

Dear Members.

I write this letter to you with Hope and Expectation.

As you know if you have been reading the newsletter or paying attention to messages left on our Web page, I have been appealing for members to come forward and take up positions on the Committee.

We are now in the position of seriously having to consider whether there is a future for Higham& Rushden U3A. We simply do not have enough Committee members to run the Committee after the AGM this October. This is because we will be losing several officers holding pivotal roles on the Committee.

As Chair I will have completed my 3 years having served 2 years before this as Vice Chair. I no longer have a Vice Chair but, in any case, our previous Vice Chair did not intend to take over from me when I leave.

Our Treasurer Mike Wood having served in this role for 3 years has decided to step down in October. The Treasurer role can last two periods of 3 years.

Last but certainly not least Denise our Secretary who willing to serve extra time on the Committee now finds herself with a problem. Without a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer you can see Denise would have difficulties performing her role.

The Committee is already short of people. Jenny Carr leaves after 3 years as Speaker Secretary. Whilst we do not have speakers at present it is an important role which cannot be left vacant.

These Covid times have been difficult for all U3As to maintain services. Members have left, others remained, but this year will see us being unable to function once more. Nevertheless, the Committee have been functioning in the background and I am proud of them all.

Every U3A branch has a Committee, made up of people like you and me who help in the smooth running of their branch. People on the Committee serve a term of usually 3 years, after which they stand down and new people are sought from the membership. At this present time, we have vacancies for the following positions: - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Speaker Secretary and Group Coordinator If you would like to take up one of these positions please let me know ASAP so that, where necessary, training/induction can be arranged between the current Committee member and yourself. This will ensure that there is a smooth handover and the new Committee members can enjoy being part of our team.

Nominations need to be with Denise Evans before Monday 22 February. **In the absence of any Nominations, we will be left with no alternative other than to close our U3A.**

Waiting until October leaves no time to complete the required procedures.

Yours sincerely,

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