

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
12TH APRIL 2019

Welcome to our 2019 AGM and a look back over the past year. I have greatly enjoyed this year which has included:

- ✚ Jess and I attending the national U3A Conference in Nottingham, a really vibrant conference full of interesting people and ideas, we would fully recommend attending this years Conference.
- ✚ Attending the Association meetings which enables representatives from all Essex U3Asto meet in Chelmsford to hear guest speakers and share issues..
- ✚ Meeting with Maldon Cluster Group Chairs, Heybridge, Maldon & District, and Blackwater U3As to discuss joint issues. This year we have also run two joint events one on Scams and another on Moving Healthily into the Third Age. We also welcomed two new groups from Dengie U3A and Burnham U3A.
- ✚ Chaired the Committee Meetings and became the Group Leader for Round the World |Lunches.

The Committee, apart from overseeing various week to week running of Limebrook u3a have had a very busy year completing changes to the Constitution, completing paper work which ensures we meet the new requirement of both the Governments privacy law and the changes required by the Charity Commission plus the overhaul of our finance system. It is amazing how little this looks when just saying it but when actually undertaking the tasks completing the paper work and finally passing through Committee it all takes time and commitment. All of this work can be seen on line or in our Green folder which Christine has put together for all members perusal. A special thanks to John and his small working party for seeing this all through. I'm as always very grateful to have had John as my deputy, he undertakes an enormous amount work behind the scenes both on Committee business and fronting the Theatre group. If I could pass a law I would ensure that every Committee had a John Salisbury, complete with red pen.

I must thank the Committee for working so well together and for all their individual commitment to their specific roles, Christine as Secretary who also took over minute taking, Paul and Jo for taking on the key role of editorship and printing of our newsletter. Thanks also to Maureen for supporting our Group Leaders, Brian for ensuring that everyone can hear the speakers as he has improved the technology we use. Thanks to Jess for the unenviable task of organising our monthly meeting

speakers, a tricky job which she has done brilliantly. Thanks also to Sandra and Tim as Membership Secretaries, and thanks to Tim for setting up the new Beacon system which gives us a clearer picture of our membership and groups they attend etc. I still remember them coming up to me and volunteering to take on this role, a magic moment.

Thinking of magical moments there have been two more this year. As you may know Phil Wilmott, who has completed a sterling job and deserves much praise for his diligent work as Limebrooks Treasurer is stepping down and I retire as Chair. Throughout the voluntary sector it is proving very difficult to find people ready to take on roles and responsibilities and these two roles are particular difficult to fill. However as I write this we have been very lucky to have had two volunteers who are standing for these posts, and Whom I'm sure will they will be unanimously elected. What a relief, and magical moment, when I received their phone calls to confirm they would like to stand, and yes I did have another G&T. On a personal note I'm really pleased to be leaving Limebrook in the capable hands of such a committed Committee.

Finally but by no means least a big thank you to all, the Group Leaders and members who continue to make Limebrook U3A what it is, a happy friendly, and vibrant organisation where we can all truly enjoy and enhance our lives, Learning, Laughing and Living. Long may it continue.

Chris Dove
Chair
April 2019