

## 2022 AGM Chairman's Report

Good morning everyone, first of all can I, on behalf of all our members and the Management Committee of Aughton & Ormskirk u3a thank Sue Watkinson for all her hard work for our u3a over the past 20 years or so. As you know Sue always seems to be involved one way or another, so Sue would you please accept these as a token of our appreciation. ( FLOWERS ) Also thank you to all our other elected Trustees for all their efforts on our behalf, and at this time I would like to thank all retiring members of the MC who are stepping down after several years of service.

The last couple of years have been very difficult with a stop/start situation due to the Covid pandemic and whilst some of our groups did carry on via Zoom, even so, during this time our membership numbers dropped quite considerably to around 1200 at one point. Now I am happy to report that since the pandemic once again our numbers are increasing and currently we have 1550 members who are taking part in all the activities and courses we have on offer, which I may add are quite considerable and range from Aerobics to Zumba.

I can also report that our finances are in a very healthy state and our Treasurer will be reporting on these shortly.

As Chairman it is part of my responsibility to make sure that our u3a is operating within the terms of its Constitution; you have already heard from Sue Watkinson that she has served her term of office and I can tell you that we have been informed that none of our other elected Trustees wish to carry on in this capacity. Efforts have been made to try and find new Trustees but unfortunately to date there has not been a mad rush of candidates so as a Management Committee we were left with a situation that under our present Constitution we would be unable to carry on. I should point out at this time that Aughton & Ormskirk is probably the only u3a in the country that has a two tier system of management.

So where is the way forward? I don't think closing down would be an option in anyone's mind, therefore the departing Trustees and Management Committee thought the only possible solution was to adopt a new Constitution, this being the standard Third Age Trust Constitution where all members of the Management Committee become Trustees and I can report at this time that all the current Management Committee have made this decision.

There have been other alterations to our Constitution one of which relates to the length of time people can remain on the Management Committee and also the ability to hold our AGM via Zoom should the need apply.

Bearing in mind these comments and taking into account the legalities of our organisation I would urge you to accept the proposal in item 9 on the Agenda.

The last thing that I would like to mention is that we need to look to the future and as far as the Management Committee is concerned there needs to be some effort put into

succession planning. There are many members who are working hard for our u3a and are reaching a time when they might like to step away from their current roles. So we are looking for people with IT skills, management knowledge, finance or anyone wishing to help, to perhaps shadow these people and maybe one day take on positions where necessary, we are after all a self help organisation and I cannot stress too much how important this is as without these people our u3a will cease to operate. Remember it isn't just our u3a it's your u3a.

So thank you everyone and I look forward to the coming year.

John Tomlinson  
Chairman