

# Annual Report AGM 2024/2025

It has been a pleasure to serve L&D u3a as chair over the past year. Membership has grown to over 330 including 83 new members. There are now 30 popular groups. Thank you for your attendance and engagement in the various activities. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the group leaders who work tirelessly to make them successful. We also acknowledge all the volunteers who help to set up rooms, welcome members and make tea and coffee at Open Meetings.

We appreciate donations from the Jardine family and Lanark Rotary which funded a new projector and stand. We also used the money to restore the planter at Morrisons to raise our public image. We thank CCI for the wood and joinery. Remaining funding will enable us to purchase a lightweight portable sewing machine for the 'Love to Sew Group', which celebrates its first birthday.

Our congratulations go to Ed Archer, who was awarded an MBE for services to Heritage and to the Community in Clydesdale. We also have been working with local community groups and organisations. In September, L&D u3a played a significant role in a 'Health and Wellbeing' event in St Nicholas Church. The u3a is conspicuous at 'Tea and a Tale' by Braw Clan, the Scots language theatre company with professional actors in Greyfriars Church.

We now have access to the Larkhall and District Community Minibus, a cost effective way to travel. We have enjoyed outings to Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery, Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and The Snowman at Christmas thanks to Lesley Gair. The Christmas lunch at the Golf Club was a great success. Thanks to Fusion and quiz master Bill Weston. Bill has continued to run the annual outing last year to Floors Castle and tomorrow to Melrose and Abbotsford House.

Lorraine has kept us entertained with film, music and theatre at LAMS Sunshine on Leith, The Provvy Wummin, Shine and Jesus Christ Superstar. Our Scottish afternoon was an outstanding success showcasing the home grown talent of the L&D Ukulele group and 'Fusion', Scottish poetry reading, community dancing and stand up comedy. Thanks go to SLC and the staff of the Memorial Hall, Clydesdale Hub and Leisure Services in Carluke and Forth.

In addition to our Facebook profile, our public image has improved with a new website designed and developed by Dianne McNaughton and a newsletter, illustrated and edited by Kirstine Sloan. Their achievements within such a short timescale this year have been nothing short of a triumph.

I have represented L&D u3a at UK, Central Scotland, West of Scotland and Local Area Network levels. We are developing peer support groups to share knowledge and ideas, speakers with committee members in the same roles.

We are all invited to attend a u3a Jamboree at Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus on 29<sup>th</sup> August. SLC Council Seniors Together have also invited us to contribute to a conference entitled 'Living Well in Later Life' on 22<sup>nd</sup> October in Hamilton Town House.

So, in conclusion we have a strong, stable and financially secure u3a movement in Lanark and District. We are integrated with other community groups and organisations locally and further afield.

The support I have received has been invaluable and without which my year as chair would not have gone so smoothly. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every single member of the committee. As I step down as chair, I welcome new committee members and leadership. Last, but in no way least, I thank you the members who have made it a pleasure to 'learn, laugh and live' with L&D u3a.

Helen Hay will now give us the financial report.

Dr. Jill Murie

Chair 2024/2025