**Lanark & District u3a Chair’s Report 2022 AGM**

**We gingerly returned to face to face meetings in August, last year, not knowing if our members would wish to meet together at that stage or not. However, it was so encouraging to find that the majority of members were delighted to get back together with government covid restrictions in place. We had around 100 members last June and have welcomed many new members this year, taking our present number to 205, which is far beyond our expectations. The Carluke & Lanark Gazette have been really supportive in raising awareness of Lanark & District and have included 3 excellent articles about us in this past session.**

**Due to the prevalence of covid throughout the year it just wasnt possible to print off an accurate syllabus & instead we have posted speaker details on facebook and the website. Numerous changes to speakers had to be made with 2 of our members, Jim Moynagh and Jean Barr standing in as speakers. We also had a member’s husband, Jim Wilson, who fascinated us by his talk of his climbs in the vicinity of Mount Everest. Generally, we have had a good and varied syllabus although the David Livingstone talk was a disappointment. We took this up with the directors who have assured us they will address the issues we raised and they have offered us a free visit to the David Livingstone Museum. Look out for this outing which will be posted in the autumn.**

**Our Christmas meal was a great success despite the fact that 40 people withdrew at the last minute due to the Omicron variant rearing its head. Around 50 attended Lanark Golf Club and we enjoyed a first class meal and excellent attention. It was so good that we have booked the Golf Club for Thursday 15th December, for this year’s festivities.**

**The main highlight of the year was our very successful 10th anniversary celebration and exhibition and of course, the gift of the beautiful commemorative banner designed and stitched by Liz Weston**

**. Now, we are in May, many of us are looking forward to our great escape to Mount Stuart in the Isle of Bute and I am sure Tom will be delighted to post photographs, of the day, on our website.**

**With regard to the interest groups, we presently have about 2 dozen active groups and in the course of this year, three new groups have gotten underway, namely pickleball, Scottish country dancing and French conversation. Many of the groups have been slowly nursed along by Loraine, our group co-ordinator, who goes above and beyond to ensure they keep running. Some still require a leader and it is the responsibility of individual group members to step up and arrange the leading of the group, either with one person or on a rota basis. It is unfair to expect the group co-ordinator to do it for you.**

**Your dedicated committee have had a busy year working in the background considering the numerous problems covid presented and looking at improvements in our documentation. As a result we now have 3 risk assessment policies for members and leaders which can be found on the website. These consist of a personal risk assessment, an indoor activity risk assessment and an outdoor activity risk assessment. All members should take time to read these policies. With the retirement of Robin, our webmaster, it was the right time to commission a new website. Tom Gallagher, our new web master, undertook this huge task over several months and we launched the website this session. We again express our gratitude to him for doing such a good job. We also have a new public facebook page, which Jim recently set up and moderates on a strict basis to avoid unwanted posts. This runs in addition to our private members facebook group, which I would encourage you to join if you haven’t already done so. Various committee members have attended local and central network meetings where problems and ideas are shared as the u3a movement continues to evolve.**

**Finally, it has been a privilege to serve Lanark and District as chair for the past 2 years and I know this group will continue to go from strength to strength as long as members are willing to adopt the u3a ethos ‘by the members for the members.’ Every one of us is a volunteer in this amazing organisation.**

**And that ends my report for 2022.**