

Introduction

On behalf of the St Neots & District U3A Executive Committee it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Annual General Meeting and to present this report on behalf of the Executive Committee for 2018/2019. I have continued my role as Chairman for a second term and have just completed one year. I have very much enjoyed my role as Chairman of our U3A. However, I have some medical issues taking place and feel that I should step down and concentrate on my health rather than continue and we have a disjointed and interrupted final year of office.

I have not made up my mind fully on whether I shall remain on the EC. I would like to have taken over the organising of day trips and holidays. I shall have to wait and see what the outcome of various tests etc uncover. But all in all, I have had a very interesting three years and as I have said, I have really enjoyed being your Chairman and regret having to step down.

This year we have 3 officer positions up for election following **Heather Blaney's** decision to retire after 8 years as our Secretary. Thank you, Heather, for all the splendid work you have done over this time with other Chair's including myself in providing information at EC meetings, taking and issuing the Minutes etc. I know you will continue to have your hands full with your grandchildren and your retirement from U3A will help towards continuing that role you play but hope to still see you attending meetings etc. **Ann Ferguson** has been 'shadowing' Heather for some time and I am sure that she will take over from where Heather has left off and do an excellent job.

Ian Richardson took over the role as Vice-Chairman and subsequently became the Groups Co-ordinator at his first EC meeting. He has done an excellent job in refreshing all the groups and introducing new groups for you, with others in the 'pipeline'. Ian has been nominated as Chairman going forward.

Mavis Thompson will continue into her second year of office and keep us all in place with her financial and accountancy skills.

In addition, we have 5 EC members whose term of office is now complete.

However, the good news is **Tony Summerlin** would like to continue in his role as Membership Secretary which he has performed exceedingly well since taking over the reins from Sheila Crook.

Roger Worden would like to continue his role as Website Administrator along with the other 'technical' tasks he performs. Roger has taken over the coordination of our list of Monthly speakers and will continue to arrange new speakers for the future. We have a list of speakers booked up until 2022 and beyond. Roger volunteered to become a committee member and has proven to be a tremendous asset and looks forward to taking on his second term of office. Let's hope we have a few more members like Roger stepping forward and volunteering their services.

Pat Hills has decided to stand again for another term of office but no longer wishes to arrange outings. She will continue to organise holidays.

There was one other position on the EC that was never filled last year, so this position is up for another willing volunteer, I hope.

Sheila Crook who has put in many years' service and used to be the Membership Secretary before Tony Summerlin took on the role, would like to serve as a co-opted member for a year and assist Tony as a Membership Assistant.

Rosemary Chapman is at the end of their terms and will not be re-standing.

I would like to say thank you to Rosemary for her splendid work organising day trips with Pat Hills.

We have two 'co-opted' positions on the EC. These posts are to support the main Executive Committee whereby you may be given a specific task to manage, but need not necessarily attend all EC meetings but still have full voting rights.

One of our co-opted members is **Carrolyn Eadie** who manages the reservation of all venue locations for all our group activities. Sadly, after about 9 years in this role, Carrolyn is retiring due to family commitments. I would like to say thank you to Carrolyn on behalf of myself and the other previous Chairmen and EC members before me.

Dave Jarrett has been a co-opted member since stepping down as Treasurer and is now going to stand for the Vice Chairman's post. Dave provides an in-depth knowledge of what has happened with local and national U3A matters. Dave has now been nominated as Vice-Chairman.

Thank you to all of our Executive Committee members, wishing to continue in their posts and those who are retiring or standing down.

Mary Joyce stood down from the post as Magazine Editor because of family commitments earlier in the year after producing three excellent magazines. Mary has continued in the role of reporter whilst I took over the role of Editor for the time being. We have looked and asked for someone to take on this role but have had no takers. In a short time, Mary's circumstances improved greatly and she asked to take back the full role of being the magazine editor. I did not hesitate to say yes you can have the job back. Thank you, Mary for all your good work.

Alan Ross collects and compiles our Monthly News Sheet issued at Monthly Meetings and displayed on the Website accordingly. Thank you, Alan.

This brings me to thank a group of our members known as the '**RUM's** - the '*really useful members*' for the time and effort they put in to help the smooth running of our Monthly Meetings etc. These members are; Joan Prentice, Margaret Wilks, Maureen Schofield and Christine Bowskill for administering the Monthly Meeting registration especially now with our Smart Membership card; Iris Parr for organising our theatre outings; Anne Pateman for helping with Interest List duties; Anne Summerlin and her teams of ladies and of course including John McDonough for arranging the Refreshments Team for Monthly Meetings and other meetings throughout the year. I must not forget to thank anyone else who has helped or helps and I have not mentioned them by name. Thank you!

Anne Summerlin has let us know that she will not be able to continue with the position of Refreshments Coordinator, so we are looking for someone to step into Anne's shoes.

