

## EARLY DAYS OF PRESTON PARK u3a

It was decided by the u3a South East Region (SURA) in the summer of 2007, Brighton would benefit from an additional u3a, particularly in the Preston Park area.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007, a number of members from nearby u3a's were invited to a meeting at Mithras House with a view to creating a Steering Group to create a new u3a, assisted by Alan Rantel and Edna Wright (members of SURA, now SUN). A start up grant of £200 plus all printed advertising posters and fliers would be provided by SURA.

A Steering Group of 13 led by Alan & Edna held three further planning meetings before the Launch Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Patcham Community Centre. Prior to Launch, local councillors received invitations, an item was placed in the Evening Argus and posters and flyers left in local halls, shops and Libraries.

The meeting was well attended and received a positive response. Forms were supplied for attendees to suggest Groups they would like to see offered. At the first Committee Meeting there were nine offers to set up a Group either as pairs or individually. By January 2009 this had expanded to 20 groups.

The Inaugural Meeting was held 7<sup>th</sup> November, fifty seven people paid a £12 membership fee and became the first Preston Park u3a Members. Just four of the Steering Group chose to continue onto Committee and were joined by seven new Members. Our first Speaker was Geoff Mead, whose subject was appropriately 'The Local History of Patcham'.

The first official monthly General Meeting was held 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.

We were fortunate to secure a booking for future meetings in Knoyle Hall, where we remain today!

Norma Noakes  
October 2024