

Culm Valley U3A has Arrived!

On the 5 September 2019 there was a stirring in Willand as folk made their way to the Inaugural Meeting of the new Culm Valley U3A. The Steering Committee thought that if we had between 40 and 60 people attend we would be pleased and duly made up 60 welcome packs, just in case anyone wanted to become a member!



We were taken aback as what seemed like an endless stream of people kept filing into the hall.

More chairs had to be found and we were soon taking down names and email addresses to send out Membership Forms as we had run out!

As Peter, the Chairman stood up to welcome everyone to the meeting 120 people were eager to hear what Culm Valley U3A had to offer.

As Steering Committee members felt positively overwhelmed, tea and coffee were served and folk chatted together, there was a real buzz of enthusiasm around the hall. Membership forms were completed, money changed hands and the initial 17 Interest Groups were signed up for, while ideas for other Interest Groups were eagerly added to a flip chart.



A month later we have over 100 members with another 14 being added after our first Monthly Meeting when we were given amazing insights into the amazing "Trials and Tribulations of a Surgeon" by the very popular Dr Gavin Haig

Not only were we treated to a fascinating insight into the world of NHS medicine, we were given privileged 'behind the scenes' anecdotes, some being gruesome yet amazing, as we travelled through the decades learning about how surgery has developed from some very basic practices and smoking cigars in the operating theatre, to what we all have the privilege of benefitting from today.



So onwards and upwards as Interest Groups start meeting and deciding what to do and how to do it. From Birdwatching to Jazz Appreciation and French Conversation to Quizzing we are finding our feet and enjoying getting to know one another as we embrace the U3A remit to Learn, Laugh and Live!

Thank you to those from other local and regional U3As who have advised and supported us and those who attended our Inaugural

Meeting, we very much appreciate your help.

Culm Valley U3A
18 October 2019