

Chair Report – AGM 5th November 2019

COMMITTEE

The committee have worked very hard this year implementing GDPR regulations and approving a new constitution. New members joined the committee, John Jones, Business Secretary, Robert Davies, GDPR, and Sue Foy, Speaker secretary, Co-options were Joyce Carrington as communications, and Andrew Cross as IT, Beacon and website. In May John Jones resigned, Graham Proctor undertook the role as acting business secretary. Mal Waite took on the post of both Membership Secretary and Vice Chair. Thank you all for the time, dedication and support you have shown in your activities on the committee.

Unfortunately, Mal is stepping down this year, she has worked extremely hard and been a great support for all committee members – you will be missed. Bob Davies changed his role from GDPR to assist Mal with membership. Reporting GDPR issues is now the responsibility of all committee members

A new policy, 'Safeguarding' replaced the 'Vulnerable adults' policy. This year a new website was designed by Andrew Cross. It is now fully populated with useful information for members, coordinators and committee, all GDPR compliant.

Tuesday meeting attendance has increased, in line with the improved quality of our speakers. Discussions with the hall management has seen the sound system improved and a new screen fitted. The Thursday meetings are still a problem without a volunteer to organise. Their continuation is under urgent review.

New Initiatives have been started, 'Meet up at Storyhouse', to attract new members and a social chat for existing members, a designated table for new members at the Thursday meetings, a Face book page. All are expected to continue.

In last year's report I listed items some aims that set out to achieve 'LOOKING TO THE FUTURE'. We have successfully implemented all items on the list see below:

- We will consider implementing the added benefits of using Beacon management system. (Membership renewal now available online)
- Access to all events, meetings, holidays etc will be available to all paid up members. Associate membership is no longer available.(Implemented)
- We will review our communication channels, the Beacon management system and membership procedures (New website allows access to Beacon Portal for renewal and changes to personal details. Group information updated and synced with Study booklet. Membership application forms and Gift Aid forms were updated to be GDPR compliant)
- We will combine our financial reporting processes next year to include the social activities in accordance with CC regulations. (All activities(Social and educational) to be reported this year to the Charity Commission).
- We will aim to assign one role per committee member, so fewer committee members need to be co-opted. (New constitution increases the maximum number of committee members to 15. All committee members have a role, keeping one role as a 'spare' to assist any committee member)
- We will review our constitution to reflect Charity Commission and HMRC regulations. (New constitution agreed and approved at SGM July 2nd 2019.)
- We will seek new ways of expanding learning opportunities for all members. (New interest groups started, two short courses completed).

The Beacon management system remains as our management system of members data. We have used it to distribute emails, notifications including the monthly News Sheet. Members may keep their own data up to date. Personal data is accessed through the 'Beacon Portal'. To access it type '*Chester U3A members portal*' into your search engine and follow the link. Co-ordinators, when registered, with Beacon are able to manage their own group details and send out emails to their members, all GDPR compliant.

MEMBERSHIP

The current membership (Oct 17th) 1015. The new constitution states that the renewal period will end on 31st October 2019, a reminder for 144 members who have not yet renewed. The renewal period has been changed to clarify the validity of membership at the AGM. The quorum has changed to 1/20th of the membership, (currently 51 members). The membership, application and gift aid forms, have been updated. The new members meeting held last January was well attended.

GROUPS

The Study Booklet continues to be sent out to new members and those who request it. The current data is available on the website.

Popular science is as every popular! With numbers increasing. Janet Money will be handing over the responsibility this year.

Coordinators meeting. Groups are the core of the U3A. A special Thank You goes to all the coordinators, without you we would not have groups and therefore no U3A. A consent form was created to allow coordinators to circulate data within their group to ensure compliance with GDPR.

There are currently 90 groups registered. Unfortunately, Board Games, Spanish improvers and the Collecting group closed. Maths for Fun 2 and Philosophy also closed but have now been replaced. Two short courses have been tried for the first time, 'Life less plastic and 'ipad'. These are time limited courses reducing the demand on the coordinator. New groups are Jazz appreciation 2, Railway Children (Train Journeys),

SOCIAL The social team have been very busy arranging visits to various places

There have been 12 day visits to:-

Bury Markets	M/C Ship Canal	Smithfield's Hall	Yorkshire Sculpture Park
2 x Music Train	Black Country Museum	Barbara Hepworth Museum	Anglessy Oreil Yns Mon Art Gallery
Paradise Mill & Silk Museum	Canal Trip to Wharton	Heights of Abraham	

Theatre Visits

Murder in Play , The Body Guard, Swan Lake, Kinky Boots, Christmas at the Phil,

Holiday Folkestone and Leeds Castle – 5 days

COMMUNICATION

The News Sheet remains the first line of communication to all members. We reviewed our communication this year and asked members for articles about their groups so that a quarterly magazine could be produced, highlighting our group activities. None were received – no magazine

Looking to the future

- Review procedures with the purpose of simplifying and reducing the work-load of committee members.
- Implement further admin facilities of the Beacon Management system.
- Continue to seek new ways of supporting members attending groups, the interest group coordinators and the committee members so that they enjoy their roles

May I remind you that Chester U3A is a volunteer organisation entirely run by its members. All of you are volunteers in some way. In this report I have not mentioned members individually for their contribution for fear of missing someone. I therefore thank you all who contribute towards the smooth running of our U3A, the groups and especially the committee who really do work very hard. Thank you all, you are doing a great job – keep it up

Jenny Carley – Chairman Nov 2019
