

KHAD U3A AGM 2023

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Kings Hill and District u3a became 'Party Central' at the end of 2022 with our special celebrations.....and I acknowledge the efforts made by ALL our teams to ensure that these were delightful occasions.

First was the Big Showcase event in September attended by over 194 people including our esteemed guest The Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling. This coincided with National u3a's 40th celebration and as such our event was shared on the National Blog.

Second was our own 10th Year Celebration party enjoyed by over 100 members, with music and 'birthday' cup-cakes.

In addition, our Events Team have also organised a variety of outings and activities throughout the year, including:-

- Christmas Lunch at The Holiday Inn, with excellent surprise entertainment
- Day trip to Weald and Downland Museum
- Rock n Roll evening with the Sebastian Ellis Band

And the following events have been planned:-

- Day trip to Sandhurst in May
- Holiday to Cheshire in September

Throughout the past year, our Committee has continued to meet regularly and my follow-up emails to you all help to keep everyone up-to-date with decisions and plans for our organisation.

Wherever possible, we look for ways that we can support our members and in September we held a Hearing Matters talk, sharing knowledge and advice.

This year we have paid particular attention to broadening our approaches to Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion in the following ways:-

- Dedicated Committee Meeting in February
- Theme for Conveners Meeting in April
- Dementia Awareness talk booked for May

New members to join our Committee are Janet McKenner as Business Secretary, Simon Ellis, our Diversity Officer and Margaret Hall.

Elaine Scutt has served in the positions of Vice Chair and Groups Coordinator for several years and will be standing down from these roles at the AGM.....I thank her for her dedication and endless efforts to develop and promote our u3a. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our groups run smoothly and our Conveners are well supported.....and I am very grateful for her support for me as my 'Wing-Lady'.

We have also welcomed Sue Christie as the booker for our speakers at Monthly Meetings. Attendance at these meetings has increased and is now regularly over 110.....(we're always needing more chairs!!!).

Membership totalled 516 at last year's AGM. In the following months we said our sad farewells to dear friends and long-standing members. But, in general, we have continued to steadily grow in numbers reaching 553 members currently. Welcome Meetings are held regularly and these are always well attended by new members and members of the Committee.

It is great to note that our members are keen to take an active part in the development of our u3a and new SIGs are being proposed regularly.....we have successfully set up Rummikub, Family Group 2, Book Group 3, Wine Appreciation Group 4, and the ever-popular Pubs, Pies and Pints!

So....to conclude my report, I sincerely thank all members of our u3a for their positive support throughout the past year..... and you can be certain that the Committee and I will ensure that the ideals of Learning, Laughing and Living Life to the Full continue to be the backbone of our organisation for now and the years to come.

Melanie Blewer
Madam Chair KHAD U3A