

New Chairman's Report (April 2023)

I was very proud to have been elected Chairman of Swanland u3a at the AGM in March. Thank you everyone for the trust you have placed in me and I will work hard to build and promote our organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain what I consider to be our immediate priorities. I expect that we all value the u3a for the same reason - it enables us to continue both with our interests on retirement and to discover new ones, pursuing both in the company of like-minded people. The u3a is driven by the principles on the national website which are fine ideals and by following them we 'learn, laugh and live'. Being involved in an Interest Group, taking part in a visit, attending a Thursday lecture or a Coffee Morning with other members- all bring improved mental and physical health. So the first priority for everyone is to get involved in our u3a as much as possible!

A top priority has to be to recruit more members who will keep Interest Groups sustained and provide the new generation of Convenors and Committee members. When I asked for ideas at the end of last year on recruitment the one thing that almost everyone mentioned was the value of personal contacts. So please ask yourself: who can I talk to about the u3a? Who can I bring to a u3a lecture or activity? What do they have to do to join - do I know the web address and the phone numbers?

The May Open Days are the beginning of an ongoing process - I need all of you to help with recruitment either by suggesting ideas; promoting our u3a to any potential new members or volunteering to help with a recruitment project. A further priority must be increasing the number of volunteers who help with our activities, especially convening a group or taking responsibility for a project. These roles can be shared with other members and I promise that anyone 'stepping forward' will be supported by the Committee. If we cannot run an activity then our members - you - are disadvantaged.

Please consider helping in any way that you can.

I want a u3a that meets your needs with a wide range of activities, courses and groups available to all and that also presents an image to the wider community through what we do of 'positive ageing' where we live active lives enabled by learning. At the end of my two years, I want everyone coming into the area to read our publicity and think: 'What a great organisation. What great ideas'. They might be able to join immediately or they might think, 'I cannot wait until I retire!' Swanland u3a entry requirements? 83p a month and a positive attitude. What a bargain!

John Munson

Chair
Swanland u3a