

## Bourne u3a Trustees Report 2023 -2024

Another successful year and Bourne u3a is still proving to be very popular

We have a healthy membership of 577 which is up from 551 last year.

Sadly this year we lost one of our founder members, Constance Briggs, who until her health declined was a very active and popular member.

Thanks to our Treasurer, Mike Alexander, the new online registration facility which came into effect last year has, in spite of some initial problems, proved really useful and has speeded up renewals for existing members and registration for new members. Also the updated guide books for New Members, Group Leaders and Beacon users has, again thanks to Mike, shown to be really useful tools.

New groups are slow to start as, along with many u3a's, finding group leaders and willing committee members proves to be very difficult. However, thanks to our hard working group leaders we have some very lively and busy groups. I could fill this report by simply listing the many and exciting activities that they have arranged but here are a few.

The Anytime Out Group, under the leadership of Stewart Goldsmith has enjoyed some splendid and varied trips including visits to the seaside, beautiful gardens and ancient buildings

Our Drawing and Art group held an exhibition which was very popular and attracted many visitors. This is a very talented group who should be proud of the standard of work they produce under the leadership of Peter Gillatt.

The Science and Technology group have visited a Windmill, the Museum of Gadgets and Gismos, listened to talks about the James Webb Space Telescope and , following a visit to our local Community Fire Station, fully appreciated the hard work and dedication our local Fire and Rescue teams put in on our behalf.

A big thank you must go to our Speaker Finder Gill Stoneman who once again has provided us with some very interesting speakers. Not an easy task but achieved brilliantly. From a very lively talk about the Plague Doctor of Eyam through to how important the first few hours are when the police are looking for a missing person. Entertainment by a Ukulele Orchestra proved popular at our Christmas meeting where the competition for Christmas hats and jumpers was entertaining.

A stall at a recent Well Being Event held at the Corn Exchange was quite an eye-opener. It is surprising how few people know what the u3a is about. This proved to me something that I had suspected for a while. In spite of all that we hear about the large sums of money being invested in promoting u3a nationally this doesn't seem to filter down to smaller or more rural u3a's. In fact all u3a publicity material which we could once get for free now has to be paid for.

My thanks go to our Secretary, John Boss who has again worked tirelessly on our behalf and has now finally found a successor. We welcome Janice Lyon who has agreed to take on his mantle. Martin Adkins has provided some very cheerful and colourful News Letters and still found time to keep our web site on track. Phil Pavier continues to keep our Beacon alight allowing easy access for all the Administration and statistics that we require to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Lastly a big thank you to all the committee members. Without you we would not have a Bourne u3a.

Pat Howes Chair

