

Annual Report November 15th 2022

Thinking back over the last year, I think it has been one of development. After all the challenges of lockdown and the pandemic, at long last we could get together and enjoy the learning together which is at the heart of u3a.

We embraced the opportunity to hold our monthly talks together, here at the Goods Shed.

We have been on many varied adventures together, enjoying talks on topics as varied as the Big Bang, optical illusions, and all manner of matters nautical. We have learnt about far flung places including Liberia and today's talk about Burma alongside places closer to home, life on the River Severn and the Purton Ships' Graveyard. We have had music and art too!

Attendance at the talks has been good. Many people have been able to stay for the post talk tea, coffee, chat and laughter. It has been good to see the u3a motto of learning , laughing and living in action. In July we held our first after talk picnic. When we planned this, our nervousness was that it would be weather affected. And indeed, it was, though not with the expected rain! Who would have thought that here in Britain it would be too hot for many people outside. Maybe next year we should have a spring or autumn picnic!

I think it is fair to say that Tetbury and District u3a is thriving and growing. Membership is increasing and currently stands at 276. We currently have thirty-five interest groups, covering topics from art to wine tasting, boules to play reading and almost everything in between! Following suggestions from members, new groups have started including a second creative writing group, badminton, two book groups and a group looking at use of public transport. Also following a suggestion from a member, we are going to pilot a puzzle swap. Keep the ideas coming!

Before I hand over to our treasurer to take you through our accounts, I would just like to say a few thankyou's.

Firstly, to the steering committee members, past and present.

They have all given much time, knowledge and enthusiasm to Tetbury and District U3A. Many thanks for your contribution.

In particular, I would like to thank Gail Moss, who is standing down from the committee. Gail has done an excellent job as membership secretary. Many, many thanks Gail!

To our Group Leaders who have done a sterling job. Many thanks! Without you there would not be a U3A. Your contribution is invaluable.

But finally, to you, the members of Tetbury and District U3A. U3A is an organisation of equals, there are no teachers, only learners. We are all learning together. Many thanks for your input. I would love to hear from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me.

Many thanks.