

# Shepton Mallet u3a - AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

## Chair's Report

I am delighted with the progress made by our u3a over the past year. At the end of August we had 180 members and 18 interest groups, the newest being Card and Jewellery Making (or Creations).

We have enjoyed an excellent programme of monthly Speaker Meetings, ably organised by Jane Morrison, and weekly coffee mornings at Dobbies. We had a Christmas Lunch at Mendip Golf Club, a Spring Event jointly with Make the Sunshine, and a very successful art exhibition at the end of August. Many members contributed and we thank Jane Morrison and Tina King for their sterling work in realising it.

We have run outings to Westonbirt Arboretum, the M-Shed Museum in Bristol, Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, the Earth Science Centre at Stoke St Michael, the RNLI College in Poole and to Radstock Museum. In September we had use of the post office window in the Market Place for our display over a couple of weeks and Collett Park Day saw us once again publicising our u3a from a gazebo, resulting in several new members. We purchased new advertising banners to replace outdated ones, and we continue to place leaflets, posters and newsletters around the town.

Tina King joined the committee this year and took over editing our newsletter, ably assisted by Jim Morrison. It now appears bi-monthly and is attractive and popular.

We are sorry to be losing Janet Murray and Keith Taylor from the committee, as they have both served the maximum time permitted under our constitution, 9 years. We are extremely grateful to them both for their work. Keith has agreed to continue looking after the website and Beacon database, but needs someone to train up for the future. I am most grateful to all committee members for their time, ideas, help and support – no u3a can operate without them!

We continue to be members of the North Somerset Association of u3a groups. A conference is being organised for March 21<sup>st</sup> and a quiz on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully there will be other opportunities to socialise and share information and ideas.

The Third Age Trust, which oversees u3a, is being reorganised to include an elected Council to represent the views of the membership. We will be hearing more about this in the near future.

I look forward to another great year for Shepton Mallet u3a!

Janet Sherwin