

Annual General Meeting 2017 - President's Report

Welcome to the 26th Annual General Meeting of U3A Manningham. I am pleased to submit my report for the period 1st January to 31st December 2016.

Firstly, I would like to thank the many people who have contributed in so many different ways to the organisation and management of our U3A, especially to our large and multi-talented body of tutors who, once again, offered nearly 200 classes throughout the year to over 1800 members. The successful management of those classes depends, of course, on the hundreds of members who volunteered their services as class reps and office staff. Their important contribution is gratefully recognised and acknowledged. The smooth operation of our organisation depends also on the activities of those members who take on the wide range of unseen but essential associated tasks and we thank them for their contribution. As in previous years we have also been able to organise a regular programme of acknowledgment lunches as well as providing a continuous supply of refreshments at celebratory functions. The success of these occasions is down to the hundreds of members who volunteer to prepare and supply the food and the events and catering team who orchestrate these occasions. Their work is invaluable and much appreciated. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Committee of Management and their teams who have borne the responsibilities of administration and its subsequent workload with enthusiasm and goodwill, displaying a remarkable degree of commitment, reliability and initiative.

MyU3A Membership Management system

2016 marked the second year that we have used the MyU3A computerised management system for enrolment, membership management and internal communication. The system has proved invaluable in simplifying and refining day-by-day management tasks and is constantly being modified and fine-tuned to improve its many benefits. Although the system was designed specifically for U3A management it requires considerable adjustment and adaptation to accommodate the often slight but significant idiosyncratic procedures of different organisations. My thanks to the Enrolment team and data entry officers who have worked continually throughout the year.

25th Anniversary

2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of our U3A which was celebrated during the month of October, being the date when the first classes took place in 1991. Permanent reminders of this important landmark in our history are now on display at different locations in The Pines: the fourth panel in the colourful visual display of our 'journey', the celebratory patchwork quilt designed and created by the Patchwork class, and the commemorative bench outside the North entrance. An especially themed Artistic Showcase was held on 14th October which marked the exact date of the commencement of classes 25 years ago. Later that evening a cocktail party for tutors, management volunteers and visiting dignitaries took place at The Pines. A month later we hosted a superb celebratory concert by members of the Hawthorn U3A Orchestra. All these events were organised and brought to fruition by a small planning

group of members and I would like to thank them for their imaginative suggestions and hard work throughout the year.

Community involvement

- Early in 2016, Manningham City Council, in partnership with Alzheimer's Australia Victoria, launched a new initiative aiming to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia, their families and carers by facilitating a municipality that is dementia-friendly. Part of that initiative was the formation of a Dementia Alliance Group with which we have become closely associated with one of our senior Management Committee members playing an active role within the group.
- As in previous years, our members donated generously to Doncare in terms 2 and 4.
- At the beginning of Seniors Week in October we participated in Celebration Day at Federation Square. Demonstrations of a variety of craft skills and other class activities were presented together with performances from our Line Dancers.

Grants

We applied for and received the following grants:

- \$3000 Manningham Community Grant. This is being used to acquire large-scale scanning and other computerised equipment to enable us to archive material from the past and to create a centralised data base for essential documentation.
- \$2000 Programme Growth Support Grant. This was used principally for the updating of materials necessary for the Migrants English programme
- \$4,500 Adult Community and Further Education Grant. This is being used to purchase a number of Android tablets to support an Introduction to Android Tablets class which will enter the 2017 programme later this year.

Conclusion

- We share this splendid and much appreciated accommodation with Pines Learning. There are a number of areas of common usage and I would like to gratefully acknowledge the helpful and collaborative attitude that the management and staff of Pines Learning always show us.
- On behalf of all members, I would like to express our grateful recognition of the ongoing support of Manningham City Council. We thank them for the beneficial and cooperative role that they have played in our 25 year history and for their continuing encouragement and cooperation.

Geoff Sheldon
President