

Chairman's Report for 2014/15

“It is a particular privilege and pleasure to have served as your Chairman for the past year. At the last AGM there were a significant number of changes to the committee, and on your behalf I would wish to thank each and everyone of them for all that they have done in promoting, organising and serving your U3A. The fact that we continue to go from strength to strength is no less than through their selfless efforts.

But, of course, this continuing success of our U3A is not least due to the tremendous support that you the member has given, and continues to give.

Our current membership stands at around 220 and we hope that this is maintained or indeed increased in the future.

Following our AGM this year we are trying something new – from a suggestion made by a member, instead of the regular monthly speaker, each of our Interest Groups have been given the opportunity to display or to make a presentation about what they get up to!

The Committee look forward to having your feedback on this.

We now have 23 Interest Groups and we are indebted to the Group co ordinators for their motivational skills in all that they do.

This past year we have welcomed two new groups with interest in 'Computers' and 'Spanish Beginners learning together'

Today's meeting is 'their day' to hopefully encourage more to join in, and, where they are unable to expand due to logistical reasons we can positively pursue the forming of dual groups.

This year has seen a wide range of subjects covered by our monthly speakers which have included Ellie Targett's enthralling talk about her fathers Norwegian exploits in World War 2 which in April was followed by 'Whatever happened to Trixie Skyrme' by Jen Green. In June Peter Lyons gave an interesting talk on Hearing for the Third Age, followed in July by Nick Burton explaining how Engine Oils meet the needs of today and tomorrow. In September Lona Mason spoke about Kyffin Williams and this was followed in October by a return by David White who discussed and illustrated Mozart's Messiah. One of our best attendances was for Eric Rees for an in depth talk about Mary Morgan of Presteigne. Equally well attended was the December meeting when Dr Colin Hughes spoke on the 'Changing Role of Women' This year began with a talk by Chris Pegrum on Buddhism followed in February by Nick Marchmont intriguing us with an Illustrated introduction to Sacred Geometry.

As you renew your membership for the year ahead you will not only receive details of your new Committee but also the programme of speakers for the next twelve months.

We again entered a team for the mid-Wales Quiz, although they did not win they gave a very good account of themselves.

Some of our members supported a recording of the BBC's 'Any Questions' programme organised by Brecon U3A.

Last year we were invited to assist with the organising of the U3A All Wales Conference held in the Pavillion in March. A number of our members attended and appreciation was received from the organisers. We have again been invited to help with this years event in April, once again a number of our members have responded.

We also supported the 'Christmas Tree' event held in Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod, in December with a suitably decorated tree.

Another very successful occasion was the Christmas Dinner held in the Metropole Hotel.

We are very fortunate to have this prestigious venue for our monthly meetings, as with today, the staff have always been very helpful in dealing with our specific requests.

Finally, sincere thanks go to our hardworking non committee members, including Barbara and Margaret, Website and Borderlines editors, and to Martha, our Interest Group Co ordinator.

