

Annual Report of the Trustees

As Chairman I am presenting this year's report from your committee, the Trustees. I would like to thank our Secretary, Lynda Brooks, for helping me prepare for this meeting and our Treasurer, Pat Cooper, for making sure all the financial papers are in order.

This is the conclusion of my first year as your Chairman. A year that has been busy, exciting and at times, challenging. We have had a great deal to be grateful for, not the least of which was our very successful 20th birthday party at the Corn Hall. So many of you came and enjoyed the party including the mayor and the town clerk. Thanks to our Programme Secretary, Helen Rowland, we had a speaker who entertained us with stories about Dad's Army. Also, we all went home quite merry after eating the cake which had been liberally and regularly dosed in brandy by my husband Philip.

The Christmas lunch proved to be a challenge after the demise of the Park Hotel. However, the Thatchers Needle did a good job for us especially as a large party is not their usual customer. A good time was had by all - particular fond memories of the hats. We are considering other venues for this year but it is a problem finding anywhere in Diss that will accommodate 75 of us. Rest assured we will as always do our best.

During the last few months, thanks to the tireless work of Barry Davies, we have instigated a new booking-in system. A big thank you to Carol Nutt who made and distributed the badges all these years and to the scribes who noted down every member who came to the monthly meeting, around 100 names a month. It was time to start a more modern system. Barry worked for many hours to perfect this and now we have our new computerised system in place. Thank you Barry.

Publicity has been a problem this year as we have been working without a Publicity Secretary. I would like to thank Georgina Livingstone for continuing to produce the newsletters but she can only do so if the groups contribute articles and particularly pictures.

Tony Callender, our previous chairman, has continued to run the website and assist me with the publicity - writing articles and producing posters - for which I am very grateful. However, we do desperately need a new IT Coordinator.

Our membership is in a very healthy state with well over 300 members. Thank you to Lesley Morris our Membership Secretary who keeps up to date with this. We have welcomed some new members this year and the committee would like to invite them to a coffee and chat on 10th June here at the URC where they can meet us all and ask about groups etc.

A few years ago, our then Secretary, Gill Goadby, died suddenly and left us a legacy in her will. This money has been used at the discretion of the Trustees to provide such things as the pre-Christmas lunch drinks. This money is now coming to an end but we have decided to keep up with the annual Gill Goadby Award that is given at our Christmas lunch to a non-committee member who has contributed to the Diss u3a.

We continue to run over 20 interest groups within our organisation. Some fall by the wayside but most are thriving. Many have waiting lists and some have proved so popular we have had to start a second group. I would like to thank all of those who run these groups, you are the

backbone of Diss u3a. You will find details of all the groups on our website or please email our Groups Coordinator, Duncan Livingstone, if you have any queries. Also, if you have an idea for a new group, please contact me or the Groups Coordinator. We will help you set it up and get you started.

I would like to thank my committee, Peter Sorrell, Lynda Brooks, Duncan Livingstone, Lesley Morris, Helen Rowland, Pat Cooper and Barry Davies for all their help and continued support without which I could not do this job and you would not have a u3a.

Also, a big thank you to all the others who help each month to set up this meeting. The kitchen staff, the meeters and greeters, the book-table and the signers-in. Too many to mention individually but your contribution is appreciated and without you we could not run this meeting and welcome all our members.

If you feel you could help us set up this meeting, please give your name to one of the committee.

This report will be published on the website

Thank you for listening and supporting our great organisation of which we should be very proud.

I look forward to another great year.

Fanny Grey