U3a Kent Network

Chair’s Report to AGM 2024

It has been my pleasure to be chair of our network this year and to be working with my fellow committee members over the last two years. My thanks to each of them for their contribution to making our Network the success it is. We are hoping that some of you here today will consider joining us.

Liz Thackray the national chair visited Kent last year and was impressed by the range of groups and activities available to our members and the energy and vision of the local u3a committees.

Our recent innovation of establishing a WhatsApp group for chairs and vice chairs is proving a valuable way for us to share information and experiences - we also have a Facebook group for committee members which is taking a bit longer to take off and we will review whether this is the best way for committee members to communicate with each other - suggestions welcome.

We are currently applying for a grant from national office so we can have a presence at the Kent Show which, if successful, will give us a good opportunity to make sure more and more people find out about what a great organisation we are and what we have to offer.

As you know the consultation of the national structure continues with many people from Kent contributing, whatever the outcome of this consultation Kent Network remains committed to working together to support our u3as and be responsive to the challenges that can arise.

My personal thanks to the support that the committee of the newly formed u3a at Borough Green has had over the last 9 months - this support has been practical with loan of promotional material but also the sharing of expertise from various committee members.   It has been a real example of how our organisation and individuals can pull together to achieve something.

Lastly we will be reviewing our peer to peer groups  - our treasurers continue to meet but the uptake for the other peer to peer groups has not been so consistent  so we need to think whether we should continue with them  - again we will be looking for your views about this.

Lastly thank to Joy who continues to maintain our website and we look forward to having our Siteworks website - hopefully during the coming year.