

**Chair Report (David Salmon) – April 2024**



Our March meeting saw a packed room to hear Sir Gary Streeter talk about his time in parliament which was interesting, tongue in cheek and amusing. Thirty Two years is a long time from his days with John Major in 1996 to now before Gary stands down this year whenever the election may be. He told me the speech would take the form of a 'fireside chat' but got a shock when he saw how many of our members turned up, but still managed to have a light touch with some lovely anecdotes.

The snowdrops are gone and the daffodils beginning to fade, but with the Magnolia and fruit trees in blossom it seems that spring is now here at last. A time of renewal, making me confident that things will improve with warmer weather (hopefully) and some sunshine to cheer us up. An early reminder of our upcoming AGM in June where, we hope as many as possible members can attend.

The Committee and Group Leaders are making sure our upcoming year from April is interesting, informative and fun.

Please remember NOT to renew prior to 1 April, otherwise the computer will put it down as this year's subscription again. I hope that every member will enjoy their coming year, trying new things, new groups, and make new friends.

Our Committee also has to renew in line with u3a rules. Some may not be aware that we almost lost our branch entirely until new people were recruited after the members had had their time on it. This could happen again with a number of Committee members needing to be replaced after this coming year. So I am asking that you consider joining our merry throng. It's not difficult, it's fun, doesn't take a lot of your time and we don't bite! Without new Committee members lined up we could lose not just our monthly meetings but every group activity, possibly our u3a friends as well, something we all want to avoid. Have a chat with myself or any Committee member to ensure we keep going and from strength to strength.

*David*