

# EASTBOURNE CENTRAL U3A

*Affiliated to the Third Age Trust*



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR AGM (23 March 2023)**

Dear Members,

This will be my last Chairman's report, as I am standing down at the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, because we need someone younger and with new ideas.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have served you as Chairman, particularly through some tricky times caused by the COVID pandemic. I hope you felt that the Committee and the Chairman did their best to negotiate our branch through those difficult times, by maintaining contact and interest in U3a matters via our Newsletter *Keeping in Touch* (mainly thanks to the Herculean efforts of our Membership Secretary, Erik Starkey), along with contributions from several of our members. There were also contributions from a variety of video talks online. Thank you.

This year we have been able to continue with the 'normality' experienced pre-COVID. Many of our members have told me how good it has been to enjoy a full programme of talks, study groups and events. Our twice monthly talks have been extremely well attended with an excellent programme of speakers, for which we must thank our Speakers Secretary, Jane Bradley.

I am also pleased to report that our Membership is strong, which allows us to recommend that the annual subscription be kept at £15 per person - extremely good value in these inflationary times. I am also delighted that we have new members who are willing to stand for Committee at our AGM. 'New blood' is vitally important for the welfare, continuity and development of our very successful branch. At the same time, it is good that most of the current Committee members are prepared to serve for a further year, so that new members get a chance to 'shadow' present officers, facilitating a smooth transition between posts in the future.

Also, to those who are not members of the committee, please think about how you can contribute to our branch and indeed volunteer your help at meetings: for example, chairs and tables need to be put out and returned at the Church Hall.

We have also started to consult with other local u3a branches (Meads and Wealden) as to how we might co-operate and facilitate studies between the branches.

Finally, I would like to wish my successor, whoever that may be, a great time – I am sure he or she will do an excellent job with the fantastic 'team' supporting them. It certainly makes the Chairman's job much easier with great support from the Committee: my thanks to all of them.

Wishing you all well for the year ahead (2023-24).

Mike Tribe (Chairman)