

Preston Park U3A, Chair's Report 2022

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen

The worst effects of the Covid Pandemic now appear to be behind us. However, it is predicted that there will be an upturn in the number of cases in the New Year so please do continue to take care.

In February Russia invaded Ukraine. Very sadly this war continues. In April The Queen celebrated her 96th birthday and we all thought she was immortal. In May Ann Kerrison's Spring Break to the Cotswolds was much enjoyed by all those who went. Thank you, Ann! In June we had a double Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee yet sadly after a hot and dry summer The Queen died on 9th September with her funeral 10 days later. A period I think none of us will forget. We now have a King which seems very strange.

This report is my review of our u3a year. We began in January with reduced levels of activity but pleasingly the number of our Interest Groups meetings increased steadily from springtime onwards and they number now much the same as before the pandemic.

Nearly all of our Groups were meeting again in person from the summer onwards. Zoom is becoming a distant memory for many except for keeping in touch with far flung family and friends.

During this year we have started or cemented in place the following Interest Groups:-

Book Review 5 with no. 6 on the cards

House Plants

International Affairs Discussion,

Italian Conversation

MahJong

Petanque in Preston Park

Table Tennis

Tai Chi Beginners

Vineyard Visiting

Yoga

Scottish Country Dancing

A big thank you to Philip Haughey our Interest Groups Coordinator for all his hard work.

I am conscious that we still have a few Members still isolating for personal health reasons. We hope their circumstances improve and they are able to resume joining groups in 2023.

Our membership has increased during the year is currently over 430 which I believe is testament to us offering what both our long standing and newer members want. Even so the committee would like to identify missed opportunities and start even more Interest Groups.

We have just agreed an increased annual subscription of £15. This should keep our u3a in good financial shape at a difficult time.

We started the year with an Executive Committee of just 7, all of whom are Trustees. We are going to end it with 10 so your u3a is, I think, in good hands.

I should also like to thank the other Officers and Executive Committee Members for all their help and contributions this year. I should also like to thank all the Group Leaders and others without whom our u3a would be much poorer.

Needless to say, it is those members who put something into our u3a who get the most enjoyment out of it.

Thank you all for your support.

John Colman, Chair 2021-22, Thursday 1st December 2022