

## **West Bridgford u3a**

### **Chair's Report for 2022 -23**

At our last AGM in June 2022, Paco was just ending his tenure as Chair. He and the Committee had been unavoidably pre-occupied with Covid 19, various lockdowns and general disruptions to normal life. I was fortunate to take over as Chair after those difficulties were largely over. Since then, we have been able to enjoy a more regular sequence of Open Meetings, face-to face activity by groups, and even some social events. Despite the demise of Covid, many of our members are still reluctant to meet in large numbers such as at Open Meetings.

Not surprisingly, our membership numbers took a hit during the lockdown period, although they are now slowly recovering.

One of the battles that we face is simply getting potential members to know that we exist. We have been running a recruitment campaign with various strands. We now have a gazebo, which we set up from time to time at the Farmer's Market on Central Avenue in West Bridgford. You might have seen us there. We have also placed ads and news items in Local News and other local publications. You as a member can help us in this effort simply by telling any of your friends about the u3a (hopefully in a positive way!).

A highlight of the year, both nationally and locally, was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the u3a in September. We celebrated this event in conjunction with other Notts u3as. A u3a beacon was brought to us by Beeston u3a. Cllr. Tina Combellack, the Mayor of Rushcliffe, attended a special Open Meeting to transfer the beacon to West Bridgford u3a, which then delivered it into Nottingham.

I would like to thank both the Committee and our volunteers for all their hard work over the past 12 months, and look forward to working with them again in the year to come.

Joe Colls

June 2023