

Chairman's Statement 2022 to 2023

I am writing this statement after our 10th Anniversary Celebration in September at which we were entertained in spectacular fashion by three of our music groups. I can honestly say that members were amazed at how good the performances were, so many thanks to all the members of those groups. We were delighted to welcome Bill Harrison back to celebrate with us as it was Bill and his wife, Lin who started our U3A in 2013. Without them what would our 500 odd current members be doing with their time!

Our finances remain healthy as you will see from the accounts, thanks to our Treasurer, Graham Parker, and we continue to offer free monthly speaker meetings and refreshments. We have had a great variety of speakers, and we hope to please all of our members most of the time. A highlight for me this year was the talk by Grant Ford of Antiques Roadshow fame called Every Picture Tells a Story about his career in the art world. This was followed by a visit to the sculpture garden and paintings he curates at Carden Park Hotel.

Three members of the committee have undertaken to supplement the trips and outings programme that Edward Baskerville continues to run. We managed a ballet, a theatre trip, a vineyard and a garden this year, more to come in 2024. The only issue we have with Trips is the continuing high cost of transport, but we try to reduce costs where we can.

Our 33 interest groups naturally fluctuate, some may fail and others open. This year a second book group and a second French group have opened, as well as a new Art Workshop group. Look out for new group information in our monthly newsletter, produced by Sue Hardacre.

Without Convenors of course, there are no interest groups at all, so we try to show how much we appreciate them at least once a year. This year we invited them to afternoon tea at Abbeywood in June to express our thanks for all that they do, which was a very enjoyable occasion.

Your committee also puts in a lot of hard work behind the scenes and I must say they are an excellent team. I have completed my three years as Chair at the AGM, and will stand down, although I will remain on the committee for the time being. My thanks for superb support go to Paul Bujac, Don Igoe, Graham Parker, Liz Carter, Anita Langford, Pat Tyson-Jones, Sue Hardacre, Jan Linsell, Gill Moroney, Andy Barson and Kim Harding. Andy and Kim were co-opted onto the committee this year, Kim joined to organise the 2024 holiday to Austria, and how marvellous to see a U3A holiday on offer again!

Sadly, Liz Carter has decided it's time to relinquish her place on the committee, where she has been an incredibly efficient and thorough Secretary for the past three years while I have been Chair. This has been her second term as Secretary so Liz has more than done her bit for the U3A! She definitely deserves a break and I would like to thank her for keeping us all on the straight and narrow so cheerfully.

Please remember we are your Committee, we act as Trustees and are responsible for keeping the finances in order and complying with our legal obligations as a charity. We welcome questions, scrutiny and all comments, and if you wish to join us, do please see any Committee member to arrange to come along to one of our meetings. Finally, thank you for remaining a member of Tarporley and District U3A and please ask yourself if you can offer help in any role, especially Interest Groups.

Raye Hurst

Chair