

Chair's report

Good afternoon everybody - I think on the whole we have had a pretty good year. Of course, we have had our ups and downs and you may remember that, due to Covid, we had to cancel our Christmas meeting last year. Hopefully, that's not going to happen again this time and next month we shall be able to enjoy the mulled wine and mince pies as usual.

Covid is still with us and likely to be for some time to come, however, if we all have our booster jabs whenever they are offered and test and be prepared to isolate if we show any symptoms we should keep ourselves and others safe from serious illness.

Thanks to Annette's hard work and diligence, we have had some excellent speakers during the year and, as she has admitted herself, only one of these was a little disappointing - if you were there you will know who she is talking about. We are very grateful for her efforts in finding speakers able to present on such a variety of interesting topics and also for the excellent reports that she writes to go into the Watlington Times and The Link. However, once in a while she would quite like to just be able to sit back and listen to the speaker so if anyone else would be prepared to take notes occasionally she would love to hear from you.

In September we were able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the u3a and once again we were so lucky to have June able to make an exceptionally good celebration cake to go with the Prosecco. You must admit that you get good value for your membership fee here in Ridgeway.

Despite all the restrictions imposed on us over the last couple of years, our membership has continued to grow and recently we hit a total of 130 members which is the best ever. Do make sure you have remembered to renew your subscription. New members are always very welcome and we should all try to encourage as many people as possible to join us because this makes the organisation more vibrant and brings in new ideas as well as new people.

Because of the area in which we live, we are never going to be huge (some u3as have a thousand or more members) but the more members we manage to recruit, the more choice of interest groups we can offer. We are delighted that several new ones have opened up in the last few months. Let's try and keep the momentum going and remember to spread the word about u3a whenever we can.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding you about two of the guiding principles of u3a which are self-help and mutual aid. In order for u3a to work properly, members must be prepared to give back as much as they get out of our activities. Ridgeway doesn't run itself and there are many ways in which everybody can become involved. We are immensely grateful to all our group leaders for the contribution that they make to the success of our u3a. Please help them as much as you can. Groups do not have to be run solely by one individual; the responsibilities can be shared or members might take turns at organising each month.

We all enjoy the tea and biscuits at the end of these meetings but please take your turn at helping with this as well. That is something which almost everyone can manage.

So my message today, if you haven't gathered it already, is: Please don't just sit back and let other people do everything - if we share the load then nothing becomes a chore for any individual and we can all **learn laugh and live**.

Lastly, but by no means least, I want to thank everyone on the committee - they all take on far more responsibility than should be expected and I am extremely grateful to each and every one of them.

So, as they say, onwards and upwards and let us hope that in 2023 we shall continue to prosper and grow.

Ridgeway u3a Income and Expenditure Accounts 2021-2022: Year End 30/09/2022

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Subscriptions for 2021/22 paid in 2020/21 (Relaunch)	£906.40	Speaker Meetings including Open Day	£1,498.65
Subscriptions/visitors for 2021/22	£1,761.55	u3a Third Age Trust membership	£480.00
Raffles	£230.07	Third Age Matters magazine	£195.52
Income from Groups	£4,485.25	Newsletters & Publicity	£400.35
Grant for Open Day	£150.00	Groups	£4,239.70
Total Income	£7,533.27	Total Expenditure	£6,814.22

Income	£7,533.27
Expenditure	<u>-£6,814.22</u>
Surplus for the year	£719.05
Brought Forward from 2020/21	£2,468.95
Carried forward to 2022/23	£3,188.00

Notes:

- * The Relaunch & Open Day in September 2021 resulted in 45 new members joining during that month; the income from these subscriptions for 2021/22, paid in 2020/21, has been included above.
- * Income from subscriptions covers the cost of Speaker Meetings, membership of Third Age Trust, production of Newsletters etc., and we expect this to continue in 2022/23 in spite of increasing costs, particularly for speakers and their travel expenses.
- * None of our groups makes a surplus, but as the income and expenditure for an event may extend over several months, at the year end the two may not be equal.