

## 2025 Craven u3a Annual General Meeting

### Chair's Report

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the massive contribution that both the Wendy and Keith Berrington and Judith and Vic Edy have made to our u3a over many years and are now moving to pastures new, thank you, you'll all be missed.

This year sees much of the committee in their third year of a possible three years, in accordance with the constitution they should stand down at the AGM having completed three years, however, there hasn't exactly been a stampede of volunteers offering their services, consequently the Committee agreed to seek approval of Third Age Trust (TAT) to a change to the constitution which would allow officer(s) / Committee member(s) to extend their term office if approved at the AGM. The TAT approved the change on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, providing approved by the AGM.

Post last year's AGM the committee consisted of 10 trustees. In accordance with the Constitution, all officers were elected by the membership at the AGM. Post last year's AGM for various reasons two trustees resigned John Bashall and Kathryn Amey, at this year's AGM Jacqui Eames and Doug Hirst stand down I would like to thank them for all their hard work not only on the committee but all the groups they've run, thank you

Anne MacDonald has taken on the new role of Groups Coordinator which combines the roles of Groups and Programme secretaries, this is a better fit.

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

### Membership

Membership renewal and joining groups can be done through the website, what is reassuring is that the proportion of members renewing this way continues to increase, for which we express our thanks.

We (the committee) acknowledge that some members require assistance renewing and joining groups for these we will continue to help through Open sessions from 1<sup>st</sup> July. These will also include Monthly meetings, Summer Programme Event, before the Open Event, but **NOT** during the event, joining groups will open after the Open Event from 13<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, presently 976; our aim remains to increase the membership to somewhere near pre-pandemic numbers of 1100.

## **Website**

The website continues to evolve thanks in the main from member's feedback, and Nick Jarvis who regularly reviews it to ensure its relevant and up to date. Thanks, one and all.

## **Accounts**

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

## **Group Leaders**

We have continued to meet with the group leaders to keep them informed of the committee's deliberations. This is important as the venues are changing as some close and new ones may more appropriate. Our hope is that they'll agree we've been transparent and honest.

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

## **2024/25 Programme**

Many thanks to Jacqui Eames who organised this year's programme, going forward the role of compiling the 2025/26 programme will be headed by Anne MacDonald as the Groups Coordinator. We continue to introduce new groups, building on this year's programme.

The new programme 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. Anne 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, with several sessions held away from Ermysteds. The event was attended by approximately 190 members and non-members and was well received. After donations towards the catering were taken into account, the event generated a surplus. I'm pleased to announce that we have an exciting programme for this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July.

This will be Linda's last as organiser, a task she's undertaken for the last 3-years, thank you. Any volunteers to take on 2026 please contact either Linda or myself.

## **Accident/Incidents**

I'm required to report to the AGM any accidents/incidents, unless anyone knows differently only one accident, where a participant in 'Walk to Lunch group' fell and suffered two cracked ribs, the member has made a full recovery.

## **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. Group Leader representative is vacant and non-committee if anyone is remotely interested, please contact me.

A reminder that members are welcome to attend and observe our meetings.

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.