

Trustees' Annual Report – To Year End 31/08/2024

Charity Details

Charity Name	Thorley u3a
Charity Registration Number	1182852
Address	c/o The Chairman Thorley u3a 34 Broadleaf Avenue, Thorley Park, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4JY

Trustees – Officers

Nigel Varnam	Chair	Elected 8 th January 2024
Linda Ketteridge	Vice Chair	Elected 8 th January 2024
Pam Archer	Business Secretary	Elected 9 th January 2023
Ken Blethyn	Treasurer	Elected 7 th January 2019

Trustees – Non-Officers

John Bailey	Assistant Treasurer	Elected 6 th January 2020
Tom McNeeney	EDI Officer	Elected 4 th January 2022
Anne Willett	Membership Secretary	Elected 9 th January 2023
Dave Willett	Communications	Elected 9 th January 2023
Linda Maxwell	Speaker Co-ordinator	Co-opted 19 th January 2023
Annie Compton	Groups Co-ordinator	Elected 8 th January 2024

Advisers

Ian Hudson	Newsletter Editor	Non Trustee
Nick Ambrose	e-mail and Cloud Storage	Non Trustee
David Aitken	Website	Non Trustee

Others who served as Trustees for part of the financial year:

Roger Doughty	Membership Secretary
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Governance

The governing document of the charity is its constitution adopted on 4th March 2013, as amended at an Emergency General Meeting on 9th April 2018 and as amended at AGM 8th January 2024.

Thorley u3a is an un-incorporated charitable organisation with a financial turnover of between £25,001 and £250,000. As such, the charity is required to file a Charity Commission Annual Return.

The Return comprises an online form, a PDF copy of accounts (independent examination required), and the Trustees' Annual Report. These items are due to be filed within ten months of the charity's financial year-end of 31st August.

Trustees are nominated and elected by members, usually for a period of three years. Appointment of new Trustees takes place at the AGM, normally in January. The Trustees manage the charity by way of monthly committee meetings which all members are welcome to attend.

Thorley u3a is a member of the Third Age Trust.

Financial Review

Principal sources of funds are membership subscriptions and payments from members for the activities in which they participate.

The Trustees constantly review the level of reserve funds and will adjust membership fees according to our financial expectations. Our aim is to maintain a level of funding approximating to between 6-9 months' annual income in reserves.

Subscriptions for the financial year (to 31st August 2024) were £15.00 per member and it has been decided to maintain them at that level for the following financial year (to 31st August 2025).

Accounts for the year to 31st August 2024 have been approved by the charity's independent examiner and are appended to this report.

Public Benefit Statement

In carrying out their duties, the Trustees have had full regard to the guidance issued by the Charities Commission on public benefit and that of the Third Age Trust.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, for those residing in Thorley, Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding locality.

Activities for achieving objects

- Held monthly meetings available to the entire membership at which invited speakers delivered talks on topical and educational subjects.
- Operated more than 40 Interest Groups, covering topics such as art, customs & cultures, languages, gardening, bridge, photography, walking, singing, pilates, etc. New groups started during the year include a discussion group, seated exercise to music and line dancing.
- The sewing group volunteered for the Stortford Repair Café and undertook a variety of sewing repairs.
- Organised a Quiz Night in October 2023, with 80 members attending, and a Christmas Lunch in December 2023 with 119 members attending. Organised a meeting for all new members in November 2023
- Organised a number of trips and outings for members, including a visit to the houses of parliament, several theatre and garden trips, Henry Moore art studios and Weston-super-mare. Organised Spring and Christmas choir concerts.
- Ran a five-night visit to valkenburg, Holland in June
- Completed our new (WordPress) website and issued monthly news Update emails to promote the organisation's activities and provide access to members' news and Interest Group activities. Issued our quarterly Newsletter to all members.
- Ongoing programme to maintain and expand the activities offered.
- Continued to meet with neighbouring u3a groups to share knowledge experience and group sharing where possible.

The operation of Thorley u3a relies upon the dedicated contributions made by members on a voluntary basis.


Achievements and Performance

- Provided a University of the Third Age for approximately 600 retired and semi-retired residents of Thorley, Bishop's Stortford, and the surrounding locality.
- Provided educational and informative talks for members attending monthly meetings.
- Provided Interest Groups for members covering a wide range of educational and associated activities.
- Provided news and information to all members about Thorley u3a and the wider u3a movement's activities.
- Completed our new modern (WordPress) website to replace our aging website which was no longer going to be supported.
- Enabled members, some of whom are isolated people, to make new friends and acquaintances and to participate more fully in the local community.
- Membership as of 31st August 2024 is 637.

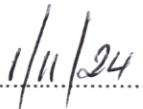
Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature: 

Nigel Varnam (Chair)

Date: 

References:

Prepare a charity annual return

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-a-charity-annual-return>

Send annual online return

<https://www.gov.uk/send-charity-annual-return>

Charity reporting and accounting essentials

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials-cc15b/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials>