

Annual Holiday

As often happens when something comes to end I found myself reflecting on my time as organiser of Lindsey U3A's annual holiday. It has been a fascinating eight years and, to borrow a well-known phrase from Strictly, quite a 'journey'.

When I took over in 2017 the role was quite minimal. All I needed to do was liaise between the U3A and the holiday company.

The first holiday was based in Ilkley. I tinkered with the itinerary and oversaw the process, but Pamela, from 'Just for Groups' was responsible for everything. She attended our meetings, dealt with the bookings and even came on the holiday.

The following year we went to Mold in North Wales. I did get involved in planning the itinerary and had to take charge on the first day because Pamela had a graduation ceremony to attend in Leeds.

In 2020 our holiday on Hayling Island was postponed due to Covid and that's when everything changed. In 2021, with travel companies struggling, Pamela announced that she could not be attending our meetings to take the bookings or coming on the holiday with us and that I would have to do it all.

And so it was that I found myself on a steep learning curve but one I came to enjoy. Researching and planning the itineraries was an interesting exercise; acting as a travel agent and managing all the bookings was a challenge; but most of all I loved being a tour guide on the holiday.

The first three holidays were followed by four more in Cumbria, Kent, Suffolk and Northumbria. The many U3A members that have travelled with me on these holidays have been brilliant. No moans or groans, just genuine appreciation for the part I played in facilitating the holidays and I thank them all for all their support and kind words.

It has been great fun but all good things must come to an end and I have passed the baton on to Pam Simpson, who is currently taking bookings for the next holiday in South Wales in June 2026.

I know she will do a great job and I wish you all many happy holidays in the future.

Prue Chadderton