

Report following Inaugural Meeting held on 29th October 2014

The inaugural meeting of Beccles U3A on 29th October saw even more people showing interest in joining this exciting new group, again exceeding the expectations of the steering group. The Public Hall was filled close to capacity and included a large number of people who had been unable to attend the launch meeting in September.

Peter Shannon, chairman of the steering group opened the meeting and introduced the speaker, Adrian Breacker who is Regional Trustee for the Third Age Trust. Mr Breacker is a former athlete who won gold and silver medals (in the men's relay) in the Commonwealth Games and European Championships in the 1950s.

Peter Shannon emphasised the self-managing nature of the U3A . It is an opportunity for members to share their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm with others for mutual benefit. Seven interest groups are already 'ready to go' and more groups will be set up as U3A members, with similar interests, are brought together. For this to succeed, the group will need to have at least one person who can bring the members together and keep the Group co-ordinators up to speed. So success depends on the members' willingness to work together.

The organisers have confirmed that over 130 people have already joined the U3A, which is very encouraging. In addition several people took away forms for others who could not attend the meeting so the membership is expected to continue to grow.

The initial groups are: gardening; classical music appreciation; art; mahjong; scrabble; middle distance walking and local history. So anyone interested in these activities are requested to contact Beccles U3A.