

WETHERBY & DISTRICT U3A
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 27th JUNE 2018

Chairman's Report

In reflecting on the past 12 months, I can report on a positive year. We have a popular organisation with a steadily growing membership.

Membership – During the year membership increased by just over 100 and today stands at 1,197. Subscriptions, reduced to £12 per annum for the year 2017/18, were held at that level for 2018/19, representing excellent value for money. Most members now pay online which saves considerable time and work for the membership team. I encourage all members to pay online if you possibly can.

Groups – We now have 108 Groups providing a superb range of activities and interests to our membership. Another 4 groups are in the pipeline. If you have ideas for new Groups, please don't hesitate to bring them forward. With almost 1,200 members it's likely that others may have similar interests.

Group Leaders/Volunteers – The Group Leaders do a wonderful job. All are volunteers, as are the many other people working on behalf of the membership in organising the monthly Open Meetings and various other events, in providing the refreshments, setting up the rooms and doing all the many and varied jobs that need to be done.

We would not have such a successful organization without the people who give their time to leading the groups and to those carrying out the numerous other activities. My sincere thanks to all concerned and also to Groups Coordinator, Delia Wells, for her efforts helping the groups and in the setting up of new groups.

Publicity – U3A activities continue to feature regularly in the Wetherby News, courtesy of the first-rate articles written by our Roving Reporter, Caroline Green.

Events – In April 2018, over 100 people attended the Anniversary lunch held at the Bridge Inn, where they gained an insight into the world of horse racing in an excellent talk from guest speaker, former Flat Race jockey, Dale Gibson.

A number of group events and trips took place during the past year. Most recently, between 10th and 16th June, 45 members enjoyed a tour in the Republic

of Ireland organised by Events Coordinator, Lesley Titchmarsh. As Lesley is now standing down from the Committee, it is my pleasure to convey the sincere thanks of the Committee and membership for all her hard work over a period of several years.

Communications – Joyce Bale, Kath Tweddle, our webmaster, Roger Hocking and Alan Pengilley, have continued their excellent work over the past year to keep members informed of U3A activities and events through newsletters, monthly memos and the website. Profound thanks to them.

Monthly Open Meetings – These meetings continue to attract high attendance numbers. Members have enjoyed some excellent presentations on a variety of topics. Particular thanks to Ian Wells for putting together such an eclectic programme of speakers, and to Christine Naylor and the team who ensure that the meetings are so well organised.

New Member meetings – Three well attended meetings for new and prospective members were held over the past year.

U3A Showcase – Held at the Engine Shed on 13th December 2017, this event, designed to highlight a number of group activities, attracted over 200 people. It proved highly entertaining and a tonic on a dark and gloomy December afternoon. Sincere thanks to the group members who took part in the performances and to those who set up the displays. Particular thanks to Alan Pengilley and Christine Naylor, supported by a small band of volunteers, who did such a wonderful job in organising the event.

New Constitution and New Policies – Following guidance from the U3A National Office, changes have been made to the Constitution to take account of advice from the Charity Commission. Furthermore, the National Office requested that three formal policies should be introduced as follows:

- **Data Protection** – The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), EU wide Regulation, came into force on 25th May 2018. A new policy is currently being developed so that all possible measures are taken to protect data and fully comply with the requirements of the GDPR.
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** – The overall aim of this policy is to ensure that our U3A is as inclusive and welcoming as possible.
- **Safeguarding** – This policy is to ensure we act appropriately to safeguard and ensure the welfare and wellbeing of our members.

All three policies will be completed by the Committee in the near future and will then be made available on the U3A website. Basically the policies will formalise what we are already largely doing in practice.

Involvement – Members of U3A have a great deal to offer in terms of ability, life skills and experience, so I would encourage all members to think about becoming more involved in the organisation. Perhaps you might even consider taking on a role serving on the Committee! On that point, I wish to thank the Committee for their sterling efforts and the support they have given me as Chair.

As we move towards the 10th anniversary of the formation of Wetherby and District U3A we need, as with any successful organisation, to seek ways to develop and improve. To do so, we need the support of all our membership. Please let us know your opinions, ideas and suggestions, so we can work together to continue taking the organisation forward.

Brian Taylor - Chair