

CHAIRMANS REPORT 1997

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of last year we had increased our membership to 231. This year I am pleased to report that our membership has increased to 256. As 45 members did not rejoin this year it means that we have had 70 new members this year.

I am naturally concerned that 45 members chose not to rejoin, we try to have a programme to suit every taste but we do need a feedback from you all to be able to achieve this.

There will be time after the formal meeting for you to join in a discussion and put forward your ideas. I hope you will.

VENUE

Next month we will have been here at the Wesley for two years. I think we have settled in well and we are enjoying all the facilities, we have space to socialise whilst we have coffee and it is good to see many of you enjoying the cafe after the meeting and not wanting to rush away. I think at this time we should thank Alison and her team of volunteers for serving us so well during the year.

This year for new members and visitors, we have introduced a "welcoming group", recognised by their badges and lead by Evadne Traske this has proved to be a great help to newcomers but if you have any ideas on how we can improve our welcome please let us know.

COMMITTEE

Early during the year we were sorry to lose Pat Pulford from the committee, Pat was one of the original enthusiasts who made it possible for the formation of Chester U3A four years ago, and indeed was our first Chairman, thank you Pat we appreciate all you have done for us.

During the year Isabel Fleming resigned as Secretary but we are grateful that she was willing to remain on committee as Minute Secretary.

Eddie Thornber who has looked after the sound and projection equipment so well during the year unfortunately has resigned from the committee. Many thanks Eddie for all your work.

GROUP ACTIVITY

This year Rita Coan was appointed as Group Liaison Officer and during the year some very useful Group Leaders meetings have been held to co-ordinate the group activities. At the last meeting the title "Group Leader" was changed to "Group Co-ordinator" this is to emphasise that the co-ordinator does not necessarily have to be the one with knowledge or be the expert in the group subject, so if you have a particular interest in a subject why not take up the challenge and become a group co-ordinator.

You will see that we have for the first time all the co-ordinators on the front rows so they all are all ready for your questions later.

SOCIAL

Again this year social activities have been an important part of our programme this again has been due to the hard work and the organising by Mary Vives. Mary will be reporting on the various activities later but many thanks Mary from all of us.

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NATIONAL & REGIONAL

We must remember that we are part of a National organisation and as such we must take part, and enjoy at the same time, activities outside Chester with other U3A's. This year the National Conference was held at Liverpool. John Turley and myself attended as voting delegates, John as you know had put his name forward to be elected to the National Executive, unfortunately he was not elected at the AGM but due to a later resignation I am pleased to report that he has now been co-opted onto the National Executive- congratulations John from all of us. The Regional Conference this year was held close by at Crewe. It was disappointing that so few attended to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with other groups and to foster new ideas. Next year the Regional Conference will be even closer--right on your own doorstep, this will be organised by Chester and will be held on the 8th April 1998 at Christleton High School.

Mary is Chairman of the organising committee and will require your help. For an event like this to be a success- and success it will be, it requires the help of all the members of our U3A some before the day, a lot more on the day and the rest to come along and give their support. Please see Mary and offer your services and help us to make it a real success.

Now that my term of office comes to a close I would like to thank you all for your support. I am sure you would like me to thank the committee on your behalf for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. To this I wish to add my personal thanks, for their help and their patience with me during my term of office.

HAROLD WILSON

During the year Isabel Fleming resigned as Secretary but we are grateful that she was willing to remain on committee as Minute Secretary.
Eddie Thornbar who has looked after the sound and projection equipment as well during the year unfortunately has resigned from the committee. Many thanks Eddie for all your work.

GROUP ACTIVITY

The new Roll Com was appointed as Group Liaison Officer and during the year some very useful Group Leaders meetings have been held to co-ordinate the group activities. The title "Group Leader" was changed to "Group Co-ordinator" this is to emphasize that the co-ordinator does not necessarily have to be the one with knowledge or be the expert in the group subject, so if you have a particular interest in a subject why not take up the challenge and become a group co-ordinator. Finally I see that we have for the first time all the co-ordinators on the list so we are then all ready for next year's list.

Even though social activities have been an important part of our programme this year has been due to the hard work and the organising by Mary Vives. Mary will be reporting on all your activities later but many thanks Mary from all of us.