

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2016.**

Good morning every one, nice to see you all here. It is good to have this gathering at the end of each year, it finalises the year nicely. I would especially like to thank Sandy Freeman, our regional representative, and her friend, for being here today and officiating at our election for the committee for the coming year.

I am so sorry for the last minute mix-up with the change of venue. We really have had the most horrendous time with Diggers, but we are finished with them now and so will say no more about it. For quite a number of years we had the use of their rooms free of charge so we can just be thankful for what we did get from them.

This is the final time that I will be addressing you as your President and thank you for the last three years. I like being on the committee and being involved with you all. It really is great to look around the room and realise that I know each of you individually and what a lot of friendships I have made over the past eighteen years. A club is certainly not run by its President alone, and there are many people I need to thank for various reasons and not necessarily for being on the committee.

I would especially like to thank those members who give up their homes to host one of our classes. Some have been doing so for many years, Henriette Vanechope holds her French class regularly three times a month. John and Rita Richards put a lot of work into showing their movies twice a month from their home. They would like to see more people attending and they certainly show some very interesting films. Dorothy Rhodes who has done a tremendous lot for the club since its inception and is a life member, is using her home for the benefit of the Readers' Group once a month, and with its lovely setting overlooking the lake it is much appreciated. So that we can make the final break with Diggers, Rhonda MacDiarmid has offered the use of her home next year for our mah jong class. We owe a tremendous lot to these people as we are now renting premises for every class, and the smaller classes would just not be viable if we had to pay rent.

I would like to thank our tech support personnel, Tom Marish, John Collis, Tommy Thomas, and more recently our secretary Margaret Blundell who is our

latest trainee. After many years of being at most of our talks and organising the electronics, Tom will be doing less for us next year as he takes a well-earned rest from his duties. We do hope, however that he will continue to come to any of the talks which interest him.

Certainly a club is only as good as its committee and I would really like to thank all of ours for the tremendous amount of work they put into their duties. Betty has been extremely busy at various times throughout the year as she seeks out new venues. Pat Carlton has done an exceptional job at publicity, and it seems that every local publication that I pick up has my phone number on it. Unfortunately, all of her efforts have not resulted in an increased membership as our numbers still remain fairly static. Pat tried throughout the year to get a singing group going, but insufficient numbers at last forced her to give up the project. It's very difficult to have a singing group with three people! Many thanks to Pat for her publicity efforts, but she has decided not to continue as a member of the committee.

The numbers attending our various classes continues to be low, often not even reaching double figures. However most of these classes have been continuing for many years now and have a very loyal membership. I would especially like to thank the leaders of these groups and I know that the various members have formed strong friendships. One exception to the low numbers is the creative writing class which presently has a membership of 16 and an average number of 14 attending classes. We are a very social group but still take our writing seriously and there are some exceptional pieces being written by our members. We will hear an example of two short pieces later on.

I think that probably concludes all I have to say, and once again thank you for having me as your President, it has been a privilege. I would now like to hand over to Sandy who will conduct our election for next year's committee.....