

Chairman's Report AGM 2025

Welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting 2025 for Diss u3a.

We have a quorum so this meeting can start.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

All emergency exits are:

If you are a guest welcome but please do not vote.

If you are a new member welcome. For you to find out more about what we have to offer there is a new members meeting at 2.p.m. on Wednesday 16th April. Come along and have a chat and refreshments here at the United Reformed Church. I have tried to contact all new members but if you haven't received an email and are fairly new to our u3a please come along That is 2.00 o'clock on Wednesday 16th.

This has been a very successful year for Diss u3a. Our numbers are buoyant and we have some new groups started such as round towers, jazz, crime fiction and dance.that have been very successful. We are always open to new groups. Please let our new group coordinator Sandra know if you have an idea for one.

We have added new ventures such as an annual quiz night and craft evening at the design centre. We have also looking forward photography courses and in the pipeline a first aid course.

A heads up for May meeting. We will have a bag as you come in for non perishable foods, Tins etc for the food bank This is probably a one off but we will see how it goes.

Helen Rowland has continued to book some marvellous speakers and also spearheaded another very successful and enjoyable Christmas lunch.

One of our long standing members Georgina Livingston has been editing our newsletter ever since I joined the u3a. As a small thank you we gave her the Gill Goaby Award this year She would be the first to say it is only as good as the pieces and pictures she is sent from the groups. So next time she sends out a call for articles please respond from your groups and remember pictures are better than a 1,000 words.

Speaking of pictures my husband Philip is continually updating the screen that you see when you arrive for the meeting. He would love more pictures from the groups. I keep hearing about outings etc from our ever popular MOTO (members on their own group) lets have some pictures.

The other place we are expanding to publicize your groups is our facebook page. Up and running but in need of more material

Our new booking in system which thanks mainly to Barry Davis assisted by Carol is working very well. Most people are remembering to bring their lanyards.

We are investigating the use of card readers.for payments

As you are all aware everyone in this society is a volunteer and I would like to thank all those who have helped to keep this very popular u3a going and keep up our standards.

I don't just mean our committee but the group leaders, kitchen staff who cheerfully provide us with refreshments and delicious snacks every month. Also front of house such as meeters and greeters and the book table. In fact all who give up their time and expertise. If you feel you can lend a hand please let the committee know

Speaking of my hard working committee not only do they keep Diss u3a going they make every effort to improve what we do, and implement new ideas to add to our enjoyment and efficiently.

I am proud to say we have had volunteers to fill all the vacant positions within the committee. So a big heartfelt personal thank you to my existing committee and welcome to our new committee members. Sandra Balaam, Lucie Maldoom and Freda McLauchlan.

Duncan Livingston is retiring as group coordinator. Duncan has done a great job with no fuss so thank you Duncan. I would also like to thank Lynda Brookes our secretary who has been a great support to me and Lesley Morris who is such an efficient membership secretary who again does her job with very little drama. I must give mention to Peter Sorrell my long suffering deputy who has to put up with all my bright ideas and Pat Cooper treasurer who has to work out the payments.

I have heard of many u3as around the country who have struggled since COVID. In Diss we are thriving and I think improving and modernising without compromising on our friendly service.

We have been working hard to keep the basic fee down as we all know prices are rising all around. To this end we are now charging £3 for guests and all those who wish to receive the u3a magazine TAM will have to pay for it by paying an extra £4 when they pay their subscription next year.

Speakers, room hire, kitchen expenses, stationary etc. have as you would expect have all increased. We also intend to replace computers this year and as I mentioned earlier bringing in a card reader system for easier payment.

But I am pleased to announce our annual fee will stay at £15.

AS I have said Diss u3a is thriving and we should all be proud of this.

Thank you all for your attention.

