

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for the AGM 2018

We have been at Ealing Green Church for 18 months now and made to feel most welcome by Sarah and Helen of the Church staff. The Church Luncheon Club has grown with our members staying for lunch. We must remember that we do meet in a church and like most churches this one can be cold at times. The heating goes on at 8.30 for us, so we must remember if it is cold outside to wrap up well. One problem that has come up in the last 6 months is trouble with the sound equipment. For the first year all we did was turn on the equipment and away it went, now some weeks we have trouble making the sound equipment work.

Ealing U3A has continual to grow in numbers and the number of interest groups (42 groups now) and members of the committee having direct responsibility for this side of the growth. Margaret Proctor along with Mary look after new members and welcome them into Ealing U3A. Ann Marie Tighe has the responsibility of working with the interest groups and setting up new groups. Some groups need more members but the committee is committed to keeping groups open.

Our Thursday Morning meetings are going well. Rosemary Richardson finished arranging the speakers in 2017 and Yvonne Hughes will finish at the end of the year. We owe a great deal to both these fine ladies for all their hard work. I have been looking after the admin side of the speakers: as I step down as chairman, I will also step down from the admin side after doing this for 8 years. Juliet Edwards arranged a very interesting Summer Programme in 2017 for us and George Martin and Barbara Kinn have agreed to arrange the Summer Programme for 2018.

During the year, your generosity has surprised me with a total of approx. £1100.00 being raised for the Grenfell Tower disaster and The London Air Ambulance Service.

No Chairperson can work by themselves. I have been very lucky in having a very active committee helping to run Ealing U3A; and there are 9 members of the committee including two co-opted members. Each one has a responsibility to help the unit run with the Secretary (Margaret Martin) and the Treasurer (Barbara Kinn) fulfilling the two kingpins of the committee. Both Margaret and Barbara have held their positions for a number of years, making sure that even when the chair changes, Ealing U3A carries on functioning well. The most important side of Ealing U3A is the membership and those that give up their time to run interest groups, lay out the church, support each other by attending the meetings and groups. Without you, the unit would fold. Remember, "Not what Ealing U3A can do for me, but what I can do for Ealing U3A".

On the 7th of March we had a 30-year party. I am sorry that a large number of you were taken ill with the norovirus as it would have spoilt the day for you. Hilary Smith, our first chairperson, enjoyed the event and was not taken ill and we had all our extant former chairpersons there. It was also good to have John Bent, London Region Trustee, there to support us.

I have made the following life members of Ealing U3A: Laurie Valentine, Mary Hagger and Barbara Kinn, for all the work they have done in the past.

I would like to thank the present committee for all their support given to me and all their hard work with the running of Ealing U3A. Margaret Martin will also be stepping down from the committee and I feel that we owe her a big vote of thanks for all the hard work and duties Margaret has covered over the years.

So what happens now? I will step down from the committee, it has been a great honour to serve you over the years and count many of you as my friends. I will continue as the 'Almoner' for Ealing U3A looking at keeping in contact with those that cannot attend the meetings or who are sick. So thank you for allowing me to be your Chairman.

John Deighton (Acting Chairman)

