

The first of our twenty fifth anniversary celebrations took place on the afternoon of Friday April 7th 2017 at Astral Park. Over one hundred members gathered to chat, enjoy afternoon tea and listen to entertainment by Razz who sang popular songs from the 1950 to 1980 eras. It was pleasing to see so many members supporting this event which was also attended by the mayor Councillor Stephen Cotter. In his brief, cheerful speech Councillor Cotter confessed to not having heard about our U3A but he was interested to learn of its history, how it is organised and the many interest groups that now exist.

From a personal point of view, I thought it was not only a good opportunity to meet up and chat with friends from groups I do not attend but a chance to make new friends too and I was not disappointed as I was lucky enough to form several new friendships. I am an enthusiastic but sometimes not very good U3A bridge player and I was able to chat with a like minded person from another U3A bridge group who I had never met before. I was also able to extend friendships with members who I hardly knew. Founder and members of the U3A who have attended for twenty years or more were present and I felt pleased that they could see that their efforts to create what is now such a strong, large and successful U3A were acknowledged and appreciated.

Thanks go to Nigel Nauth-Misir who led the afternoon and also to the team of U3A volunteers who planned, arranged and ran it. It is always difficult to organise celebratory events that will be enjoyable and please most of the membership. The work involved can be surprisingly time consuming but I think the idea of an afternoon tea was a good one that will have generally pleased those who attended.

Lorna Richardson