

Chairman's Report 2018 AGM

Firstly, on behalf of the whole membership I extend thanks not only to our group leaders and committee members but also those unsung heroes who help with making tea and coffee and those who help with putting out and replacing chairs and tables etc. at this and at group meetings. If not for all of your work and dedication our U3A would not exist. 2017 has been another successful year, with our membership growing to over 750.

On the trips front there have been many interesting and exciting visits, and theatre trips. Thanks to Jean and Diane and their trips sub-committee for their tireless organization. Also thanks to Peter Chapple and his speaker sub-group for their work in arranging speakers for our monthly meeting.

On the administration front, the new computerized management system, BEACON, is now in use and is gradually being spread out throughout our U3A. Our weekly e-mails are now being sent out from this system. I would remind members that the system is only as good as the information it so please be sure to inform us if you change your residential or e-mail address.

Unfortunately, Beryl Baggs is due to step down this year after 6 years in office. On behalf of the committee and the whole membership I would like to thank her for the service that she has given. We will vote for some new committee members to replace her later in the agenda

On a more serious note, over the 27 years since the formation of our U3A we have grown substantially with a turnover amounting to almost £50,000 pa, additionally the legislative framework has changed eg. The revised data protection legislation comes into effect in May this year. Added to this are some recent reports indicating lack of governance by trustees of some high profile charities eg For children and others. This has resulted in a spotlight being shone on the governance of charitable organizations. We have received some strong guidelines, financial and operational from both the Third Age Trust and the charities commission, on the processes and procedures that need to be in place to ensure compliance with legal requirements and best practice. The committee is currently examining these guidelines and evaluating which are the most important for us and how best to implement them. This could involve meetings with various groups and probably amendments to our constitution. We will keep the membership updated as we progress.

Meanwhile, I believe that the U3A is a fantastic organization and hope that we all continue to enjoy membership for many years to come.

Glyn Evans
Chairman