

KH&D U3A AGM 2024

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

LEARN, LAUGH and LIVE life to the full.....

.....as a mantra for our 'golden years,' this is certainly the way that we view things at Kings Hill and District u3a!!!

Our newsletters give very clear examples of the ways in which we enjoy our retirement time within our u3a. There are always great reports of the adventures and activities within our Groups as well as updates for our Monthly Meetings, events and outings. Without this vital means of communication, we would miss out on the opportunities to share in each other's adventures.....so I most sincerely thank our editor (for the last 7 years) ~ Don Bone, and his assistant Cathy. The newsletter editions have been a brilliant example of how we Learn, Laugh and Live here at KH&D u3a. As Don steps down from this role, we thank him for everything he has done to ensure we are all 'kept in touch' with everything our organisation has to offer.

I also acknowledge the efforts made by our Events Team who have organised a fascinating variety of outings and activities throughout the year, including:-

- The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, and Longacres Garden Centre
- The Mini Factory experience, Oxfordshire
- Cadbury World and tour of Bournville
- Visit to Wisley Gardens
- Arundel Castle and tulip festival

Not forgetting the two annual events:-

- Christmas Lunch at The Holiday Inn, with surprise entertainment
- 7 days holiday to Chester including visits to Stratford upon Avon, Conway Castle, Bodnant Gardens, Anderton Boat Lift and many more delights!

And.....onto our Committee.....Throughout the past year, we have 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. Committee members have also branched out to become involved with other u3as, offering guidance and support, as well as attending the Kent Network Study Day in March.

New members to join our Committee, are Maggie Bishop as Business Secretary, and Kathy Booyesen as Groups Coordinator. Meetings have also been attended by John Eden-Green to share knowledge and technical advice, and Sue Christie with updates regarding our monthly speakers.

Membership totalled 553 at last year's AGM. In the following months we said our sad farewells to some dear friends and long-standing members. But, in general, we have continued to steadily grow in numbers reaching 570 members currently. We have increased the regularity of our Welcome Meetings and these are always well attended by new members and members of the Committee.

In March we held a successful Spring get-together for Group Conveners.

We are always on the lookout for additional support from members to help run and organise our activities within the groups and for the membership as a whole. To this end, Kathy Booyesen, our Groups Coordinator has been busy behind the scenes and we have started several new SIGs, including Pickleball, Walking with Dogs, plus the Nordic Walking group is up and running again. There are always requests for new groups..... and hopefully, with YOUR help they can be set up soon.

In conclusion.....it is my pleasure to sincerely thank all members of our u3a for your positive support throughout the past year..... It is YOU who have ensured that our u3a fully upholds our ideals of Learning, Laughing and Living Life to the Full and long may this continue.

Melanie Blewer
Madam Chair KH&D u3a