Monthly Meetings - the Monthly Meeting numbers have risen during the last year to around the 180/200 per meeting. We have redesigned the layout of the Great Hall to accommodate approximately 260 members. If we had more than this on a regular basis, we would have to turn to organising two meetings on the same day, that happens with other U3A's and would be interesting.

It's always good to see new faces at these meetings where you can meet up with fellow group members or some friends you do not get chance to see every day. The Monthly Meetings keep you informed of all new Interest Lists for outings, theatre visits or new groups and after the Speaker's presentation, provide the opportunity to meet new friends over refreshments.

The Priory Centre staff continue to give us great support with the preparation of rooms for all Monthly and Group meetings and storage of our equipment. We are very grateful to Steve Barrett and Lisa Prestidge and their team for all of this.

Membership - is 1053 at present, but we may have had another dozen or so new members since I wrote this report, welcome to all those new members who have joined this last year. More members are renewing their memberships through the PayPal system online in addition to some of the new memberships being taken out for the first time.

Membership Card - the new '*once in a life time*' membership card system took off really well and great thanks to Roger Worden and his team for introducing the smooth implementation of this system.

Beacon - continues to be widely used in getting out important messages to the membership and being our online management system developed by the National U3A, specifically for local U3A's.

Some of our Group Leaders have received training from the Groups Co-ordinator recently, this is still available by contacting Ian Richardson.

It enables Group Leaders to manage their individual groups information much more efficiently such as Meeting Attendance Records and sending out emails appertaining specifically to their group. We would like more Group Leaders to take up this opportunity. Through Beacon we are able to circulate information to about 950 of our members this way, so consider giving us your email address. Please be assured that your email details are completely safe with us and will not be passed onto any external agencies.

DAY OUTINGS with Pat Hills and Rosemary Chapman during 2019

January: Peterborough Greyhounds Lordship

February: The Snowdrops at Benington Gardens

March: Freeport Braintree & Paycockes House

April: Cadbury World

May: A Tale of Two Rivers

June: Yarmouth

August: Camden Lock and Canal cruise Museum

September: Bressingham Gardens &

GROUP INSTIGATED OUTINGS made visits to **Sandringham, Kew Gardens Titchwell RSPB** and **Woburn Abbey**. We had a wonderful 'cream tea' at Titchwell after our bird watching.

THEATRE OUTINGS with Iris Parr during 2018/19

2019 - June: Les Miserables

2019 - October: Saturday Night Fever

HOLIDAYS with Pat Hills during 2019

2019 - January: Yorkshire; **April:** South Devon; **September:** Shropshire.

During the holiday to Yorkshire, we stayed in Ilkley and had very differing weather with fairly heavy snow showers one day but this did not stop our driver and courier, Ron and Marie, getting us about the Yorkshire Moors and to our various visits that had been booked.

Thanks to those group leaders who arranged to do their own 'group instigated' days out with their group members. Well done and thank you.

Speakers - We have had a splendid programme of speakers who have come and entertained us at Monthly Meetings this past year thanks to Lesley Cartwright. Roger Worden has taken over this role although he does not need to book anyone until about 2022 because Lesley has already done it. Roger has been coordinating the role and will be looking for interesting speakers going forward to keep you all entertained.

Our programme for the last year has included: Captain William Wells - The life and times of a Ship's pilot; Sean Moyses - The Banjo Man, an excellent choice and we have booked Sean as our entertainer for the Christmas Party 2020; Twigs Way - Digging for victory; Cheryl Joyce - Foraging for food from the wild; GOSH - the Charity GOSH; Tim the Robinsons coach driver - and afternoon of Swing and Broadway show music. Tim has been booked for this year's Christmas Party where he will be performing a whole range of songs; Barbara Meyer - Wildlife in Sherwood Forest; Chris Dingley - Tax Care and Toy Boys (something completely different from what the title suggests); and going up to the end of the year, Ian Keable - Charles Dickens, the Conjuror and Michael Brown and his tales about Medieval Christmas.

Groups and Events

Groups Leaders continue to manage their groups very well and all operate smoothly. Sheila and Dennis's **Line Dancing for Beginners** group continues to be very popular but is at capacity at the moment.

Sid Cumberland has stepped down from being the Philosophy Group Leader and has been replaced by Graham and Ann Burbridge and continues to be a popular group. Well done Ann and Graham.

Well done Group Leaders and group members for making all your groups enjoyable, especially those who have volunteered their services to become new Group Leaders.

These include Alasdair Kennedy - **Cycling**, Neville and Maureen Lee - **Spanish4Beginners** 1 & 2, Tai Chi - with Yve Grace, **Ukulele4Beginners** - Stephen Stackhouse, **Guitar4Beginners** - Stephen Stackhouse and **Karate4Beginners**. With Karate, it will not be like that portrayed in the 'Karate Kid' films, it will concentrate on the exercises associated with karate which will be good for you. We have an excellent Black Belt instructor (member) waiting to instruct you.

