

Winsford u3a

Membership Secretary's Report

At 1 March 2022, the start of this reporting period, total current membership stood at 205. The far-reaching impact of COVID restrictions understandably continued to inhibit the participation of some members, who remained very cautious about resuming their full range of social activities.

Increasing confidence eventually replaced natural caution, so that although membership had decreased by ten percent over September's renewal round, the loss was mitigated over successive coffee mornings during the autumn and winter, by a welcome influx of eleven new members. The result was that membership stood at 195 by 28 February 2023: a net loss of 5% membership over the year.

The transition to a single annual membership renewal, each September, is now in place. All members will receive their annual renewal invitation during August, for payment on 1 September 2023. Please bear in mind the following:

Annual renewal for full individual membership remains at £15

Annual renewal for Associate Members remains at £10

As established during lockdown, we are very grateful to all who continue to pay their subscription online and encourage as many as possible to do so. Full details will be provided with the renewal notice. This method of collection really eases and speeds up the recording of payments because it minimises errors and avoids delays in cheque handling and banking.

To sustain the viability of Winsford u3a, we are seeking to attract new members, working to support our current range of activities and create interest in establishing more groups. If you have any observations or suggestions, do please discuss them with any member of the committee. Monthly members' coffee mornings are often busy with membership enquiries and wherever possible group coordinators are available to discuss their own group activities.

On a personal note, as I stand down from my role as Membership Secretary, I am grateful for my own introduction to Winsford u3a, through the encouragement of a friend. (Thank you, you know who you are!) Belonging has added a great deal of interest to my life. I have found friends, and joined interest groups I would never have imagined. Word-of-mouth seems quite a typical way of attracting new members, and I encourage you to make it a mission to bring along any friend or neighbour who may be interested in joining us, to widen and follow their interests and enjoy meaningful social interactions. Each one makes such a difference, to each and every one of us.

Cathy Kirkin, Membership Secretary
June 2023