



## Chairman's Report 2016 – 2017

This has been a successful year with membership rising to over 1120.

The number of groups has risen to over 90. We often moan about the lack of volunteers, especially for the Committee, but each Group Coordinator is a volunteer and without him or her the Chester U3A would not exist. Our thanks go to each and every one of these heroes.

One of our busiest groups is the Social Group. They have arranged day visits, theatre visits, musical visits and residential visits in this country and abroad. I'm sure that there are very few members who have not enjoyed their visits. A big thank you to Liz Flanagan and her Group.

Chester U3A is blessed with a very hard working Committee. Everyone works exceptionally hard in their particular role, and I know that as Chairman I have been able to rely on each one implicitly. I would like to pick out one member, Patricia Gifford is standing down this year after 8 years as Membership Secretary. She has been more than just Membership, as she has arranged Christmas dinners and sat on many sub-committees as well as being many members' first point of call in all sorts of situations. Thank you Patricia.

Sadly, Les Edwards, our Speakers Secretary, died in August. He had brought in many speakers to inform and entertain us over the last two years. We will miss him and our thoughts go to his family.

Over the year the Committee has considered a change to our constitution to bring us in line with the U3A Trust. We looked at the suggested Trust constitution and agreed with most of it, except when it came to the objects. Your Committee thought that the objects should show a need for the well-being as well as the education of its members. There were many emails and phone calls between the Trust and us and eventually it was agreed

to defer changes until the Trust completes its deliberations with the Charity Commission in the near future.

This AGM marks the end of my term as Chairman. I would like to thank everyone, especially my Vice Chairman, Tim Carley, for their marvellous support and I wish my successor every success in the future.

Bob Davies, Chairman, Chester U3A