

## **Chairman's end of year report for Chelmsford U3A AGM 2019**

As we reach the end of the U3A year it is perhaps time to reflect on the activities in which you have participated. Hopefully you can look back with pleasure, however there may well be a nagging wish to do something else. If that is the case then there are over forty groups for you to choose from, however if none of them meet your requirements then why not form a new one?

I am sure that you would join with me in thanking the members of the committee for all their hard work in the past year, especially the new members.

Ros Webb has now been elected to the committee proper as there was a vacancy after Sandy Reynolds stepped down. Thanks of course to Sandy for her past work. Of course special thanks have to go to all the hardworking convenors and their respective teams who work tirelessly from month to month keeping your Groups alive and kicking.

Next year there will be further vacancies and so it will be necessary for nominations to go forward for the committee once again. This is of course our U3A and we all have an obligation to contribute to its running. Members can only be on the committee for a finite number of years so there is a continuing need for fresh faces and indeed new ideas.

Sadly recently one of our familiar faces, Lewis Raybold, who has been one of our doormen for some years has stepped down from the role, however Paul Levy has come forward to take over. Many thanks to Lewis for his contribution to our U3A over the years.

This U3A year has of course seen a big change to the way in which the newsletter is distributed. There have been a few teething problems but they are gradually being resolved. As you are aware we will be continuing to print some hard copies which will be available at the monthly meetings as long as there is a requirement. Thanks especially to the small group of committee members whose project this was with the addition of Andy Moir our IT supremo. This change has already produced financial savings which will help to keep membership subscriptions from being increased.

Don't forget the Cyber Crime presentation which will take place here at Hamptons on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. Final details will be in forthcoming newsletters. There will be a charge of five pounds which will also cover the cost of refreshments. This charge will be payable at the door, however it would be helpful if you could indicate to the membership secretary if you will be attending so we can arrange appropriate refreshments. I believe this will be a very worthwhile meeting and I would urge you to come and find out how to protect yourself.

The committee has reached a conclusion that this U3A has continued in its present format for some years and that therefore it is time that we asked you, the members for your views. This will be in the form of a questionnaire which will be produced this year. Essentially we are keen to know what we are doing right and more importantly what we are doing wrong, and then come up with a cunning plan to satisfy everybody!

Finally, just a reminder that for anybody to join a Group of Chelmsford U3A you will need to be a member of our U3A. There is no problem if you belong to another U3A but there is an arrangement where you will pay a reduced subscription so that you do not pay the National Capitation fee twice.

As always do enjoy all that your U3A has to offer and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Maurice Van Mellaerts

