

Report by Chairman for Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A 2019-20

No-one could have been more surprised than me to be asked to take on the Chair of this wonderful Community, but after moments of sheer panic initially, I must admit that it has been an exciting and enriching experience-(so far!)

This has been largely due to active member participation in Interest groups and for me, wonderful support from the Committee. In general, Committee meetings have been very well attended with valuable contributions from all, so that decisions on business matters, social events, successes or problems have been planned and followed through. We have used our two hour sessions to cover a lot of aspects this year. Before I go further I should like to highlight some of the back-ground work that is ongoing.

One of the most time-consuming jobs is that of Treasurer - a constant round of endless money flow and accurate accounting, and visits to the Bank Ruth, you are a "treasure" in your own right.

Our secretary, Nigel Burt, keeps us up to date on wider correspondence. Thank you Nigel

I couldn't manage without Ann Dean, who minutes the important points raised in discussion.

Andrea has gone ahead enthusiastically to book our speakers for the coming year, using her communication skills to find interesting talks on a wide variety of subjects, building on the programme set up by Mike Perry.

You may have admired Tony's robust publicity posters displayed at Monthly Meetings. Unfortunately, at the request of the Minister, Charity they should only be viewed when we hold our meetings.

Andy, Ann and Tony meet and greet. Friendly faces and efficient records ease the tedium of queuing. Andy is in the process of setting up a digital record of membership through the Beacon System, which is being adopted by many U3As. This should be useful to leaders of interest groups and a safeguard for those leading trips.

The Bulletin, managed by Trudy has so many informative articles. If you submit a report please keep it succinct as the Bulletin is fast becoming unwieldy. Thank you for your efforts, Trudy.

Viv, I believe is resigning this year. Her comments and clear assessments in emails and meetings, bring an astute focus to discussion. Her lateral thinking will be missed. Thank you Viv for your contributions this year.

When you arrive each month, Colin, and Peter have set up the room, Ruth has connected the sound, Mike has erected the screen, having collated photos or videos to enjoy, what would life be without a welcoming drink! Thank you Maggie and your team for keeping us hydrated. My thanks also to Colin as Vice Chair for cover in my absence and for his positive, forward thinking.

The Year as a whole:

Monthly Meetings have drawn good support. The varied programme has ranged from informative to humorous. Outstanding in my memory was Grahame Short, the micro-artist who nonchalantly name-dropped, deliberately lowered his heart rate and worked through

the night to inscribe the most delicate works of art on unbelievably fine surfaces. An engaging extrovert, he spoke from rich experiences, never once needing to refer to notes.

The archive of Alasdair Fairlie's father, who had close connections with Neil Armstrong, the man on the Moon, were a rare treat. Julie Edge's revelations about Wallace Simpson brought new insight as to her many relationships in high society while Gethin Morgan updated the need to write Wills and suggested ways to avoid paying too much inheritance tax. Paced presentation and clear diction are vital.

Nigel planned another enjoyable games evening at the Bowls club in October. Friendly competition culminated in a fish and chips supper. A great night, worth repeating!

Our Christmas presentation involved all the Committee and talented members, experienced in performing. Comedy routines offered by Richard, Paul and Jane alongside carols and related facts made this an enjoyable morning, with no fee to pay.

Theatre trips are eagerly awaited and usually places are filled rapidly. Thank you Eddie for the various excursions to local productions and for arranging transport for those of us who dislike driving in the dark. The Phantom of the Opera at the Curve was fantastic.

Over the past 7 years George has planned 4 night holidays, too many to list but as an example in Cumbria, Brecon, and this year the Cotswolds. HF Hotels offer high quality accommodation and excellent food. George and Jane visit each, walk the walks and confirm details let alone ensure the safety of all participants and provide evening entertainment, musically supported by Mike Chapman. Although George is willing to continue this role, he has decided to relinquish the organisation of day trips.

If anyone feels they would like to take over the reins I'm sure he would be able to offer advice and give initial support to a new leader. Please don't be shy about coming forward.

In January-Brexit Point, we tried a new venture at the Town Hall. The Folk dancing proved great fun, largely due to a wonderful accordionist who adapted her music to accommodate the varying speeds of different sets. Maggie and team organised tea and coffee and delicious cakes were donated by members. 55 members attended which included a few from Lutterworth and Countesthorpe U3As. We may repeat this venture early next year, as Fiona loved playing for such a friendly group.

Our Annual Lunch on February 27th was an enjoyable social event with Quizes to keep us alert. It brightened up a soggy start to the year instead of crowding the pre- Christmas calendar, when many interest groups had organised their own mealtime celebrations. Thank you Nigel for coordinating the arrangements. The meal was excellent as was your meticulous organisation.

In all there are 39 Interest groups and 269 members. We have socialised, shared interests, skills and food whilst, learning, visiting discussing and being active.

On behalf of the Committee I'd like to thank all leaders for their commitment and trust that in the coming year, Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A, continues to thrive and grow, offering an even wider range of stimulating activities.

Christine Brady