

Report on Bude & District U3A's October meeting – the AGM

'The past year hasn't all been plain sailing, but overall it has been a good one', began U3A Chairman, Jo Arnold, as she gave her Annual Report to the well - attended Annual General Meeting of Bude & District U3A, held at the Parkhouse Centre last Thursday, 17th October.

Jo thanked her fellow Committee members for all their hard work and support during the year. She also recorded her thanks to the Group Leaders 'who give their time and energy' to keep Bude U3A running, and to other members who look after the website, the Newsletter, the refreshment rota, the AGM exhibition, the Book Exchange and so forth. There are now about 40 Groups offering a wide variety of activities for U3A members. Two new activities this year were Line Dancing and Cookery.

Membership numbers have continued to increase. The increase in the previous year led to a reduction of £3 to the membership fee for this year. There were just over 300 members in 2018/19 and it is expected that membership will again grow in 2019/20.

The Chairman's Report also highlighted a few of the monthly talks and thanking retiring Speaker Secretary, Denni Clarke, for her forward planning. Jo also recalled 'the longest day trip to date' when, on 31st January, Theatre Group members found themselves stuck in the snow when returning from a visit to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. They overnighted at St. Mellion Golf Club and arrived back in Bude more than 24 hours after they'd left!

Jo concluded her remarks by reminding everyone that: "nothing in U3A just happens". "Everything depends on ordinary members – that's every one of us," she said, "and the more who share the tasks, the stronger we become."

U3A Treasurer, Ian Maclure then presented the accounts, which were duly accepted. Elections for the new Committee. Jo Arnold was re-elected as Chairman and Ian Maclure will remain as Treasurer. Elected to the Committee were: John Dabbs, Mary Dobson, Ian Dew, Sheila Mahoney, Eve O'Mahony and Ann Tizzard.

The official AGM was followed by a testing general knowledge quiz presented by Wilf Diggle. U3A members then spent time browsing the exhibition tables set out at the back of the hall to showcase the work of the Groups.. Full information about Bude U3A, how to join, and on all the Groups, can be found on the U3A website at: www.budeu3a.co.uk. For membership queries, call: 01409 253749.

A talk given by Rick Stewart and entitled 'Morwellham – Tavistock's port' is the subject for the next U3A monthly meeting on 21st November at the Parkhouse Centre. Coffee mornings for members and potential members are on Friday, 1st November at the Weir Café and Wednesday, 20th November at the Brendon Arms.