

CHAIRS REVIEW

April 2023 to March 2024

How can another year have passed by since my last Chair's review. Where have the last twelve months gone!

For Torridge U3A it has been a year of reconciliation and growth with current membership numbers back over 400 which matches pre-covid levels. There were also several new interest groups started during the year, including two new film groups, a new discussion group and a new fitness group which is based at the Atlantic Racquets Centre in Bideford. In September 2023 we were able to run a series of Basic Life Support Training sessions which many members were able to attend.

Back in September we were informed that any proposed redevelopment of Bone Hill car park had been rejected by Torridge District Council, which was welcome news to all our members who attend groups based at the Upper Room. Also, regarding the Upper Room, I would like to thank Dave de Burton for all the work he has put in during the year, updating, maintaining and redecorating the Upper Room, as well as helping us carry out some essential work to our electrical services there.

In January 2024, Rob Phillips organised a get together for all our Group Leaders to thank them for all work they do which is so vital to the success of our U3A. The meeting was well attended, and it was a good opportunity for everyone to get feedback from the groups on many of the activities in place for our members. Following on from discussions at the meeting one of our Group Leaders, Jan Thompson, stepped up to help the Committee with the important task of welcoming new members to our U3A.

As most of you are aware, I stepped down from the Committee and the role as Chair at the end of March. I would like to thank all our members, Group Leaders, and members of the Committee for all the help and support they have given me during the time I have spent on the Committee of Torridge U3A.

Once again, this seems an ideal time to remind you that your committee is always looking for new ideas, new enthusiastic helpers and Committee members. If you would like to be more involved in the running of our U3A, you can discuss things with the Committee members here today or, if you want to step forward for nomination to the Committee you can put your name forward to be added to the list of members being elected to the Committee this morning.