

U3A North West President's Report 2015

Good morning everyone and welcome to the 2015 AGM

We have new members and visitors today. Welcome.

AGM's are usually the least well attended of most clubs I know, so it's lovely to see so many people here at the conclusion of -- to quote Frank Sinatra "*it was a very good year.*" Don't worry I'm not about to burst into song.

At this time last year we had 87 paid up members. This year we have 133 plus several more joining for the coming year giving an increase of more than 60%. Also we are having to put out more chairs for our monthly meetings because attendance per month is well up and has increased steadily through the year to a level where we may have to limit total membership or rejig the room or find a bigger place – all good options and the sign of a successful club

There have been several other innovations over the past 12 months viz. we now have a regular monthly newsletter, – all the committee members now have specified roles –we have a number of new special interest groups - we have interest group coordinators who are continually looking for other areas to pursue and we have a field trip organiser to plan visits for the coming year.

Financially we are sound and the treasurer will make her report next. So much so that the committee has decided to hold the subs at their present level and that has to be the best value in town.

BUT I must emphasise, these things don't happen by themselves and we are lucky to have an enthusiastic and dedicated committee who give their time and effort to making the successes we have earned. I have mentioned some of our activities but there are some key things I want to outline. It may be wrong to single out individuals and the whole committee has been wonderful but I will mention a couple or three

Firstly, attendance relies heavily on a varied and interesting programme and Bruce Tulloch has delivered that in spades. Every month something new and interesting and enlightening and that is not an easy task. Secondly, thanks to our Treasurer Judith for her meticulous presentation of accounts and for keeping the books in good order and then our retiring secretary Leigh for all her work.

However, as I must repeat, that is not to say these are the only ones – the whole committee has been active in all the varied roles and it has been a pleasure to work with them. Most of the committee are standing again but there are a couple of vacancies so when I hand over to Jim for the election of officers he will call for nominations from the floor. If you would like to take part or know someone else who could, please let Jim know.

Personally, My health has not been the best so I'm retreating to the back seats but I have no qualms in handing over the reins to the new team in the certain knowledge that U3A North West will continue to grow and prosper in the coming years.

Thanks for your support and now Treasurer Judith, over to you.

Terry Devlin