

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT TO AGM 19TH MAY 2017

The past year has been one of the most successful since the start of our U3A

The enthusiasm and innovation of our members seems to know no bounds. Since I took office 2 years ago we have seen all manner of new groups start up and become established and some are just about launch - I have almost lost count – Cake & Bake, Cycling, New Gardening Group, Italian conversation, Line dancing, 2 Nordic pole walking groups – one longer and one shorter. Places to Go, Science and Technology, Singing for Pleasure, Spanish and Woodland Working Parties. If I have missed any I apologise. All our existing groups are thriving with many looking to start second groups as their meeting venues are being outgrown! This does not mean that we can sit back and do nothing. We continue to look for new groups so if you have a particular enthusiasm that you would like to share please contact the Groups Coordinator or other committee member by any of the usual channels.

The whole U3A movement is about sharing our individual knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm with one another. We are all intrinsically inquisitive beings and the U3A is the perfect platform to satisfy our quest for knowledge. I never cease to be amazed at the range of talents and skills that exist within our very small U3A. Not only do we have these talented people but they are enthusiastically willing to share their knowledge with the rest of us lesser mortals. Nobody within the U3A gets paid which probably makes the U3A the largest philanthropic organisation in the United Kingdom.

We owe a large debt of gratitude to our Group Leaders, who are not necessarily the group members with the most knowledge of their subject, but who tirelessly and enthusiastically organise (or sometimes herd) us into our regular group meetings or outings. Maybe we can show our appreciation for our Group Leaders with a quick round of applause..

As many of you know, I am, reluctantly, standing down from my role as Groups Coordinator due to the ill health of my 95 year old Mum (95 today as it happens). I can say, hand on heart, that these have been 2 of the most enjoyable years of my life and I thank all the group leaders, fellow committee members and all the rest of the membership for making it so.