

## Sevenoaks U3A Anniversary Party

The planning for our Anniversary Year in fact started in January 2013 when Arthur Russ set up the Anniversary Committee. Each event organised enabled members to be actively involved. We started with the Photographic Competition which led to the 2014 Calendar; this was then followed by the Anniversary Booklet recording our first 20 years; next, the Art Exhibition held in April and finally the Party.



Like all large events a lot of hard work went into making our Party a success. Detailed planning and logistics were required to make the day run smoothly. We had a large team of helpers who worked magnificently together to ensure the success of the Party. But what went on behind the scenes? For example, one of our members met up with a friend she went to school with in Aberdeen so the Party provided a reunion for two friends.

Our principal guest, Michael Fallon, MP came with his team of security staff to ensure an appropriate level of security protection for him - not something we usually have to accommodate when receiving guests. The Catering Team encountered problems with the dishwasher so it was 'all hands on deck' to clear up after the party with a lot of washing up!

Our Drama Group entertained the party with a satirical interpretation of our Handbook. This light-hearted review set the right mood for the Party. The Art Groups and Photographic Groups provided an exhibition of their work which was extremely impressive. The Recorder groups entertained members on their arrival in



*Drama Group unravelling the "Handbook"*

reception. And the current and past Chairmen were there to greet people on arrival, welcoming both new and long established members.

Recognition was paid to Magda Sweetland as the founding member; she was presented with a gift from the Executive Committee on behalf of members for her past work. In addition, Ann Howard was presented with flowers as a thank you for all the hard work and support she has given in providing refreshments at our Monthly Meetings, and of course, the excellent catering on the day of the Party.



*Ann Howard*



*Barbara Lewis (L) and Pam Jones (R) – Third Age Trust*

In his toast Michael Fallon referred to the friendships formed in our organisation and the service it provides to the community for those in retirement keeping its members active in both mental and physical senses. He stated that the U3A offers a great learning opportunity for people to enjoy a range of activities in a friendly environment. Among our invited guests we were supported by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Third Age Trust, as well as Simon Raikes from the Town Council and Jill Davison Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council.



*Part of the Exhibition – Art Display*

In conclusion somebody remarked to me that the teamwork on the day of the Party was quite incredible. This is also evident throughout the year with the wide range of trips, holidays, meetings and group activities. The success of any organisation is down to good teamwork and everybody uniting and working together to ensure a happy time can be enjoyed by all. My thanks to all of you who participated in our Anniversary Events. Well done!

More photographs appear on our Website: [www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

*The Anniversary Committee*