

## **FU3A AGM Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

### **Report from the Chair**

2016 was another year of steady growth for FU3A.

We have also seen a number of changes.

We have seen changes in venues for our meetings and social events. As FU3A has grown, the numbers of people attend our meetings and social events have increased. In order to accommodate the increasing numbers we have had to make these necessary changes. Connah's Quay Civic Hall has become the venue for our Open Meetings and was the venue for our 2016 Christmas Concert. The October Coordinators meeting was held in Our Lady of the Rosary in Buckley.

There have also been changes in how the committee organises and plans our Open Meetings, our social events and other activities which are part of the day to day running of FU3A. There are many things that happened behind the scenes that ensure the smooth running of FU3A and which make FU3A the second largest (and in my opinion one of the best) in North Wales.

We now have an established Social Events Team coordinated by Marie. The Social Events team plans and runs our social events.

Groups Coordinator is another new role that we have set up. As well as being Vice Chair, John has taken on this role. John now chairs the Coordinator Meetings and meets and supports FU3A members who want to start new interest groups. This is a very necessary role, which ensures that FU3A protocols are followed.

The Chair's Report will now continue with brief reports from each of the committee members that have taken on specific roles as listed in Point 4 of the Agenda.

- a. Treasurer's Report - EW
- b. Appointment of Auditor
- c. Membership Secretary - LR
- d. Groups Coordinator - J Tip
- e. Social Events - ME

It now remains for me to thank the other members of FU3A who work behind the scenes to ensure that FU3A continues run for the benefit of all our members.

Firstly I would like to thank you – our members for supporting FU3A, without you we wouldn't be here.

Thank you to the coordinators of our 80 different Interest Groups. The groups are one of the main reasons why people join FU3A.

We offer more activities than any other U3A in North Wales and we have new groups starting all the time.

Thank you to Gill, Judith and Jo the Away Day team, who are continually finding new, interesting places to visit. In 2016 among the places visited Ireland, the Ludlow Food Festival, Chatsworth and Bath and Bristol.

Thank you to John Hornby our Equipment Officer, who has made sure that our AV equipment is maintained and gets to where it's needed.

I would also like to thank Alan, Philp and the other people who been there to offer help and support at the various meetings where the equipment is used, and that have supported John in this important role while he has been indisposed.

Thank you to Sue (Sue Lewis), it's Sue who ensures that we are catered for at our Open Meetings. It's Sue who arranges it so that each of our Interest Groups takes their turn to make the teas and coffees.

Thank you to Kate, Peter and Helen for organising our Open Meeting speakers last year. Helen has now stood down so we will be looking for another member of FU3A to come forward and join the team.

Thank you to Linda, Noreen and the other members who are 'Meeters and Greeters' at our open meetings and other events. Their presence ensures that everyone, especially new members, receives a warm FU3A welcome.

We would like a few more members to come forward and offer their services as 'Meeters and Greeters'.

Thank you to Julie Harvey who has been our Newsletter Editor for the past 2 years. Julie has now stood down from the role. Julie has taken on the role of coordinator for the Archaeology group.

To ensure the continuation of the newsletter, within the very near future, we will be looking for members would like to become part of a newsletter editorial team.

Finally, thank you to our Committee both elected and co-opted, for their continued work and support. Special thanks must go to Elen our Treasurer, who is standing down at this meeting. The role of Treasurer is vital to the operation of FU3A and Elen has fulfilled this role superbly for the past 6 years.

We are very fortunate that we have had a nomination for a member who willing to take on this vital the role.

Also thank you to John House who is also standing down at this meeting. John will be continuing as coordinator of the Words, Music and Song group. FU3A only exists because of its members.

Just being a member however, isn't enough to make the FU3A the successful organisation what it is today. The committee can't do it all.

### **\*Final Remarks**

The huge range of activities, meetings, open talks, social events and publications only happen because of the members who volunteer their time and support to make them

happen.

I have already said that we will be calling for support in range of areas in the very near future. Please don't just look at the requests and assume that someone else will respond because in reality that doesn't happen.

If you can offer your help and support in anyway please come forward as a volunteer.

We are not customers of FU3A we our members. If we want FU3A to continue and to develop it's our responsibility as members to help and support where we can.

FU3A needs you!

Thank you,

Chris Winner,  
Chair FU3A, Thursday, March 2nd 2017