

West Bridgford u3a Chair's Report for 2024 25

This is the end of my third year as Chair. Following Covid and our recovery, we have been much more in a "steady state" with groups and activities and membership. I hope that is the last time I refer to Covid.

The attendance at Open Meetings has been increasing, albeit erratically, and we have had some great speakers. We have been trying to make small improvements to the audiovisual systems in the Baptist Church. First, we obtained detailed instructions from the Church team on how to set up the hearing loop. More recently, the Church team have agreed to investigate the installation of roller blinds on the windows at the west end. This will help to prevent our audience being dazzled by the low winter sun.

Our overall membership has also continued to increase. I always hope that this increase will give us more group leaders, but that is still an area we struggle with. Although our interest groups are generally healthy, there are many new groups that we could start, or full ones that we could expand, if we could find leaders. Do please have a think about whether you could contribute.

We have had some very successful social events. These have included: a visit to Stonebridge City Farm; theatre visits to Nottingham Playhouse to see Jack and the Beanstalk and A Thousand Splendid Suns; Sunday Lunch at Welbeck Hall; and a tour of Nottingham Council House. Most recently we've been to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough. There is a tempting upcoming events programme – use our website to catch up on the latest information.

Many volunteers keep the show on the road. The Open Meetings benefit greatly from the Greeters and the Kitchen Team. Of course, we also benefit from the hours of planning and organisation put in by our Group Leaders. I would like to thank both the Committee and our volunteers for all their hard work over the past 12 months, and look forward to working with them again in the year to come. A special thanks to Clare, who is having to leave the Committee after doing brilliant work on Technical and Communications issues. However, she hasn't escaped – we are hoping to co-opt Clare next year to continue sharing her expertise with us.

Joe Colls

June 2025