

## **Chair Report 2025 - AGM**

I have just completed the first year as Chair of the Wem & District u3a.

It has been a pleasure to lead the existing committee during the last 12 months.

As you are aware, we had major changes for the Officers on our committee due to the length of service for various roles as mentioned in our Constitution.

**Chair** – Enid Smith was our Chair Person for the 3 year period and had to step down, I knew she would be a hard act to follow and I thank her for her support when I took over this role.

**Vice Chair** – As I stood down to take over my new role – Margaret Webber (Mags) agreed to take on this position giving me the help when it was needed.

**Treasurer** - Derek Sparkes had completed the 6-year period, and this position was filled by David Newell who has picked up the reins and settled in well keeping our accounts under a strict control.

**Business Secretary** – Kate Turner - This role is quite involved as well as taking the minutes, she is in touch with the main u3a Trust when they require information from our unit. She also Ensures that our u3a, is publicised in various booklets and locally around the area

I must mention the:-

**Membership Secretary** – Eirwen Williams - Is very efficient in keeping our membership records upto date, as well as distributing information received from the u3a Head Office, our own Newsletter, and General Notices.

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The general members on the Committee have given myself and the other officers their full support and helped in various areas making it a joy to work with such a good group of people.

Many thanks to them.

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A thank you to **Paul Young**, who has been brilliant in finding us some very interesting speakers during the year, and next year, again he has come up trumps, with a variety of speakers to keep us entertained at our monthly meetings.

Paul also arranged an outing to Bletchley Park which quite a few of our members went on and found it excellent and well organised by Paul.

He also arranged our Christmas Quiz which was on a different format than previous and very enjoyable, so get your running shoes ready as I understand this year's will be the same format.

**Our Newsletter** – what would we do without our Editor Peta Smith – each Newsletter contains many articles all which have to be collated and ready for print, no easy task, but it is done by Peta with no problems that we are aware of. So thank you Peta for doing this so successfully.

**The Web Coordinator** – Glynis Nicholls – Down to her expertise our Web Site is easy to access and negotiate around, and she does an excellent job in keeping it upto date.

Glynis is also our **Shropshire u3a Network Representative** and is the Chairperson, so keeping us informed of any relevant changes or topics which are discussed at their meetings.

A very busy lady and we do appreciate the time she spends in both of these areas. Thank you.

**Group Coordinator** Margaret Webber has asked me to give a report re our various Groups.

At present we have 27 Active Groups –

New Groups formed this year are the Table Tennis, Chess & Go, Bridge and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Pub Lunch Group.

Our existing Groups are thriving, and she would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the leaders for their support during the last year.

Regrettably Mags has decided to step down from the committee and we will miss her input at future meetings.

During the year we were invited to attend a u3a Regional meeting at Lichfield to meet Ian Cassidy the new CEO of the u3a Trust – Margaret Webber and myself went along, and found it very informative and interesting to meet and hear the views on certain subjects from other u3a's. One of the main subjects was the introduction of a new system called Beacon which will help in various areas within the u3a, for example The Treasurer and the Membership Secretary. I am sure David and Eirwen will mention this in their reports as well.

**Lastly Wem Town Hall staff** – they have been so helpful during the past year, we have used them for our General and Committee Meetings, also allowing our Photography Group to display their work in the Gallery area. They have been great so thank you Pam and your team.

The last BIG THANK YOU goes to you our members for the support you have given to the Committee and the various Groups and Special Outings during the past year.

This concludes my report for the year 2024/2025

Jackie Mirehouse (Chairperson)