

Preston Park U3A, Chair's Report 2023

Good afternoon, Members

At the last two AGMs I spoke of the COVID pandemic and its effect on us all. I trust this best forgotten period in our lives is well and truly behind us now.

This report is my review of this year. I am very pleased to report with optimism about the progress our u3a has made in the last 12 months

We now have more members than ever before and more interest groups as well. Our finances are in a strong position and we have adequate reserves to weather any unexpected storm.

I have also had the support of a strong committee this year and most of its members are standing for re-election. I should like to thank the committee for all its help and work this year.

Your committee is not however complacent and is constantly looking to offer you, our members, more as well as maintain and improve what we already do.

We held again a promotional exhibition in Preston Park in September during u3a week to let the locals know of our existence and what do. We have attracted a good number of new members as a result.

We are investigating, with St John's Church, a major improvement to the audio visual systems at Knoyle Hall to bring them into the 21st century.

We are constantly receiving suggestions for new interest groups and endeavouring to get new ones started. We have a strong Interest Groups Team whose aim is just this as well as maintaining existing Interest Groups and starting duplicate groups where existing ones are full.

None of this is of course possible without our Group Leaders who are the people who make our u3a work. A big thank you to all our group leaders.

On a personal note, I am somewhat frustrated that we have, like most u3as, a significant churn rate – that is new members who don't renew because they can't get into the groups they would like to join and give up on us.

I should also like to thank Roger Luther for producing the monthly update email for several years. It has been a massive help in keeping us all up to date with news.

I am sure you will agree we will approach our seventeenth year with confidence because I strongly believe our u3a has something valuable to offer.

Thank you all for your support.

John Colman, Chair 2021, 2022 & 2023, Thursday 7th December 2023