

Membership Secretary's Report to AGM Nov 2022

At our AGM last year I reported that we had 569 members. We can all remember how COVID made life difficult for us in all sorts of ways last year, and that was true of us recruiting new members, with 63 people joining.

Since then, although COVID is still of course with us, we have been getting more and more back to normal and this is true of us being able to attract new members. Last year we had 63, this year we more than doubled that with 157 joining during the year.

I am very pleased to you that at the end of September we had no less than 664 members - a net increase of 95 . Pity it was not 100 but I think you will agree that 95 is pretty good. I know that getting bigger brings its own problems but it is nice to know that we must be doing something right.

During the year we were sad to hear that 2 members passed away. When it came to renewing membership in January 41 members failed to pay their subs to renew and so their membership lapsed, although 2 did pay later in the year and rejoined.

5 members resigned, either due to ill health or because they had moved away from this area. I know that a lot of people aren't very keen meeting on Zoom but I know of at least two members who have moved some way away but they have still taken part in group meetings using Zoom.

During the year we updated our application form for people wanting to join. We used to require a cheque to be sent with the form. Cheques are becoming a very old fashioned way of paying for anything so we now offer the choice of cheque or a bank transfer using BACS. This has proved popular with nearly half of new members paying by this method. We have, of course, been offering this facility for some years to members renewing their membership.

The successful Open Day at the end of September gave a boost to letting potential members know what u3a is all about, as well as letting existing members find out about our groups. Since the new year started on 1 October a further 15 members have joined so I am looking forward to a successful year in recruiting new members.