

## 2024 Craven u3a Annual General Meeting

### Chair's Report

This year has been one of consolidation with much of the committee in their second year of a possible three years. Post last year's AGM the committee consisted of 8 trustees. In accordance with the Constitution, all officers were elected by the membership at the AGM; after the AGM Lesley Perkins was co-opted, having offered to stand and has been shadowing our Treasurer, James.

Committee update: at this year's AGM James Enever, Nigel Holden and Nick Jarvis are stepping down as Treasurer, Group Leader Representative and Membership Secretary respectively plus Anne MacDonald's term of office as Venue Secretary has come to an end and is stepping down. I would like to express my thanks for all the work they and the other committee members have put in on behalf of our u3a and the support they've given me, all will be a hard act to follow, a massive thank you.

Dave Smith, our Independent Financial Adviser has continued to work closely with our Treasurer to provide reports and recommendations to the committee, for which we are very grateful.

It was decided to schedule this year's AGM back to the pre-Covid date of May. Holding it in late June means that our activities are squashed up prior to the start of our membership year; this way gives an easier schedule in the run up to the new membership year.

I'm pleased to report that all activities / events held prior to Covid have resumed with the last being Craven College meal and the Orchestra performance.

As requested, the minutes from Committee meetings are available on the website, members are welcome to attend and observe our meetings.

### Membership

This will be the second-year membership renewal /joining groups can be done through the website. As the school report says, "could do better", so we've listened to the feedback both positive and negative, especially the negative. What is reassuring is that approximately 65% of members renewed through the website, for which we express our thanks. However, we'd like to increase that percentage. For those requiring assistance we will be holding open sessions from 1<sup>st</sup> July to renew membership. These will include monthly meetings and Summer Programme Event (details to follow), but **NOT** during the Open Event. Joining groups will happen after the Open Event from 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Membership can be renewed from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2 months before the new membership year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Everything is about membership numbers as they are our only substantive income. The challenge remains to increase our membership. We are making headway, currently 890; our aim remains to

increase the membership to 4 figures, somewhere near pre-pandemic numbers of 1100. The elephant in the room is the cross subsidy of groups. Reverting to platitudes it's a subject that's been kicked-into-the-long grass for too long. Part of the recovery plan was to gradually move towards all groups that meet in paid venues paying 75% of the venue costs. As of 2024/25 year this will be achieved.

We will still offer reduced membership to our Group Leaders as this acknowledges all their hard work, and to encourage new group leaders to come forward (well that's the hope).

### **Website**

The present website has been in use for 2 years. Nick Jarvis was tasked with a review. Consequently, the updated version will go live post the AGM. A demonstration will be given at the close of official business. A big thank you to Nick for all his hard work.

### **Accounts**

The Treasurer will report on the finances which will include the ongoing plan.

### **Group Leaders**

We have continued to meet with the group leaders to keep them informed of the committee's deliberations. Our hope is that they'll agree we've been transparent and honest. I would like to express a massive thank you to Nigel Holden for being their representative and to all our group leaders for their support. Without their help the plan would have failed, and we wouldn't have a u3a.

### **2024/25 Programme**

This is being led by Jacqui Eames, and will include several new groups. The ones started last year, particularly social and cultural ones run by members, have thrived. A massive thank you to one all. Jacqui will outline the programme after the official business. A special thanks to Doug Hirst who has done the IT for the programme.

### **Summer Programme**

Many thanks to last year's organising team led by Linda Hoole, ably assisted by a small army of helpers on the day. The programme was innovative, including crafts and several sessions held outside the classroom. The event attended by approximately 175 members and was well received. After donations towards the catering were taken into account, the event generated a sizeable surplus. I'm pleased to announce that we have an exciting, even larger programme for this year on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Monthly meetings**

These continue to be very well supported with a very eclectic mix of speakers. Many thanks to Helena and the caterers. Helena has decided to stand down at the end of this calendar year. Although we have a plan in place, any offers to take on this role would be welcomed. Please contact Helena.

### **Newsletter,**

Post the 2023 AGM Liz Morrison took over as editor and has done a great job. A massive thanks to Liz. The most recent newsletters are available on the website, this being our u3as showcase, and hopefully will attract new members.

### **Accidents / Incidents**

I'm required to report on these to the AGM, unless someone knows differently, its four, all of which occurred at Sandylands.

### **In Conclusion**

If anyone has any queries or requires help, please contact me or any committee member. Our promise to you is that we'll respond rapidly. We believe we have done and will continue to put members first.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact me or any committee member. You will be provided with information about the work of the committee and invited to observe the meeting.

What struck me while writing my report was just how many people are involved in running our u3a. A lot of people fly under the radar, so if I haven't thanked you personally can I do so now. You know who you are! Without everyone's help we wouldn't have a successful u3a.