

## **CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

It's been a great ....and busy....year!

We now have 309 members and over 40 Groups and our monthly meetings continue to be well attended and with over 140 members regularly being present ..

This year started well on the publicity front. Our Community award was acknowledged in the Third Age Trust magazine and the Cake and Bake Group got a mention in Sources. The Vice Chair did a live interview on Radio Northampton and the publicity officers response to a caller was aired on Radio 4.

Socially, the August event at the Sailing Club was as popular as ever and took place in good weather this year. The December meeting had a different format and the numbers had to be limited but I am sure that everyone had a really good time at both of these occasions and my thanks go to all those involved in organising them.

The demands of the Charity Commission and the General Data Protection Regulations have both been a challenge this year . We now have a Data Protection Policy, a Privacy Policy and a New Membership form all of which will help us to comply with GPDR.

Our finances are in a good state and hence our decision to lower the membership fee for this year. The Treasurers Report will cover the rest of the financial details.

In May of last year a lot of the Committee were new and all had new roles to fulfil and they all did so with an enthusiasm and efficiency which has been impressive .It has also been very pleasing that whenever we have asked for volunteers we have immediately had a positive response to fill vacancies in teams .

This also applied when we needed new committee members some way through the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped in any way to run our U3A. I am not going to try and list everyone as there are far too many and I would probably make the awful mistake of forgetting someone. However I must say a special thank you to the Group Leaders who are the backbone of our U3A and to all the members of the Committee this year. I have appreciated the time and effort you have all put in and the support you have given throughout the year.

Finally, "Thank YOU" for your support in attending our various meetings. The camaraderie, friendship and often humour at our meetings is exactly what the U3A is all about.

Thank you.