

The Chair's report November 2013- April 2014



Dear Member,

You may remember that we are bringing our AGM forward from November to May to align with the financial year end. By doing this, the annual finance report will make more sense.

We have been fairly active during the last 6 months. Our membership has grown to 156. The attendance at our Wednesday Drop-in remains a high average of 35 members every week.

We have been fortunate enough to raise a substantial amount of money from several generous donors. Our financial position is considered healthy. Nevertheless, we will still need to raise more to cover the running costs until the end of the year.

During the past 6 months, in addition to the leisure activities organized for our members, a talk on stress by the NHS and a presentation on Fire safety at business premises by the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service were also held .

Recently our Vice Chair Mr. Andy Lai assisted with the Oasis Academy as an Examiner for their Students taking the Chinese Exam. We have also worked with the Chinese Church in Portswood. Some of the young people from the Church have started coming to the drop in. They spend their time chatting and befriending our elderly members.

It is my view that as a group we do not currently promote an active attitude to getting involved with the wider community. To outsiders, it can easily be perceived that we only care about our own. We are missing out so much by not having more contacts with other groups, learning about their lives, their culture etc.

I hope this will change for the better. I therefore propose that we add one more objective to our constitution;

“ To actively encourage our members to seek a better understanding of other cultural groups in Southampton.”

This will be my goal for the coming year. I hope you will also support me on this.

J.Hon (Chair)