



## ORKNEY U3A

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011/2012

We have had what I think is another successful year with a full programme of general meetings and some quite intensive activity in the Groups. In addition we hosted a visit from the Edinburgh and Shetland U3As which went off extremely well – the only disappointment was that the Orkney weather behaved according to type and turned cold and wet for the end of August. Sally MacKintosh, Effy Everiss and Hilary Morrell have worked to set up a very good website for us as well as a Facebook page to enable our presence in the ether.

The next thing I want to do is to thank the members of the committee who have worked hard for the U3A. In particular I will single out Allan for his work as Membership Secretary and Treasurer, work which has been done quietly and without complaint since we started and as well to express our appreciation for Allan and Angela's efforts in providing refreshments at our meetings. Pam Woodcock has been a brilliant Secretary during the past year. We are fortunate to have someone who took up the work and has made her mark in the smooth running of the U3A. One member of the Committee has indicated that she wishes to retire to a private life and on your behalf I would like to thank Barbara Hyde for her work as the Secretary, for her contribution to the Committee and for last year's effort in co-ordinating the visit from Edinburgh and Shetland. We will miss her a great deal.

The Committee has met six times this year. As well as the normal business of the finances and our relationships with the U3A both in Scotland and the UK, some of the things we have discussed are:

- The Edinburgh visit,
- The future programme of events which I'm pleased to say we have available for you today
- Publicising our activities
- How we might look for new members
- Possible new groups
- Communicating with you the members

In Allan's absence, I will briefly mention our financial position. Members who wish details can contact Allan direct at the next meeting. In the year we maintained a positive balance of income against expenditure and showed an increase from £512 to £701.59 over the year, including net interest of 18p. Our income was £1373 (with members' subscriptions of £665 being the largest item); expenditure was £1183 (the largest single item was room hire here of £290 and fees to the Third Age trust of £245 – which pays for the magazines inter alia). We have 70 paid up members and of course we would like to grow further.

We currently have nine groups:

- Photography
- Crafts
- Music
- Botany
- Play reading
- Scrabble
- Bird watching
- Amblers (gentle walks)
- Archaeology

There is always room for more if anyone is interested in starting up one or indeed in reviving any of those which have lapsed since we started 4 years ago. The groups meet regularly and their activities are publicised on the website and on Facebook, supported by some excellent photographs of the activities. The Groups contribute to the website's very helpful guide to getting a cup of tea and refreshment in Orkney.

Last year we had a varied programme of meetings, usually on the third Thursday on the month which has been very well supported. I hope that the next year's programme which will be available at the AGM on the green (not yellow as first written) cards will be as successful in combining interest and enjoyment.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your support in attending meetings and participation in the groups' activities. This year marks the U3A's thirtieth anniversary and I hope that Orkney will continue to be a thriving part of what is to me very important in maintaining healthy and enthusiastic self help in keeping our brains active.

Richard Thomas  
Chairman