

FRODSHAM u3a CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025/6

It gives me great pleasure to report on the progress of Frodsham u3a during my second year as Chair.

Frodsham U3A is a learning co-operative and membership charity which enables members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Members draw upon their knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other (peer to peer learning).

Our membership has continued to grow in the last year, and we now have about 320 members. We have 31 interest groups, which is down to teamwork from our group coordinators Nora Parsley and Barbara Healey who work so hard to make our u3a successful. In addition, I would like to give special thanks all our group leaders who do a fantastic job on a monthly, fortnightly or weekly basis.

Do you have any skills or interests you would like to share? I am currently looking into setting up some groups in response to the interest groups survey some of you completed last year, but these can only happen when people come forward to offer leadership of new groups. We really do welcome any suggestions from our members. The committee are always very willing to offer help and support in the setting up of new groups, and to advise on ways to overcome any difficulties by, for example, sharing group leadership roles, or helping with venue choices, or any concerns which might hold back the chance to create a new group venture. So, if you think you have something to offer, alone, or with others, don't hold back. We are there to help.

I have now transferred our records onto a database called Beacon, which has helped to streamline our administration and make our records more secure. Our Treasurer Janet de Haas has uploaded our financial records onto Beacon and has also made Contactless payments available for outings, which has proved very popular with members. The next phase will be to set up Beacon so that those group leaders who wish to can manage the administration of their groups on Beacon.

We continue to have good attendance at our monthly meetings, due in no small part to the excellent range of speakers organised by Eric Dixon. I am very grateful to Ann Warren for stepping forward to take charge of refreshments at the monthly meetings and those members who also help at the meetings by welcoming visitors, taking payments for outings, making teas and putting tables and chairs away afterwards.

We have a varied programme of social activities, and I am grateful to Chris Harrison for organising the coach trips this last year and some other committee members who have organised social activities. However, this has been on top of their other roles on the committee and for the range of social activities to continue, particularly the coach trips, we really need one or more members to assist in this.

I would like to acknowledge all those on the committee, with my grateful thanks for all the work and effort they put in. On this point, I would like to give a special mention to Jayne Appleton who has been our secretary for three years and Janet de Haas who has been our treasurer for over three years, both of whom are standing down this year. Many thanks for your contribution to the smooth running of our u3a. So, we really need some more people to put themselves forward to serve on the Committee. If these officer roles are not filled, Frodsham u3a will not be allowed to continue.

I would like to thank our newsletter editor Frank Hough who does an excellent job of producing our monthly newsletter, keeping you all informed of what's going on in Frodsham u3a and the wider u3a movement. Also, many thanks to our website editor Steve Ellis for keeping our website up to date and user friendly

Finally, I would like to thank you all for being members of the u3a and your support during the past year – after all, without any members, there wouldn't be a u3a in Frodsham!

Gill Matthewson