

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF DOWNE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
(NI102502) FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Introduction**

This report refers to the operation of Downe University of the Third Age (NI 102502) (commonly known as Downe u3a) in the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. It includes a Receipts and Payments account.

The u3a is governed by the attached constitution. It has no fixed address, but correspondence can go to The Treasurer, Downe u3a, 15 Saul Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6NN

**Purposes of the Charity**

The objective of this organisation, in operation since 2007, is to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people in Downpatrick and its surrounding locality and to promote the education and well-being of its members.

**Main Activities**

It provides learning activities in a social environment for older people Downpatrick and the surrounding area, mainly through over 20 interest groups and a monthly meeting with a guest speaker.

**Main Achievements in 2023-24**

In the previous year, at the end of lockdown, the u3a made particular efforts to get members back into meeting people and to encouraging new members to join. This continued in 2023-23, with membership swelling from 264 to 313, including many who were new to the area and who appreciated the opportunity to develop new friendships. During the year we were helped by funding from the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

**Public Benefit**

The trustees of Downe u3a have had regard to the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance.

**Financial Position at the End of the Year**

In 2023/24 there was a surplus of £2,957 on unrestricted funds compared with a surplus of £1,138 in the previous year. Restricted funds were obtained in that year from the Public Health Agency, both the balance of an award in 2022-23 and the first tranche of the award in 2023-24. In 20-23/24 Downe u3a spent all of the carried forward restricted funds from an Arts Council award and all of the PHA award. The final £1,000 of PHA funds was received in 2024/25.

Signed:

*Edwina Marr*

Date:

*5<sup>th</sup> July 2024*

Trustees at the end of 2023/24 were:

Marr, Edwina; Marr, Douglas; Magee, Sheila; Teggart, Carrie; Mulhall, Brendan; Lindsay, Jane.

Registered Charity NI 102502