

Chairman's Report

It's been my privilege to have the rewarding and enjoyable experience of being your Chairman of Ashted U3A for the past 3 yearswhere has the time gone?

I was so pleased that in my last year as organiser of the tombola at Ashted Village Day that we raised the grand sum of £896 for Motor Neurones Disease, beating last year's figure by a country mile. Enormous thanks go to Penny Weaver and her daughter Sophie for once again collecting all the prizes and running the tombola on the day.

Over 60 members enjoyed the Christmas Lunch at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, and my thanks must go to Norma Shaw for such a wonderful occasion.

My position as Chairman has been made extremely easy, as I am surrounded by such a wonderful, dedicated and hard-working Committee, without whose help the organisation would not function. A big thankyou goes to Anthea Parker Membership Secretary, Barbara Hiley Groups Co-Ordinator, Megan Adey Minutes Secretary, Eileen Merchant Speakers Secretary, and Marianne Fletcher Vice Chairman.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of the Committee. Special thanks go to Anthea Parker, our Membership Secretary, whose diligence ensures our membership records are always up to date; Barbara Hiley, our Groups Co-Ordinator, who has skilfully overseen the organisation of our many activity groups; Megan Adey, our Minutes Secretary, for her meticulous record-keeping and documentation of meetings; Eileen Merchant, our Speakers Secretary, for arranging such an engaging and diverse range of speakers; Marianne Fletcher, our Vice Chairman, whose support and collaboration have been invaluable throughout my tenure.

Particular thanks must go to Anne Letheren who is standing down after many years as Treasurer having expertly looked after the accounts since Ashted u3a was formed.

Thanks also to Ian McLaughlin for auditing the accounts, and to Beryl and her Social Committee for all their various outings, which are becoming more expensive as the cost of a 52-seater coach is currently £750. So if you have any suggestions for future outings then do please get in touch with Beryl.

Thanks also to Pat Anderson who single handedly edits the Ashted u3a magazine, Andrena Brent and Carol Kester for always stirring it (the tea of

course), together with the registration team who keep track of everyone at the meeting, Rob Eccleshall for his excellent quiz, and who has decided to retire, and who is being replaced by yours truly.

A huge thank you to Ray Cane who manages our communications and keeps all our members up to date via email.

There are 575 members and despite repeated requests we still urgently require a Vice Chairman, Secretary and most importantly a Treasurer.

Without a Treasurer our u3a will not be allowed to continue for more than a few months after the AGM, together with all the implications concerning the future of the Groups and Social Events. I am only too well aware that we all have extreme busy lives, but Ashted u3a's survival is at stake and I urge you all to consider whether you can fill these vacant positions.

I wish Marianne every success as she takes over as Chairman of Ashted u3a, and I'm certain that you will give her your enthusiastic support in this new role.

Tim Collett.