

Aughton & Ormskirk u3a Chairman's Report for 2022-23

Good morning once again, as Chairman of the MC /Trustees it falls upon me to give you a report on the health and current situation of Aughton & Ormskirk u3a.

As you all know Aughton & Ormskirk u3a is an independently funded and managed organisation; it was founded in 2003, so this year is our 20th Anniversary, and I am sure you will have seen that we are celebrating this event in July at AVH with lots of groups involved in showcasing our u3a. Tickets are still on sale and available at Horizons from our Social Committee.

I don't want to make any references to specific financial matters as our Treasurer will give you a very comprehensive and accurate account with regard to our situation, but suffice it to say I can assure you that Aughton & Ormskirk u3a is in a very healthy state and in very capable hands with regard to finances.

It's been nearly a couple of years now since the Covid virus abated; during the time of the outbreak our Membership numbers fell to around 1200, but I am pleased to report that Membership is now on the increase again and we now have approx. 1600 Members and rising, and we're still managing to run 70 plus groups.

You may think that's great and all is well within our organisation, but what you must not forget is that there has to be team of volunteers working in the background to make sure that our u3a runs smoothly and efficiently, not only the MC but group leaders and coordinators, we have been in situations recently where groups can't carry on because of a lack of leadership.

We must not forget that u3a is a self help organisation, so it's up to all of us to pitch in and preserve continuity where possible. You may love attending Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Chess, Scrabble and language classes to name only a few, but without a leader these classes will not continue, so please think carefully if you are asked to help.

I mentioned earlier about our MC, this is also made up of volunteers, some of whom have expertise from their career backgrounds so can offer assistance in many ways. Within MC there are members who help to run small subcommittees, so again if you feel you can be of any help please come forward and join us. The

MC meet every couple of months, so it's not such a big commitment on your time.

I'm sure we have all had the benefit of either Christmas Lunch, Summer Dances, Quiz nights and many more events, these do not happen on their own, it would be a shame to lose them through lack of helpers.

Now we come on to a couple of very important matters with regard to the running of our u3a. Firstly our IT team which is responsible for our web site, amongst many other things which I think you will agree with me is second to none, have intimated that they would love to hear from anyone who could shadow their operation so that in the future we will have continuity of all matters IT.

Secondly and perhaps more important (well, to some anyway) our Treasurer has given notice that he would like to stand down when a suitable replacement can be found, once again he is willing to work alongside anyone who comes forward to help them understand the accounting process.

From what I have just said I don't want you to think that I am only bringing gloom and doom but sometimes the Chairman has to be honest, open and realistic about things and to try and ensure that our u3a continues in the future, as I said previously we are a self help organisation, so if we don't help ourselves...

Personally I think u3a is a wonderful organisation, it brings people together, friendships are formed and in some of cases fills a lot of gaps in what might be a long and lonely week.

All that said, can I say thank you for your attendance this morning, thanks also to the people who have helped with the organising and setting up of the hall to enable us to have our AGM and last but not least thank you to the members of the MC who have supported me as Chairman for the last twelve months. Finally let's look forward to the next twenty years of Aughton & Ormskirk u3a.