

## **Chester U3A AGM, November 2022.**

### **Groups Co-ordinator Report**

At the time of writing this report (October 2022) there are some 79 different interest groups shown on our website as available to members. The Group Status document on the website has been updated and should be available to view directly from the website.

Most of our Groups are open and accepting new members, There are some which are open but not accepting new members for different, but understandable reasons (such as space constraints, the level of skills or understanding amongst existing members of those groups). A small number of Groups are not currently active (they may operate seasonally, or may not have a Co-ordinator at present).

The structure and success of Chester u3a continues to be rooted in the considerable amount of work undertaken by Co-ordinators. The drive and willingness with which they carry forward their Groups, from meeting the basic organisational needs, communicating with their members, appreciating and responding to concerns raised, and planning, developing and delivering their programmes of activity should be commended. In some cases changes such as the greater use of technology have become part of an adapted routine, in some, the return to familiar, pre-pandemic patterns of activity has been welcome and appreciated by many members.

There have been a number of expressions of interest in the establishment of additional Groups and these have been promoted through the Chester Times throughout the year. As always, any member who wishes to start new Groups is encouraged to do so. The great depth of interest and expertise amongst the membership is a real asset. Support and advice can include general guidance and help with start up actions and some initial costs, as well as publicity and promotion, and access to the systems we have for keeping in touch with members.

There was a successful conclusion to the short programme, looking at the Tidal Dee, which was begun in 2021 and interest has been expressed in organising another, similar programme, which may be taken forward in 2023 as part of the continuing development of the organisation.

Although the nature of Groups, or the name of the Co-ordinator, will change over time, this can be an important part of how we maintain and develop the vitality of the organisation. The scope of the interests that members may wish to develop continues to be very broad, as it always has been. As Groups Co-ordinator we have tried to support Co-ordinators and to help ensure that the information that new and existing members have about the range of activity taking place is up to date and useful. We have been happy to be advised of changes that need to be made to the information provided and we have, of course, been very grateful for the support we have received from the Co-ordinators and from the Chester u3a Committee.

*Stuart Murray and Mal Waite*

*Groups Co-ordinator*

*20<sup>th</sup> October 2022*