

Chair's Report September 2022

On Wednesday 23rd November, we held our annual Convenors' Meeting. Convenors play a vital part in leading the u3a's interest groups and the Convenors' Meeting is an opportunity for convenors of different groups to meet each other, to share experience and bring suggestions and concerns to the notice of the committee. It is also an opportunity for Swanland u3a to thank the convenors for all the work they do in edible form, as the meeting itself is followed by a buffet – a good opportunity to mingle over lunch. 34 people attended, including 8 committee members, so about half of the Interest Groups were represented.

There was general concern at the Convenors' Meeting about a fall in numbers in many of the interest groups following the pandemic. The fall in numbers reflects the drop in u3a membership generally. Suggestions put forward for promoting the u3a included advertisements in golf clubs, the East Riding Council magazine, and suggesting to GP practices that they might include the benefit of membership of the u3a as part of their social prescribing.

Another approach is the Open Event planned with general recruitment in mind for 9th, 10th and 11th May 2023. The aim is to hold a range of activities over the three days, including an exhibition and a high-profile speaker. A sub-group of the committee has been formed to manage this. Any suggestions that readers may have will be very welcome; please contact your Convenor or any member of the committee. The website is also a good starting point for potential new members to find out more about Swanland u3a and we are grateful to Keith Taylor for all his hard work as Web Administrator. Four new groups have been proposed recently: of these, Bird-watching is now up and running; Classical Music Appreciation is about to be relaunched and it is hoped it will start in January; groups still gathering expressions of interest are 'Visits' and 'Photography'.

Richard Hoyes has served as New Groups Co-ordinator since March 2022, but resigned, for eyesight reasons, on 23rd November. In the period since he was elected, Richard has worked hard to encourage new groups and we are grateful for his efforts. If anyone reading this is willing to take on the role of New Groups Co-ordinator, please contact any committee member.

By the time you read this, it will be January 2023, so I will close by hoping that all our readers had a lovely Christmas and wishing all members a happy and fulfilling New Year.

John Scotney,
Chair,
Swanland u3a.