

Chair's Report - AGM - June 2023

It's hard to believe it's almost a year since you elected me Chair of Winsford u3a. It has been an interesting and at times, challenging year but I have enjoyed almost every minute of it. I have definitely benefitted from the wisdom and support of a committed, hardworking and outward-looking team of committee members and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them. Cathy Kirkin, our Membership Secretary, has had to step down from that role after three years in accordance with our constitution and we owe her our thanks for her quiet, friendly efficiency. I am very pleased that she is willing to stay on the committee, albeit in a different capacity. Thanks are owing also to other members of the committee who resigned this year – Phil Carswell and David Boardman. David took on the role of Treasurer when we had no one else who was willing and Phil having been extremely effective Chair during COVID, was a valuable member of the committee acting as Vice Chair.

I would also like to thank our group co-ordinators who are our life blood and who tirelessly, quietly and without fuss regularly organise activities for our benefit, often at personal cost. Thank you.

I am delighted to report that trips and visits have resumed, some new groups have been set up this year (Play Reading and Women in History) and there are more in the pipeline such as Strollers, Drama and The Magic of Musicals. The quiz group is to be relaunched with a new quiz master and in a new venue.

It is sad that some groups have closed but we appreciate the work of the co-ordinators who have run those groups until now. I am pleased that Country Dancing will continue under new leadership from members of the group itself and hope that members of other groups that have closed will offer their time to keep their groups up and running.

Thank yous are also owed to the small band of volunteers who every coffee morning provide refreshments for the attendees and who wash and tidy up. They make a significant contribution to the smooth running and enjoyment of these events. Could anyone else help out?

There is still quite a job to be done in growing our u3a to pre-COVID levels and extending our already varied range of activities. We need you to play your part in this.

Please read our communications and e-newsletters, taking note of what is happening, spread the word and encourage others to join in.

Please attend coffee mornings whenever you can and try to bring people who might be interested with you.

Please try to respond to appeals for help and ideas. We need your feedback of what is going well and how we can improve.

Having said all that, I want to thank you all for being a member of Winsford u3a, your participation and your support. I hope we will have a successful year to come. Rest assured, your committee will do its best to make that happen.

Beverley Penter