



CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT. November 2023

Dear Members,

First and foremost, I must congratulate our Group Leaders and their helpers, our refreshments volunteers, our committee and last but not least, every single member who have contributed towards making 2023 a most memorable year for Brackley u3a.

Back in March there were some concerns raised regarding our speaker meeting venue and so a small team were tasked to find an alternative suitable venue.

Following several meetings, the committee decided to appoint Brackley Baptist Church as our new 'home'. The transfer took place just a few weeks later and our first speaker meeting at the BBC was on the 18th May.

I'm sure you'll all agree that the BBC is so much better with tons of parking right near the entrance, excellent acoustics, plenty of inside space and more room to enjoy a cuppa!

Our refreshment volunteers, led by Kathy Hodges, had a new kitchen to navigate with new equipment. And haven't they done us proud, everything just seems to flow much better.

Our appreciation also goes to the sound and vision team, Ian and Roger, who have had the not so easy task of supporting our guest speakers.

Roger Lewry has been particularly supportive and very helpful. Thank you, Roger.

We've seen the start-up of quite a few new groups including, Shakespeare 2, Sunday 'Lunch Bunch', Tai Chi, Move and Groove, and Pétanque.

It has been brilliant to see so many of you participating - 'Learn, Laugh and Live'!

Thanks to John Moore, our speaker organiser, we've had presentations from guests on many subjects including, Amy Johnson, Punch & Judy (oh yes, we have!), Vladimir Putin, Jack Lidsey (Brackley's WW1 pilot who was shot down by the Red Baron) and an update from the HS2 team.

One of my own special days was listening to our own members entertaining us at the Christmas Social concert. Unfortunately, their promised World Tour never quite got off the ground!

One of my most forgettable days? Sitting on Father Christmas' shoulders at the December Social. I think he'd had a drop or two!

I now look forward with what should be another great year, we have so many plans, but they can't come to fruition without your help and support.

Thank you and my best wishes to each and every one of you,

Terry Pigott

