

KHAD U3A AGM 2022

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Last year's AGM was held via zoom.....you may remember!

And, in a following email I was asking members if '*YES....you were ready and willing to commit to larger social events*', or '*NO.....you were not at that time prepared to attend such gatherings*'. WELL.....the response was a resounding YES....and so we went ahead with our plans to re-launch Kings Hill and District u3a....back into the throngs of Learning, Laughing and Living Life to the Full!

For a few summer months, we continued with support and contact via the screen....but soon afterwards our Walking Groups, Garden Visits and other SIGs that were able to meet outside, did so whenever and wherever they could. Of course, we adhered to reduced numbers following government guidelines and met the required safety precautions with Risk Assessments.

Our first face-to-face event was the Sign-Up Day in September 2021. There was lots of interest and support shown by good attendance and as a result we have now set up several new SIGs including Motor Cycling, Nordic Walking, Contract Whist and Theatre Group, to mention just a few.

October saw our official WELCOME BACK LUNCH EVENT at The Moody Mare attended by 125 of us, plus Elvis Presley!

In November, our u3a was invited, for the first time, to attend the Kings Hill Remembrance Day Service....and it was my pleasure to lay a wreath at The Running Airman Statue on behalf of our organisation.

Elaine, our Groups Coordinator, organised and produced our first KHAD u3a Calendar, illustrated with photos from a selection of our SIGs.

To round off the year.....our Handbook was re-designed to give greater information about our organisation and the many interest groups we have; this was delivered to all members, together with a festive greeting card from the Committee. And our Christmas event took on a slightly different twist with a Hoedown and supper in the Community Centre.

The Events Team have ensured that there are plenty of opportunities for us all to take part in a variety of outings and activities and the following took place in early 2022:-

- 'SIX' the Musical, at The Marlowe Theatre
- 'Who Do You Think You Are?' behind the scenes talk organised by Family History SIG
- Harry Potter World Studio Tour
- Visits to DSI to see the Strictly Costumes followed by lunch and art works at The Wallace Collection
- Afternoon Tea at Hadlow Manor with in-house entertainment
- Keeping Active with sessions of Tai Chi and Line Dancing

At the time of writing this report, the following events have been planned for May and early June:-

- Quiz Nite
- Holiday to Yorkshire, staying in Harrogate and visiting York, Whitby and the Stately Homes of the East Midlands
- Day trip to Michelham Priory and Eastbourne

At the start of 2022 we found ourselves taking a backward step and reverting to a Zoom meeting in January, however, we are now back to Monthly Meetings in the Community Centre Hall and attendance numbers show great support. The addition of new wall speakers have improved clarity for our attendees.

Throughout the whole of 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.

As a reminder.....the Committee voted in favour of any financial support for Beacon training, and First Aid training for Convenors. It was also agreed to keep membership fees at the reduced rate of £10 per annum until February 2023.

Membership totalled 463 at last year's AGM.....and whilst some other u3as around the country have found it difficult to keep up their numbers and to keep their activities going.....we here at Kings Hill and District have continued to go from strength to strength and our membership has now reached 516!! Welcome Meetings are held regularly and these are always well attended by new members and members of the Committee.

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