

Tarporley & District u3a – Chair’s Statement 2024 – 25

Welcome to what I believe to be the 12th Annual General Meeting of our u3a.

I want to thank and congratulate our previous Chairs - especially Don Igoe - and their committees for shaping our u3a into what it is today. However, despite their efforts, life sometimes gets in the way, and we found ourselves at the last AGM without anybody willing to stand as Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer. Fortunately, we were able to find an excellent Treasurer and an excellent Secretary, leaving only the Chair’s role vacant. I agreed to step in for one year, as I believe this position should ideally be held by a younger person.

So, how did it go?

My main aim was to ensure that we would never again find ourselves without key officers. To that end, we have amended our constitution in several ways - most notably, allowing officers to be appointed by the new committee. We have also taken steps to ensure that members in key roles have support and potential successors ready to step in should the need arise. Thankfully, that hasn’t been necessary.

The Committee, our group coordinators and their activity leaders are the lifeblood of our u3a - without them, nothing would happen. In addition, a number of members regularly help at our Monthly Speaker Meetings. We also have other supporters especially Edward Baskerville who has organised some outstanding trips for us, for which we are immensely grateful.

We would, however, welcome more helpers, particularly in specialist areas such as IT or risk advice. I trust members will continue to respond positively when invited to take on supporting roles.

Our group activities continue as happily as ever, although Theatre Studies has stopped and Tennis has started. As always, we would welcome new groups, new convenors, and more members, especially those who have recently retired and are looking to get involved.

Retiring members of the committee include Graham Parker (Treasurer), Sue Hardacre (Newsletter) and Paul Bujac (Website and IT). They have all made major contributions to our u3a over the years, and we must all be very grateful for what they have done for us.

I have greatly enjoyed working with such a positive, capable, and cooperative team. In spite of initial misgivings, I am glad that I have had the opportunity to serve as your Chair.

Gwyn Jones, October 2025

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the committee members who have taken on these important roles this year:

- **Treasurer:** *Simon Dunning*
- **Vice Chairs:** *Pete Schofield, Gill Moroney*
- **Secretary:** *Angela Wilson*
- **Interest Groups Coordinator:** *Pat Tyson-Jones*
- **Membership:** *Peter Schofield*
- **Trips:** *Pat Tyson-Jones, Jan Linsell*
- **Monthly Speakers:** *Gill Moroney*
- **Website and Communications:** *Paul Bujac, Andy Barson*
- **Newsletter:** *Angela Green, Sue Hardacre*
- **Safeguarding:** *Pat Tyson-Jones*
- **Safety Advisor:** *Gwyn Jones*

As for myself, when I first agreed to step in as Chair, I remembered some committees I had known in the past—ones where meetings dragged on, tempers flared, and little got done! But I also recalled others where someone would suggest an idea, and it was quickly brought to life. Happily, I can say that this committee has been very much of the latter kind.