

## Chairs report for 2022-23: Anne Jackson

Hello everyone and welcome to our AGM.

Firstly I would like to say it has been a challenging year.

I took over in October and was thrown into the up and coming events;

- Remembrance Sunday we had a wreath
- St Mary's decorated u3a tree
- Christmas coffee morning
- Winter social; over 100 people attended, many in fancy dress (the theme being the 60's). A good time was had by all.
- Stagers show a sellout over 3 days - well done to all you thespians

All were well attended and my thanks to all those who helped organise them - though I must say we could always use more volunteers; as they say 'many hands make light work'.

The spring and summer brought forward more events;

- Community Sports day where we had a stall and made new contacts with other charities
- Another great performance by the Stagers – this time a Summer Variety show
- Music festival at York where the music groups performed and did us proud
- U3a week in the library hopefully getting the u3a out there and better known
- East Coast Network joining us with five more local u3as with the purpose of shared experiences and mutual support

In all it has been very busy.

As we have left St. Johns Ambulance Hall those groups using it have had to be re-sited. My thanks go to Wendy and Janice and all those involved who have found homes for said groups and the subsequent changes in the curriculum.

The focus now is on 2024 with all the Christmas events of 2023 as above including, we hope, a stall at the Winter Festival in the Spa (being investigated as we speak)

There is the possibility of another MusicFest, this time at Whitby, with all the Yorkshire and Humber region musicians involved - we believe it will be in the spring. And in the summer in York a national gathering of all the u3a regions over 3 days showcasing their talents

We are now in the process of organising the Winter Social. All offers of help will be greatly appreciated.

May I give my thanks to all the leaders who have volunteered their time and a lot of work to make this u3a work because without them we could not function; many thanks.

Enrolment day was extremely busy and we were happy to welcome a number of new members.

Financially, I will let the treasurer explain our situation. Though I believe we are sound our reserve has diminished and with your permission we would like to increase the joining fee to £20 per year from next August. This has been done with much debate and due to the increase in the cost of venues we feel it is justifiable.

Anne Jackson, Chair

17<sup>th</sup> September 2023