

TCET REPORT FOR AGM

MARCH 2024

Good morning to you all, after whats turning out to be a disastrous start to 2024 for many of us. The TCET team is going to try and turn this into a more positive year.

Firstly we have 3 new members who have joined Christine Owen, Angela Lish and Mary Bacon. Mary has been part of the hospitality team with husband Gerry for a few years now but luckily their team now has new members, which has enabled Mary to help us out at the GAs. Angela is also going to become part of the Goodwill team which is good news and I know Paula will be asking Christine if she would also like to be part of their team, the two groups certainly need as much help as possible.

At the last meeting I attended, I did say there would be 2 trips to choose from, Barcelona by first class train or a Christmas trip to Benidorm. I have looked at 4 different hotels in Barcelona, unfortunately they are proving very expensive, a 4/5 day trip is coming out between 700euros-900euros each person. Also on chatting to quite a few of you, a xmas trip seems to be the most popular. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be choosing at least 4 or 5 hotels to look at, 4 and 5 stars in Benidorm, there are two which might be of interest as its only adults encouraged to book. We will be visiting to discuss what they will be offering at Christmas in the way of gala meals, entertainment etc. Apparently there is a fierce competition between the hotels run by the Benidorm Council to award a prize to the best decorated hotel. As soon as we've sourced a suitable venue, I will get a poster out with all information and let everyone know.

I am going to ask Christine and Angela to look at the Benidorm Palace guide to Whats On in 2024. An evening trip with coach and a meal is an easy introduction to planning and organising for the U3A membership. Also the Palace trips always seem very popular.

U3A Coffee Morning - 24th April, Don Quixote in Orba,

10.30a.m. start. I have asked Magda, one of our team members, to take over the booking of all our future coffee mornings for the U3A. She will also be arranging one on the 2nd July, we were going to have one in June (as its every other month) but we were going to clash with Share & Care. I will obviously let you know where on the 2nd July. I am very aware that Magda's husband Richard is in charge of JVH, and very supportive to him, although a valued member of TCET and Goodwill, her time is spread across many duties.

Paula, well what can I say!!!! She is working tirelessly on all fronts, not least supporting our new President in her role as Secretary but has been there on an almost daily basis for Bob and Sandra as has "Friends of Sandra's". Also Paula gives of her time volunteering for PAWS with helping them fundraise, at the same time heading our own U3A Goodwill team. I really cannot ask her to take on anymore on behalf of TCET. She does like to come to the meetings though for the "BUNS"!!!!

As you can see our team members wear many hats, that's why it's so important for U3A members to come forward to help, the more team members we have, the more we can plan to take members away.

As I have said before but just to reiterate, The Goodwill Team and TCET are NOT joining forces as we both arrange completely different events and trips but we plan on keeping each other informed of dates and places planned so we don't clash. We will be there to help one another out when needed as both groups need extra hands sometimes. I believe I am on tea making duties at the car boot sale coming up!!!!

Sandra and myself were going to run TCET together but of course life got in the way and things change. However I plan to get TCET back on track this year by offering a varied selection of trips and events for our members to enjoy and although I have stepped down from the Co-Ordinator role, I am still a team member for another year and will continue to be very pro-active. I am hoping our team members will take on specific roles to also become more pro-active.

There is one trip simmering on the back burner and that's Toledo. I am planning that for maybe 2025 but if I can get a couple more team members to join us, it may happen this year during the late spring very early summer. Wouldn't want to go in July/August as it's a bit of a frying pan there then. There are a handful of us who would love to visit this city one day.

If you have any questions at any time, I am always happy to try and answer them for you or if you want to put forward suggestions, we are always willing to discuss them at our meetings.

Sonia Higginson - TCET