details Email: David.blanchflower@u3a.org.uk



North West Region Free Course Training Day for Interest Group Coordinators 4th November 2024



Date for the diary November 4th, the u3a North West Region are holding a workshop at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool. This will be the national workshop 'Interest Groups Matter'. These workshops are usually held online but so many of our members have commented on the benefits of meetings where they can exchange information and experience that the North West Regional Committee decided to organise a face-to-face meeting. The venue is as follows.

Liverpool Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT
Registration and Refreshments at 10:30

This event is of particular value to Interest Group Coordinators/Leaders, but it is open to anyone interested in helping to promote activities in their u3a.

Please try to support this event. You may use the link below to register but you will also be able to find it on the u3a national website.

Please register as soon as possible. Using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/interest-groups-matter-tickets-1010292430857?aff=oddtcreator>

Notes of the Third Age Trust's Board Meeting held on 17th October 2024

1. Welcome and Introductions

The new Chair, Allan Walmsley, welcomed Jenny Wilson who will take the role of Regional Trustee for London, Iain Cassidy the new CEO of the Trust and Margaret Fiddes, the new Vice Chair. John Bent was also co-opted onto the board for a further period.

Allan also thanked both Liz Thackray, the retiring Chair of the Trust and Sam Mauger, the retiring CEO, for all their hard work and dedication to the trust.

It was noted that following Margaret's appointment as Vice Chair there will be a vacancy for Regional Trustee in the Yorkshire & Humber Region. The board agreed that since the special resolution had been passed at the AGM it would be sensible for Margaret to continue to oversee the region until the council representatives have been elected and take up their roles in April and that the regional support team should continue to support the region with help from Margaret where needed.

2. Report on the final Pilot Council

Susie Berry, who had been chair of the pilot council, reported that the meeting held in September had demonstrated the benefits and contributions which could be expected from the future council. A number of matters from the previous board meeting had been passed to the council for consideration. As a result of the council's discussions and decisions the board held a 5-minute meeting after the council meeting to ratify all their decisions which included:

To request more information on the use of Twitter/X before deciding whether the Trust should continue with its account.

Not to sign a joint letter to the government requesting that it should reconsider the withdrawal of the winter fuel payment from the majority of pensioners.

Such ratification should not be necessary in future once the council is established.

3. International Links

Following a discussion on the possible renewal of international links the board considered a paper on the pros and cons of forging stronger links with AIUTA (International Association of Universities of the Third Age) and with EFOS (European Federation of Older Students at the Universities) it was agreed that whilst the board should be cautious, John Lewis may attend the forthcoming General Assembly on 24th October, acting independently and that any further trust involvement would be considered thereafter. The meeting is to be held on Teams, and he will report back on any possible follow up.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

4. TATTL board membership

The following current directors have indicated their willingness to continue to serve for a further 12 months. Clive Grace, Derek Harwood, Arjun Matthai, Liz Page, Brian Pirie, Valerie Wilson Thrower and Chris Winner. Allan Walmsley has confirmed that following his appointment as Trust Chair, he will no longer be available for membership, but Margaret Fiddes, Vice Chair, has indicated her willingness to serve of the TATTL Board. In addition, Sam Mauger is no longer available for membership of the TATTL Board, but Iain Cassidy, the new CEO is now available to be appointed as a TATTL Director.

5. Grants Policy

It was agreed that the current grants system should remain in place for the rest of this financial year but that there was some work to be done to improve the current operation of the approval process. Iain Cassidy will look at the application forms and review the procedures.

6. TATTL Business Development

The board approved TATTL's request to consider further the potential for one or more external partnerships which could possibly deliver income generation, member benefit, and/or strategic value to raise the profile of the movement.

The TATTL Board will identify an initial group of potential partners with whom to explore possible long term and strategic relationships of a commercial and business nature. The Board was assured that ethical considerations would be taken into consideration as part of any such discussions.

Permission was given to undertake the exploration of possible partnerships between November 2024 and February 2025, with a view to reporting to both the TATTL and Trust Boards by April of 2025.

7. Strategy Groups update

Margaret Fiddes gave a brief update on the current status of the strategy groups. As things stand, all groups have a dedicated staff member, draft terms of reference (ToRs), and a number of members. With the staff team and the current membership of the groups Margaret will help to firm up the ToRs, ensure that the members of the groups attending are from across the movement, and help with the establishment of a good working procedure in line with the trust's strategic aims.

8. Outcome of the AGM and future plans

Allan Walmsley commended the decision of the trust membership at the previous day's AGM to put into place Fit for the Future plans.

It was agreed that the Fit for the Future Steering Group should continue, led by John Bent, to ensure that all the procedures are put in place to deliver the new council and Board of Trustees in a timely fashion.

9. Ease of communication between trustees and their regions

It was agreed that Iain would review the current arrangements and consider the best and quickest way forward to enable better communication.

10. Regional Expenses

It was agreed that further clarification should be provided to ensure that all regions are able to cover the same costs in each region and to ensure parity.

11. Regional Support Teams

Currently Regional support teams vary in their numbers, membership, makeup, and areas of operation. It was agreed that work needs to be done to encourage better support across the regions. Suggestions for best practice to be provided from the SE and YAHR regions and a plan to be agreed to encourage take up of similar teams where support is needed.

Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings. This is a brief summary of the main topics discussed and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact

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Examples of courses available:

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Explore the works of acclaimed 20th-century writer, James Joyce, his life, contexts, and his place in modern culture.

To enrol for this free online course go to:

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North West Region Free Course Training Day for Interest Group Coordinators 4th November 2024



SEE PAGE 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FULL DETAILS

I do hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and found it informative. May I please ask that you circulate this newsletter to your u3a committee members.

David Blanchflower
NW Region Trustee