



Dear Caterham u3a member I approach this, the first of my new mini newsletters with some trepidation as your incoming chairman. For those of you who don't know me I have included the picture above.

- First of all, we had a very successful AGM on November 27<sup>th</sup> at the United Reformed Church Hall with at least 70 people present. Full reports are on the website. The key events were the adoption of the accounts, which are in a good shape, and the election of our new committee. There was an emotional farewell to our outgoing Chairman Mike Brigden and we celebrated his achievements over his five years of leadership including seeing us through the dark periods of the Covid lockdowns, presiding over a record number of groups and membership, driving his team with new ideas and always doing it with a bright and friendly personality. He will be missed but of course Mike and Wendy will continue to take an active role in our u3a.
- The new committee comprises Paul Knight (Chair), Ray Jessop (Secretary), Ken Johnson (Treasurer), Liz Whittaker (Groups Co-ordinator), Rita Dael (Membership Secretary taking over from Alan Kingsmill), Corrie Ball (Publicity taking over from me), Joyce Jessop (Social Secretary) and Alan Speed (Network Liaison). I am pleased to say all the helpers have agreed to stay on— Philip Lawson (Webmaster), Andrew Harper (Beacon), Lyn Robinson-Jones (Talks), Margaret Smith (New Members) and Sheila Frost (Welfare). The new committee will meet in January to elect a Vice Chair and map out plans for 2024.
- During 2023 Ken Johnson successfully gained us a lottery grant to be used for talks (£800) and coach trips (£1000). We have already worked with Lyn to add a talk on magic mid-year and the social committee will be beavering away on the coach trips.
- I have been asked to publicise a couple of events which you may find of interest.
  - Welcome to Christmastide - on Wednesday 13th December - 1-3pm (arrive 1.00 to 1.50pm) at St Luke's Church transept (Hall) Whyteleafe Hill. Coffee and cakes on arrival followed by carols interspersed with short light readings. - Musical accompaniment from our own Recorder Group, Ukulele Group and Luke's Larks. 3pm. Mince pies and mulled wine.

**Parking available on Whyteleafe Hill, Hornchurch Hill and Church Road. Please come and go if you can't stay for the whole afternoon.**

- **Brandenburg concerts in London. Full details including discount codes are attached.**
  
- **We have a full talks programme for next year which will be included in the January newsletter.**
  
- **We are working on giving you all access to your membership details on line including the ability to pay on line. Watch this space for detail.**

**I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months.**

**Although it is early, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Committee, Season's Greetings and a Happy and Healthy New Year**



**Paul Knight**

**Caterham & District u3a Chairman**