

## WREXHAM U3A, CHAIR'S REPORT 2024/2025

Welcome to the 19th Annual General Meeting of Wrexham U3A.

I am able to report that the branch is in good health and approaching the total membership numbers prior to covid in 2020. With this success comes inevitable change and several committee members are due a well-deserved leave of service.

Particular thanks must go to Carolyn McKenzie as membership secretary, her ability to recall names of members to the correct face is astounding as is her welcome smile each monthly meeting. Less noticeable is our newsletter editor Ann LaCourse who compiles the document from a variety of contributors and makes each edition interesting and I know she would welcome more items from members. Behind the scenes our technical two Brian Jones and Alan Sutton manage the data to allow us to keep our interests up to date as well as instructing less technical persons in certain aspects of our modern machines. Our Group Coordinators Sandra Jones and Lynn Jones work together and aid the numerous Group Leaders who form the backbone of our organisations many interests. Thanks is overdue to all these 48 leaders who quietly continue their responsibilities and activities, knowing their work is valued and recognised. Especially pleasing has been the way new committee members have shadowed others and are ready to continue those responsibilities, Anne Hughes, Jane Dutton and Zarina Kagan.

Especially pleasing is the opportunity to start new groups and welcome more members into new activities; the informal Book Chat is an example of such success and now it has a sibling!

The sharing of interests is key to our success and I am pleased to report that many members find friendship and companionship in u3a that is not in other organisations. It is that loyalty that inspires and energises all who have any level of responsibility. To those who keep turning up every time and keeping everything going I am especially grateful.

I am particularly pleased that Lynn Jones has progressed from Group Coordinator to Vice Chair and know that her latest responsibilities will be equally well managed and I wish her every success in leading Wrexham u3a forward as its Chair.

My term of service is coming to an end and much of it has been most enjoyable, thanks to you, our members, for your support and enthusiasm. I know that you will welcome and work with the continuing and new members of Wrexham U3A committee and to you all I wish every success. I am sure that the committee will prosper with the knowledge and experience of our Secretary Stan Moore, who has proved to be a source of knowledge, memory and wisdom in all matters, especially as we plan celebrations for our score of years existence. My particular wish as we enter 2025 is for more members to come forward and share their wealth of lived experience. I am sure there are areas of expertise waiting for an opportunity to shine, we could then be certain of the development and diversity of Wrexham U3A in the coming years, making life even more worth living. I leave you with a reminder of our mantra, Learn, laugh and live within membership of Wrexham u3a.

Best wishes to all for 2024-25  
Judith Dolben, Chair, Wrexham U3A  
March 2024