

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Introduction

On behalf of the St Neots & District U3A Executive Committee it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 Annual General Meeting and to present this report for the year. I took over the Chairmanship of our U3A at the 2016 AGM and I have absolutely enjoyed my two-year term of office that I would like to stand for another term, if you will have me.

Some of those who joined me on the EC in 2016 AGM have stayed the full course but sadly we shall be losing the services of **Anne Summerlin** (Vice-Chair) and **Dot Morfett** (Groups' Coordinator) who have decided not to stand again. Thank you ladies and I wish you both well in whatever paths to take, good luck. **Mavis Thompson** is standing for re-election which is good because it gives some continuity to the EC.

Remaining for the second year of her last term, **Heather Blaney** has been Secretary for about 8 years and will stand down in 2019. So, we are looking for someone to '**shadow**' her and step into her place at the 2019 AGM. If you are recently retired from a secretarial background and looking for something to keep your hand in, then please consider joining the EC. It's not a time-consuming job, but it is important post in supporting the Chairman and the whole EC. **Sheila Crook** remains for another year and will assist our Membership Secretary. **Pat Hills** has another year to run along with **Rosemary Chapman** who returned to the EC last year and has been assisting Pat Hills during this time.

Tony Summerlin our Membership Secretary has done a really good job since taking over having to contend with the changes in legislation associated with data protection. We shall be looking at a more manageable Membership renewal system for the future.

Roger Worden continues as our Website Administrator and our 'technical member' taking over the role of setting up the PA and associated video system at the Monthly meetings. He also carries out research into other U3A systems that will hopefully help our current operating systems.

Dave Jarrett fills one of two co-opted posts and we are hoping that he continues. Dave provides the knowledge of what has happened with matters in the past and lots more with his knowledge of U3A. **Carrolyn Eadie** occupies the other post and looks after the arrangement and negotiation of reserving rooms for activities to take place in.

Thanks to all of the Executive Committee members.

Mary Joyce our Magazine Editor who provides an excellent magazine, just completing her third edition and her contributors of course. **Alan Ross** for compiling and publishing the Monthly News Sheet issued at Monthly Meetings and displayed on the Website accordingly. Thanks to the publications editors.

And thanks to a group of 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. These include Joan Prentice, Margaret Wilks, Rosemary Chapman, Maureen Schofield, and Christine Bowskill for administering the Monthly meeting registration; Ian Richardson for helping out with the PA system at times, Anne Pateman for helping with Interest List duties; to Pat Hills and her ladies along with John McDonough of the Refreshments Team who look after the provision of refreshments at the Monthly and associated meetings, and of course, thank you to anyone else who helps and I have not mentioned by name.

General - the Monthly meeting numbers have risen during the last year to around the 180/200 per meeting. This means using most of the chairs available, therefore, we use a section of the tiered seating.

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.

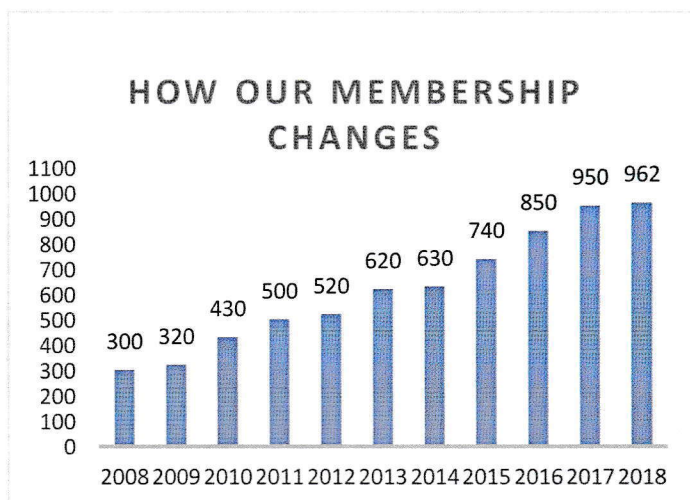
The Priory Centre staff continue to give us great support with the preparation of rooms for Monthly and Group meetings and storage of our equipment, we are very grateful to Steve Barrett and his team for all this.

Cinema - We are looking at something for the future that we could have our own cinema in the Priory Centre showing films not generally released by Cineworld in St. Neots.

Membership - is approximately 962, with new members joining us all the time. Many more members are renewing their memberships through the PayPal system online in addition to new memberships being taken out for the first time.

