

## **Chairman's Report for AGM – April 27<sup>th</sup> 2016**

I would like to think of 2015 as having been a reasonably successful year for the Region.

There were numerous Study Days and Workshops including a Research Workshop held during the year all of which, I believe were successful.

Two new U3As were started during 2015 making the number belonging to Northumbria Region up to 50.

The finances will be reported on later in this meeting but are looking healthy

The various sub-committees were kept busy and again reports on their activities will come later

It seemed promising that we had some new members on the committee which looked good for the future. However, due to various circumstances we lost some of those people which is a great shame. In particular, we are grateful to Mo Brown for stepping in and taking over the IT function again

If the Region is to continue to prosper or indeed, even to continue to operate then we desperately need people to take on roles either as officers or as committee members. It would also help if there were volunteers who would be prepared to assist in the work of the Region without being committee members and this has happened within the IT committee and its activities.

It is now time for me to stand down and I am hopeful that someone will come along and take my place. We need new thinking in order to take the Region forward particularly in the respect of the comments made by Pam Jones at the meeting in January 2016 and comments in the Third Age Matters published in April 2016.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have helped me over the last few years and wish the Region well for the future. In particular I would like to thank Alexa who has been the Secretary for a while and has now decided to step down

John Leiper

April 2016