

Chairman's Report for year ended 28th February 2020

I feel that Arun West U3A continues to progress.

I would again wish to start with a big thank you to all the **Group Leaders and Committee Members** as without their continuing hard work we would have no U3A.

We also need to recognise the efforts of all the other helpers, especially those members of the **Events team** who make our general meetings such a success.

Membership

Following the recent membership renewal our membership now stands at 446, having previously risen to over 500 by the year end. This compares to 400 for 2018/19. We normally have a significant number of late renewals, but the virus has curtailed this situation.

We continue to attract new members through our advertising in Villages in Focus and Felpham in Focus but particularly by personal recommendation.

We are constantly told that we are friendlier and more welcoming than our neighbouring U3As and have more interesting **Coffee Mornings, Monthly Meetings and Events**.

Groups

We now have about **50** regular activity groups with more coming on stream. Particular thanks go to Pam, Liesma and Julie. We are always interested in new activities, so if you want a new group let the Groups Co-ordinators know.

During the past year we have started new groups for Petanque, Table Tennis, Cribbage and Tai Chi.

I also have to report that Louise Jones has decided to stand down from leading the Pilates group after 4 years and we need a new leader if it is to continue. Thanks to Louise for all her hard work.

Together with our network partner at Littlehampton U3A our members now have over **120** groups available to them.

Coffee Mornings and Lunches

Our Thursday Coffee Mornings are now well established at **St Marys Centre** in Felpham with attendances to date of 75+

The Eastergate Coffee mornings at the Wilkes Head are also well established, and would welcome more members.

We have outgrown the Elmer and our most recent Christmas and Spring lunches have successfully moved to the Beachcroft Hotel in Felpham.

Charity Donations

At the Coffee Mornings and Monthly Talks we have raised considerable sums for the Family Refuge and Stone Pillow Charities through the ongoing efforts of Gaida Parsons and Masha and hopefully we will continue to do so. Thanks to both and to all who contributed plants and items to buy and sell.

Events Team

The team has provided a full program of events and visits over the past year the highlight being the sell out Christmas Show in Yapton Village hall. They are also responsible for catering our regular open events. Thanks to everyone involved.

Monthly Talks

The team of Juliet Morgan, Jean Inwood, Jennie Marchant and Margaret Minty organised an interesting programme of talks for 2019/20 which have been attracting increased numbers. Unfortunately, the programme has had to be curtailed because of the present emergency. They will soon be formulating next year's programme and any suggestions would be welcome.

Lively Minds

Thanks to the hard work of the editorial team of George Eld and Masha White the Lively Minds Magazine continued to thrive.

Masha has now retired from the team and to continue this success, we need your help in the form of articles and photographs. We would also welcome anyone willing to become involved in producing the magazine.

Beacon Membership system

The system is now well established under the stewardship of Teresa Gess and was utilised fully for the recent membership renewal, with an increased number of members using the paperless online option.

So, the Good News is that we have a successful and thriving U3A, so much so that we have attracted publicity in the national press and have been asked by the Third Age Trust to comment on how we have achieved it. Long may it continue!

Committee Changes

At the last AGM I explained that we had a Committee Crisis as a number of members were standing down having completed their 3 or 4 year terms and at that point we had no nominations for replacements.

I agreed to continue for a further year and Chris Cann saved the day by agreeing to become Treasurer. She was followed onto the committee by Jennie Marchant and Julie Gillson.

Following a considerable amount of friendly persuasion, we now have replacements for all of the Executive posts, except Chair and all of the committee vacancies have been filled under the "casual vacancy" provision of our constitution.

This means that Pam Downs and Liesma Mezulis have stepped down as Groups Co-ordinators, Juliet Morgan as leader of the Monthly Talks team and Rosemary Clarke as Minutes Secretary.

Chris Cann is standing down as Treasurer and Angela Keight as Secretary as soon as new Bank Account signatories have been finalised.

I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to all of them for their help and hard work over the past 3 or 4 years without which we would not have achieved the success that we have. I am also pleased that they will continue their involvement in various interest groups. Angela will continue to lead the Events Team.

Although not now on the Committee thanks must also go to Masha White, who stood down last year, but who has continued as Publicity Co-ordinator, Joint Magazine Editor, Coffee Morning Organiser, temporary Web Master and member of the Beacon Team. All this as well as leading the Plants and Gardens group, the Mah Jong group, raising money for charity and, most importantly, looking after me! She has recently stepped down from the Magazine and will hand over the Publicity role once face to face meetings recommence.

Details of the New Committee for 2020/21 have been circulated and is shown on the Website and now comprises:-

Interim Chair	Glyn White
Vice Chair	Mary Curd
Secretary	Neil Clark (Angela Keight)
Treasurer	Mike McKrill (Chris Cann)
Membership Secretary	Teresa Gess
Groups Co-ordinators	Julie Gillson Mary Curd
Monthly Talks	Jennie Marchant Jean Inwood
Publicity Co-ordinator	Dinah Honey
Webmaster	Gill Henry

All of the new appointments will need to be formally ratified at the next AGM.

The new committee will need to address a number of issues including the cost and efficacy of our current adverting, participation in the proposed U3A day in the Autumn and the restart of the larger group events such as Monthly Talks, Coffee mornings, seasonal lunches and the Christmas Social organised by the Events Team.

I am, however, confident that the new team will take our U3A forward to the next stage of our progress.

Glyn White

Chairman Arun West U3A