Cinema - We are looking to introduce a Cinema group shortly where we can show films provided by group members.

Christmas Party - This year's party brings you an entertainer we had earlier in the year at a Monthly Meeting, Tim - our Robinsons coach driver. Tim is usually the assigned driver to our days out so that we get continuity from the company. Tim was such a success on his debut that members asked for him to be booked for this year's Christmas Party. Tim will be singing a whole range of songs including some similar to what he performed for us earlier in the year.

Anglia Network – some of our members might not know all that goes on although we always publish it. St Neots & District U3A belong to a network of other U3A's in the Anglia region and we have meetings every three months when each group takes it in turn to present a subject. We had our turn back in March and presented both the new Membership Card System and a talk on historical matters of St Neots and the surrounding area. Both these subjects were attended by a large number of network guests including a representative from National Office who were very appreciative of our efforts in staging this meeting. A number of Group Leaders demonstrated their groups at the meeting.

Showcase – We arranged a Showcase event this year in June due to popular demand from our Group Leaders where we had a terrific turnout of Group Leaders showing other members what they have to offer. This event was also open to the public and we had a number of visitors come and see us that day despite it being an awful wet day. We had approximately 10/12 new members join our U3A that day. Well done to all those groups that took part.

Finance - the Treasurer's Report and Accounts are overleaf and you will see that we continue to remain in a healthy financial position. We have continued to purchase items on request from Group Leaders to enhance the running of their activities and can continue to do so for the time being.

The Past and the Future

Sadly, throughout the year we have lost members and loved ones of members, so I ask you to reflect on this for a moment.

The Executive Committee will continue to do its best for the Membership and I wish those elected today and those continuing every success in achieving this. If you feel we could be doing better, tell us about it.

So, at the midway point of my second-year term of office, I must say that it has been very interesting meeting a variety of our members and indeed a lot of the new members. It never ceases to amaze me that I still see and meet different members at each U3A event that I have not met before.

It is with regret that I have to give up the Chairmanship and not be able to finish my full second term of office but hopefully I will still be around organising our days out about the country and maybe a holiday or two.

Thank you,

John Bowskill

Chairman

TREASURERS REPORT 2019

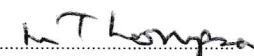
This is my third report to accompany these accounts. The funds have considerably reduced this year, as expected, and will continue to reduce during the current year, as a result of the reduction in the subscriptions. I will continue to monitor this to protect the assets of our U3A. I also thank Mr Michael Bell for his examination of the accounts, once again.

Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2018-19	2017-18
	£	£
Receipts		
Activity Income	19495.50	20093.35
Subscriptions	14007.00	16958.80
Gift Aid	2294.37	1951.05
Interest received	51.82	16.67
Monthly Meetings	920.79	2660.37
	<u>36769.48</u>	<u>41680.24</u>
Payments		
Activity Room Hire	23390.58	20993.45
Activity Costs	978.49	540.56
Magazine & Distribution	4716.00	4485.25
Newsheet	296.00	314.00
MM Hall Hire	1167.50	1167.50
MM Speakers	1186.00	1210.70
MM Refreshments	324.61	192.54
Special Events (net)	1889.97	1401.85
TAT membership subscription	3685.50	3703.00
Committee, Network Meetings etc.	710.18	737.65
Accountancy Fees	50.00	50.00
Postage, Printing & Stationery	550.39	612.38
Equipment	1665.70	456.73
Cinema (net)	354.50	-248.00
Miscellaneous (net)	1534.72	1404.77
	<u>42500.14</u>	<u>37022.38</u>
Excess (Shortfall) of receipts over payments	(5730.66)	4657.86
Add General Fund brought forward	29221.36	24563.50
General Fund C/F	<u>23490.70</u>	<u>29221.36</u>
Social Fund		
Income	32430.65	
Entry Fees	(18152.19)	
Coach Hire	(10184.00)	
Driver Tips	(450.00)	
Sundry Expenses	(85.00)	
Barn Dance Costs	(1251.16)	
Christmas Party Costs	(1095.05)	
Surplus (Shortfall) on Social Fund	1213.25	(41.16)
Social Fund brought forward	5337.60	5378.76
Social Fund C/F	<u>6550.85</u>	<u>5337.60</u>
Total Funds C/F	<u>30041.55</u>	<u>34558.96</u>

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2019

	2018-19	2017-18
	£	£
Cash at bank:		
Main Account	3888.87	6651.35
Membs.Social Account	6550.85	5337.60
Business Reserve Account	19451.83	22400.01
Miscellaneous:		
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Membership float	50.00	70.00
Total:	<u>30041.55</u>	<u>34558.96</u>
Subscriptions paid in advance for the new year are held as follows:		
Advance subs account at bank	6241.51	6920.00
Paypal account, net of charges	4700.79	3135.00
	<u>10942.30</u>	<u>10055.00</u>


 Mavis Thompson, Treasurer.