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

Our Membership Records and some Group Leaders manage their own information such as Meeting Attendance Records with it and would like more Group Leaders to take up this opportunity to use it for their groups, full training will be given. We are able to circulate information to about 800 of our members this way, but it would be better to be able to contact more members, so please let us have your permission and your email address to bring you all the latest news before it's out of date.



DAY OUTINGS with Pat Hills and Rosemary Chapman during 2018

January: Peterborough Greyhounds

March: Hever Castle – Castle & Daffodils
BBC Studios, Birmingham

May: RSPB Mimsme (Wildlife group)
Chatsworth House (History group)

July: Southend on Sea

February: Chinese New Year (Photography group)

April: Downton Abbey Country & The Port
Meadow Cruise, Oxfordshire

June: Dorney Court and Savill Garden

August: Holt & Sheringham Steam Railway.
Henry Moore Foundation (Heritage & Culture group)

September: Waddesdon Manor.

THEATRE OUTINGS with Iris Parr during 2017/2018

2017 – November: Cabaret and the Thursford Christmas Spectacular

2018 – July: An Officer and A Gentleman

HOLIDAYS with Pat Hills during 2017/2018

2017 – October: South Wales; **December:** – Christmas Markets Cruise, Belgium and Holland

2018 – January: North Wales; **April:** Isle of Man

Our venture to South Wales, started damp, but turned out reasonable, weather wise and enjoyed by all, especially going down a coal mine.

The Christmas cruise began with a rough channel crossing, but the breakfast was very good if it did not slide off of the table. It rained for most of the way but had stopped by the time we arrived at our boat in Belgium and boarded for an excellent meal. The cabins were a tight fit but comfortable if you did not knock your head in the bunk. We will not mention the homeward journey.

The holiday venue to North Wales at Warner's Bodolwyddan Castle but the weather was what you would expect for January. In April, we sailed the Irish-sea to the *Isle of Man*. No change in the weather but it did not stop us getting about the island. We went up Snaefell one day, where the commentary on board the train described the fantastic views but you could not see the other side of the glass most of the time. Thanks to Pat for arranging both holidays.

Pat Hills and Rosemary Chapman have arranged some really good days out with good weather this last year, thank you ladies.

Thanks also to Iris Parr for arranging the theatre outings this last year and we look forward to those coming in the future. To those group leaders who arranged to do their own days out with their group members, well done and thank you.

Speakers - I continue with the thanks to our Speakers team of Lesley Cartwright and Anne Summerlin, arranging the extremely good and interesting Speakers we have had this last year, starting with an

insight into the lives of Young Carers and the work of the Cambridgeshire Carers Trust; *Andy Smith*, a favourite at St Neots with a musical interlude in October followed by Hugh Warwick telling us about the lives and habits of the hedgehog. In 2018, *Ian Keable* came and told us about the Corked Conjuror with *Fran Sandham* telling us about the remarkable story about Dr Livingstone in Africa. In March we had *Fool's Gold*, an acoustic duo, Carol and Steve Robson singing us songs and telling stories in the folk tradition; April brought us Mike Haynes telling us about why carrots were orange and the history of our food. *Angela Collins* came along in May and told us about the history of dolls and puppetry; *Alison Bruce*, a local author from Cambridge followed with how she first became an author and the range of novels she has written. *John Drewry* came in July with some friends to tell us all about the Nursing Memorial Charity. *Roy Smart* came in August with a change of subject about David Beatty – The Last Naval Hero. It's amazing the members who come up afterwards and say, 'That was the most interesting speaker we have ever had'. Thank you, Lesley and Anne.

Groups and Events

Groups Leaders continue to manage their groups very well and all operate smoothly. There have been some changes throughout the year with Sheila Flavell taking temporary **Line Dancing** control of the Monday group through to September in the hope that we found a new leader during this time. Janet Lloyd took over the Wednesday group and continues to keep up the good work, thank you to you both, it is really appreciated by the group members and the EC. Sheila's **Line Dancing Beginners** group continues to be very popular but is at capacity at the moment. Yve Grace, continues to build her **Ballroom and Sequence Dancing** group and gave us all a fabulous display at the recent **Showcase**.

Walking Football gives its members regular workouts every Friday morning now and is well supported throughout the year at St. Neots FC on their astro-turf pitches. The **Table Tennis** group started this year playing once a week but has started another session to satisfy the demand providing fun and energetic workouts for members. **Petanque**, my group continues with its regular players and has grown by about 10 new players in recent weeks since the Showcase.

