

## Chairman's report 2024

I have really enjoyed the past year as your Chairman. There have been many highlights but I especially enjoyed Ashted Village Day when the grand sum of £500 was raised from the tombola for Motor Neurone Disease. I intend to support the same charity again this year. I would be grateful for support this year not only erecting the Gazebo but also dismantling it at the end. Numbers volunteering on the stand were rather disappointing and I hope more will come forward this year on Saturday 8th June. Thanks must also go to Penny Weaver for collecting all the prizes for the tombola and her daughter Sophie for running the tombola on the day in extremely hot weather. I am pleased to report that they have volunteered again this year.

Over 50 members enjoyed a delicious New Year lunch, with a speaker who gave us a superb talk on Chairs with many examples brought in for people to sit on. Members often discount attending a monthly meeting due to the subject matter, but this talk was a prime example of keeping an open mind. I'm sure many of us would discount a talk on chairs, but it was truly fascinating

As your Chairman my job has been made very easy as I am surrounded by a wonderful, dedicated and hard working committee without whose help the Club would not function .A big thank you must go to Anne Letheren Treasurer, Anthea Parker Membership Secretary, Barbara Hiley Groups Co-Ordinator, Judith Mansell Secretary, Megan Adey Minutes Secretary, and Eileen Merchant Speakers Secretary who has produced such a superb range of interesting speakers for our monthly meetings.

Thank also to Ian McLaughlin for examining our accounts, and Philippa Morrison for keeping Ashted u3a in the local press, Beryl McLaughlin and her Social committee for all their varied outings. Pat Anderson who edits the branch magazine single handed, Andrena Brent and Carol Kester for producing refreshments, together with the registration team who keep track of everyone at the meetings, and Rob Eccleshall, who makes us rack our brains every 6 months with his very enjoyable quiz. A huge thank you to Ray Cane who manages our communications and keeps all our members up to date via email.

We have about 550 members and despite repeated requests we still urgently require a Vice Chairman. Norma Shaw has recently joined the Social Committee and I know she has interesting ideas for future trips.

I am acutely aware that we all have busy lives, but Ashted u3a will struggle to survive without your help. Please consider whether you would be prepared to help by offering your services as Vice Chairman.

Tim Collett, Chairman

Sent from my iPad

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