

The Science & Technology Group marked the end of an era on 28th September 2022.

Bill Jones (pictured testing the product at Harrison Spink in March 2016) was presented a thank you gift and card to mark his time as outgoing group leader.

During summer 2022 the two Science & Technology groups merged and several of us felt that the Tuesday Group had one outstanding issue to deal with before we moved on.

Initially Alan Kay was one of three people who set up the meetings and visits and set the foundation for such a vibrant group. Alan stepped back from organising the group in 2018 and Bill Jones, who joined the group way back in 2010 took over the leadership.

Bill had organised meetings and visits with Alan for several years previously so was the obvious person to continue as leader.



Presentation by founder member of the group, Joan Armitage



The gifts are chosen to represent some of Bill's hobbies – angling and astronomy. Both have been inscribed “William G Jones. Thanks for your leadership of S&T Ilkley District u3a”

Amongst Bill's achievements were finding an amazing variety of top class speakers from his book of contacts and he always brought his laptop and projector to meetings "just in case".

During lockdown he kept the show on the road, Zooming in from his home, his Scottish retreat and whilst on holiday in Northumbria. His hard work to keep us all interested during that difficult time is very much appreciated.

He was often let down by speakers but had the skill and ability to present interesting, educational and informative talks even whilst knowing that he was ready to step back from the role.



One member commented on a visit that Bill arranged, to Whittakers Chocolate Factory in Skipton.

Unfortunately Bill was unwell and not able to join the visit but then arranged a private tour for his wife and himself. We all appreciated this as he was presented with a large box of personalised U3A chocolates which he brought to meetings and we all enjoyed.

Just a few of the many comments added to the “thank you” card that summarise the contribution that Bill has made to the success of the Science & Technology Group

Thank you for the brilliant job you have done in leading the group. The speakers you have recruited and the visits you have arranged have been wonderful and your introductions and your votes of thanks have expressed the feelings of every one who attended.

Thank you Bill for the many, many speakers and visits that you have arranged for the enjoyment of so many in the U3A S+T group. It really is quite an achievement and obviously done with a lot of work and persistence.

Your professional contacts and perseverance with industry have provided memorable visits and talks. The stuff of the U3A.

Your leadership and commitment to the S+T group has been greatly appreciated. You have made the group very special, educational and informative, in the best traditions of the U3A.

Bill continues to be a valued member of the group but without the responsibility for the meetings and visits. Now he can sit back and enjoy future meetings.