

Chairman's report for the AGM 2019

Let me start by saying 'thank you' all for your help and support this year. The Committee has faced more challenges than usual and we are aware that some of you have found this tedious and certainly for us on the Committee it has been time consuming. I particularly want to thank Garry and John for their work on the dreaded GDPR. They have thrown themselves into the fray with much enthusiasm! I appreciate all the hard work done by the other members of our Committee who have all decided to stay and support me this year. We hope this year will be easier. I also thank all those who produce the Newsletter and the entire Newsletter team who work behind the scenes.

I am happy to announce that we have a proposed new Secretary, Peter Hewes and a proposed Vice Chair, Michael Bottomley. It is always useful to have new ideas and viewpoints and I am sure they will have many. I am particularly relieved as we now have a full Committee and can start the new U3A year with spirits revived!

Thank you to Marilyn Yates and Freda Lang who have had a very difficult year healthwise; however I am happy to report that they are doing well and are much improved. They are both standing down this year – I appreciate your support.

We have been to Bletchley Park and SS Great Britain, and last week a visit to the Royal Mint and St Fagans. I had no idea that the Mint made coins for so many different countries of the world – 90 millions coins per WEEK. However, we weren't given any goodie bags when we left! Thank you to Sue for seamlessly organising these trips which are proving very popular. I am looking forward to the seaside trip in July which replaces our August outdoor meeting this year.

We have had talks on far ranging subjects from the life of the Honey Bee to Tax, Care and Toy Boys. There are many more interesting talks in the pipeline for next year and I can see that today there is much interest in our speaker, Bill King who will hear from shortly – please bear with us, we will be as quick as we can!

We have started new groups – we now have over 40 groups led very efficiently by our dedicated group leaders. Some have changed – thank you to David Turtle who has taken over the Philosophy group from Dan Deane who ran it for so many years and to Peter Hewes who now runs the Latin Group. Thank you Susan Grieg for your years of hard work. John Burrows and Phil Trickett also retire as walk leaders and our thanks go to them too.

Solos goes from strength to strength – and we are now starting a new group. This group has grown and is so useful for those who are on their own and need a little advice and help from the others. Thank you Michael Johnson and Carole McDerment for your efforts.

As usual, it is always difficult mentioning people by name as inevitably someone is left out; and to those I apologise but if I don't keep it short we will be here all afternoon and will never hear about the work at Coleshill!