Sid Cumberland started a new group recently on the subject of **Philosophy** and has a steady following of 24 members. Just recently Irene Barsby stepped down as group leader of the **Play Reading/Drama** group and David Taylor has taken over.

Well done Group Leaders and group members for making all your groups enjoyable. **Dot Morfett** has played an important role since taking over the Groups' Co-ordinator and it will be a great loss that she has stepped down. These EC posts do not really take up a lot of your time if you enjoy your U3A and enjoy making it good for your fellow members.

Social Activities - the 2017 Christmas Party was very well supported with a return of Leon James, a firm favourite in St Neots who was brilliant, as too was the start-up routine put together by Iris Parr which got everybody into the party mood and our own Mike Gee (a U3A Member), all giving us a party to remember.

This year's **Christmas Party**, brings you two entertainers again but they are different to one another. I go and see all the acts we engage to make sure we are only putting on quality acts for you. Get your tickets when they come on sale at the November Monthly meeting if you do not want to miss out on what will be the best Christmas Party to date.

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 and we should reflect on this for a moment.

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

So, at the end of my second-year term of office, I must say that it has been very interesting meeting a variety of our members. It never ceases to amaze me that I still see and meet different members at each U3A event and are looking forward to undertaking my second, two-year term of office if you are happy for me to do so.

Thank you, John Bowskill-Chairman

TREASURERS REPORT 2018

This is my second report, which accompanies the accounts, which closely resemble those for the previous year. We have again increased our funds due to a further increase in membership numbers, but I anticipate a break even in the current year due to the reduced subscription charge. Thanks go to Michael Bell once again for his examination of the accounts.

Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ended 30 June 2018

	2017-18 £	2016-17 £
Receipts		
Activity Income	20093.35	19407.26
Subscriptions	16958.80	15691.24
Gift Aid	1951.05	1854.97
Interest received	16.67	3.08
Monthly Meetings	2660.37	2785.30
	<u>41680.24</u>	<u>39741.85</u>
Payments		
Activity Room Hire	20993.45	20063.22
Activity Costs	540.56	673.50
Magazine & Distribution	4485.25	3705.97
Newssheet	314.00	226.00
MM Hall Hire	1167.50	1221.58
MM Speakers	1210.70	952.00
MM Refreshments	192.54	448.21
Special Events (net)	1401.85	1454.16
TAT membership subscription	3703.00	3458.00
Committee, Network Meetings etc.	737.65	345.85
Accountancy Fees	50.00	50.00
Postage, Printing & Stationery	612.38	679.93
Equipment	456.73	897.95
Cinema (net)	(248.00)	28.00
Miscellaneous (net)	1404.77	943.03
	<u>37022.38</u>	<u>35147.40</u>
Excess (Shortfall) of receipts over payments	4657.86	4594.45
Add General Fund brought forward	24563.50	19969.05
General Fund C/F	<u>29221.36</u>	<u>24563.50</u>
Surplus (Shortfall) on Social Fund	(41.16)	2855.54
Social Fund brought forward	5378.76	2523.22
Social Fund C/F	<u>5337.60</u>	<u>5378.76</u>
Total Funds C/F	<u><u>34558.96</u></u>	<u><u>29942.26</u></u>

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2018

	2017-18 £	2016-17 £
Cash at bank:		
Main Account	6651.35	12080.16
Membs.Social Account	5337.60	5378.76
Business Reserve Account	22400.01	12383.34
Miscellaneous:		
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Membership float	70.00	0.00
Total:	<u><u>34558.96</u></u>	<u><u>29942.26</u></u>

Subscriptions paid in advance for the new year are held as follows:

Advance subs account at bank	6920.00
Paypal account, net of charges	3135.00
	<u><u>10055.00</u></u>

M. T. Thompson

Mavis Thompson, treasurer
August 2018

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Accountant's Report and Certificate -
St Neots and District U3A

Acting as Accountant, but not as Auditor, I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account, and Balance Sheet, both prepared by the Treasurer, for the year ended 30th June 2018, together with the records, vouchers and information and explanations provided to me, which disclose a net excess of Income over Expenditure for that year of £ 4616.70, and a total surplus carried forward at 30th June 2018 of £ 34558.96, and I certify that the same Receipts and Payments Account, and Balance Sheet are in accordance therewith.


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Michael R Bell

13th August 2018