

Annual Report KHAD U3A 2017/18

This year I am going to present a list of facts and figures about our U3A and circulate them prior to the meeting to avoid you having to listen to a long report. Hope you will appreciate this gesture.

Membership: 397 with over 70 new members this year. (as at 22nd April)

97% of members are using email.

69% are paying membership fees using Direct Debit.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) There are now 60 special interest groups covering a very wide range of interests.

Several groups are run in partnership with local U3As.

MOTO (Members On Their Own) has over 80 members who organise a full monthly programme of activities.

Here to Help Group: this is available for both practical and emotional support for all members. Contact details are in the newsletter and our website.

Convenors: A vital part of our development and provision of such a range of interest groups is the role of convenor. We have an amazing team of convenors who inspire members and encourage them to take on responsibility, sharing out the work load and developing new ideas. It is very noteworthy to report that several groups now have convenors who are also very new members. This is very encouraging and demonstrates how enthusiastic and confident these members are.

Monthly Newsletter. Every month a newsletter is produced with news reports and photographs. This is an important part of sharing news about our U3A and is much appreciated.

U3A Website: this provides a regular update on our activities and group news. A gallery of photos is being developed and contributions are welcome. Although this site is available for anyone to access there is a member's only area to protect personal details.

Kings Hill U3A Committee: At last year's AGM we welcomed some new members onto the committee and this year, as some committee members complete their 3 years term, we will be appointing some more. This group represents many sections and interests and provides a broad level of support and involvement to ensure the continued development of our U3A. We also invite interested members to attend as guests and this is a useful platform for encouraging new members.

Committee Meetings approx. bi-monthly: This provides an opportunity to review all aspects of how our U3A is developing and to promote any new ideas for the future.

Monthly meetings with speakers. Each meeting involves a welcome group, registration group, hospitality group, speaker organiser, IT equipment organiser and notice board manager. Attendance at these meetings is increasing and already we are in need of more chairs to be available.

Events: A regular programme of visits to The Theatre, Country estates, Historical sites, Gardens and Musicals are organised throughout the year. These are very popular and suggestions are always welcome.

Other events:

4 night trip to The Netherlands

Christmas Fair trip to Germany 2018

Annual Christmas Lunch with entertainment

Summer Strawberry tea (AGM or special monthly event)

IT equipment: we have a facility for members to order a variety of equipment and software at discounted prices.

Training: courses and study days run by The Kent Network of U3As; Summer School run by The South East Network of U3As, National courses on legal and insurance issues; Beacon training sessions and user group. Members have attended all of these during the year and this feeds back to enable improvements to our activities.

New seminar /study sessions are being planned as I write this report. These are likely to be half day presentations and workshops on a variety of subjects. Suggestions are always welcome.

U3A Plus: this is a new support resource set up by National U3A to help local U3As provide sufficient support and accessibility to members who find themselves less mobile, developing loss of sight or hearing, who nonetheless wish to keep themselves involved in U3A activities. Your committee has discussed these issues and we need to know about any members who need some assistance. Hopefully we will set up a convenor who will take on responsibility for contact and access to suitable resources.

Data protection and Charity status: Your committee has discussed these issues including detailed advice from National U3A office and is taking appropriate action to fulfil our legal obligations. Group Convenors lists of members and their details are secure if Beacon is used. There will be an amendment to our constitution proposed at the AGM to take note of this advice.

Thanks: There are so many people who are involved in making all the above activities take place successfully that I feel it would be so inappropriate to mention anyone by name. The ethos of the U3A movement (Learn, Live and Laugh) is abundantly obvious when you consider all the action that we are involved in. It therefore remains for me to say a big THANK YOU to you all. This has been a very active year in so many ways and I cannot let it pass without saying how much Maggie and I appreciated your good wishes on our marriage.

The Future: I am sure there will be more members, more groups and more opportunities in the next year. It is in your hands; no pressure then!

Graham Hall

Chairman