

Chester U3A – Chairman's Report for 2004 – Howard Sherman

The Chairman began his report on the past year by saying that he felt that we were all fortunate to belong to a dynamic and vibrant U3A. Bearing in mind the aims and guiding principles of the U3A as recently revised by the Third Age Trust, Chester U3A is undoubtedly a successful and lively organisation. Our membership continues to grow and now stands at 502, with 52 Study Groups covering a wide range of subjects. There have been many well-supported and popular social events including visits to the Theatre, Opera, Art Galleries and Museums, and two very successful trips away, one to Kent and another abroad to Brittany and Normandy. Thanks are due to Mary Vives, Barbara Wright and Beryl Parkinson who organise these activities so successfully. Throughout the year our website and monthly Newsletter have acted as a channel of communication, giving us ample opportunity to keep well informed about all these and other activities. We have also enjoyed the many excellent speakers at our Tuesday meetings.

The Bishop's High School has recently achieved specialist status and we have had discussions with them which we hope will enable us to access their excellent facilities in the coming year. The Third Age Trust have announced that the Northern U3A Summer School will be in Chester from Tuesday 28th June to Friday 1st July next year, and we have responded to their request for our help by agreeing to do all we can to make this run smoothly.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Committee for all their efforts during the year, and by thanking all the members who do so much to make our organisation so successful. He made particular mention of the welcoming party who look after new members when they come to the Tuesday morning meeting. The Chairman's report was accepted by the meeting, proposed by David Else, seconded by Ivy Bentley.