

Chairman's Statement 2021 to 2022

I am so pleased that Tarporley and District u3a has managed to get through the past few years and increase our membership, which currently stands at 424 fully paid-up members, with 36 still to renew.

Our finances are very healthy as you will see from the accounts and that has enabled us to dispense with the £1 fee for monthly meetings and to offer free refreshments. In common with other users of Tarporley Community Centre, we have been able to contribute to the cost of upgrading the audio-visual system, which will hopefully mean that both we and our speakers can have confidence that they can be seen and heard clearly.

There is a possibility that we will also look to contributing to the upgrading of facilities for our interest groups, such as a new screen in the Craven room, which is used by several of our groups to give presentations or to host outside speakers. We also ran a very successful Open Day to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement in the UK, where we provided refreshments and cake to over 200 members and visitors. Twenty new members joined on that day and many more took membership forms.

This year, we unfortunately decided to cancel our January meeting due to increased Covid rates, but from February onwards we went from strength to strength with attendance at our monthly meetings and I hope everyone who has been to the talks has enjoyed what we have offered. Highlights in my humble opinion were the Desert Wings talk from Peter Holloway, Bletchley Park from Dr Mark Baldwin and Antigua or Bust by Rachel Smith

Trips were resumed, with a wonderful programme of concerts, ballet, opera, jazz, museum and garden visits offered by Edward Baskerville, all of which were very much appreciated. Our convenors have been amazing, picking up from where they left off pre-Covid and in acknowledgement of that we organised a lunch for them at Urchin's Kitchen in May.

I am delighted to say that our three new members co-opted onto the committee have decided to stay, so we haven't managed to scare them away yet. Committee members have been very dedicated in the face of many personal challenges, some suffering illness, accidents, family commitments and emergencies and sadly, even bereavements. It is astonishing that they have carried on through it all.

Enormous thanks to Paul Bujac, Don Igoe, Graham Parker, Liz Carter, Anita Langford, Pat Tyson-Jones, Sue Hardacre, Jan Linsell, and Gill Moroney. Also thank you to Bob Welch and Val Rodgers, who have served us well and are leaving the committee. A special mention too for Andy Barton, who has offered us valuable IT help and has given up his time for training on the AV system in the community centre.

Finally, do please tell us if there is anything you would like us to do differently and don't hesitate to offer us any help and ideas. We have an organisation to be proud of.

Raye Hurst

Chair