

Message from the Chair

As I enter my second year as Chairman, I look forward to our 20th birthday in 2019.

'Old Basing & District U3A' as we were then called, officially became a member of the Third Age Trust on June 1st 1999. I wonder if the original committee could ever have imagined that almost twenty years later we would have nearly 800 members. I wonder too whether they could ever have imagined the changes in technology which have taken place. The implementation of the Beacon administrative system has been of huge assistance, and we have been very fortunate that our U3A has been one of the first to be involved with its development.

I would like to thank the committee for all the hard work they have done to ensure the smooth running of our U3A. My thanks also to all the group leaders and other volunteers who help to keep the meetings running regularly and smoothly.

This last year we have lost several long-standing members who have served the U3A for many years. Some of our groups have had difficulties finding new leaders, fortunately in most cases someone has stepped up to fill the position, but not in all cases, so regrettably one or two groups face closure.

The U3A is a self-help group and all our leaders are volunteers. These people enable our U3A to continue to exist and hopefully run smoothly. Our committee works very hard to keep the U3A up to-date and interesting. We have to move forward, and we need to face some changes and new ways of learning. We do listen to what you say and try to overcome problems when they arise.

We still need new leaders, new groups and Committee members. Some key roles still need to be filled, please consider volunteering for these roles.

My best wishes for a successful and enjoyable year.