

## **Exmouth and District U3A AGM 13 August 2020 - Trustees' Report**

All our Committee members are Trustees so this report is on behalf of all of them, apart from the Treasurer, who will present his Treasurer's Report.

During these unusual times with the Pandemic being prominent in our lives the Committee has chosen to keep our U3A open and has found ways to adapt. I am particularly grateful that the committee members have all played a role in supporting each other in whatever way necessary.

### **The Tech Team**

This newly established team, John Hunt, Ian McLauchlin, Maurice Chittock and Christine Chittock has introduced us to using Zoom for virtual meetings and we now have an Exmouth U3A FaceBook page. The team gave assistance to members with computer problems so that they could stay in touch and with 97% of members using email this is very important. Over 60 members have used this service to date.

### **Events During the last 15 months**

#### **Social Group**

Lyn Holmes and her team organised a programme of places to visit before the lockdown. Some of these have needed to be put on hold. Those of you who took part will have your favourites. I particularly enjoyed the visit to Bristol in September to the ship SS Great Britain. They also organised the Annual Tea Party for Group Organisers and the Christmas Lunch which were both very successful.

#### **The Entertainment**

In January Wendy Groves organised the very popular Entertainment on Time, assisted by Christine Chittock. Ian Bateman produced all the slides to accompany many of the contributions and both he and John Hunt managed the technical aspects on the day. A big thank you to them both. Many groups took part using extraordinary ways of conveying what their group does when it meets!

### **Cyber Crime and Trading Standards February 2020**

The committee decided that it wanted to hold a meeting in Budleigh Salterton Hall, partly to reflect the number of members who come from there and the surrounding area, and also that the hall there is cheaper than the Pavilion. We are always diligent about expenditure. The hall was filled virtually to capacity and between talks members were served with coffee and cakes produced by committee and members. A very successful morning organised by Keith Phillips.

## **Radio Bay FM May 2020**

I was asked to talk about how we were responding to the Covid Pandemic. The interview was conducted on the phone so it was a different experience for me.

## **Devon Link and East Devon Link**

Meetings are held on a regular basis and have continued using Zoom. This is for U3A groups to share ideas and to outline what they are doing. A representative from the National U3A takes back information and tells us new initiatives that might be in the pipeline. Our U3A came to the fore when John Smith, one of our members, wrote a paper on the future of the U3a title, the University of the Third Age, and the impression it gives. He sent it to the National Office and had a very quick response showing huge interest in John's ideas. We await now with baited breath to see if anything happens.

## **Membership**

Our Membership Secretary, Maurice Chittock has a wide and varied remit which involves resolving any financial anomalies which occur if the wrong amounts of money are sent in to reconciling renewals and updating member's records and many of other tasks in-between. Our current membership has dropped but this could be as a result of the pandemic. Maurice has been shadowed by Olwin Smith in preparation for taking over the task after the AGM. Maurice has been an excellent Membership Secretary and deservedly has my thanks for all he has achieved.

Maurice is also our Beacon Database Administrator and is going to continue with this role. This is a Data base which we buy into from the National U3A. It is undergoing updating and changes so we are very thankful that Maurice is continuing as it must have been tempting to not do so during this changeover period which is having its teething problems!

## **Speakers**

Our monthly meetings in the Pavilion have been well supported and our Speaker Organiser Christine Chittock has found some very interesting people to deliver a variety

of topics. Listening to speakers and being taken to far and exciting places has not discontinued as Zoom is now used in the comfort of your own home. We have been to the North Pole, Vietnam and other distant places and shown wonderful pictures to accompany the talks. Some of these speakers are professional and some our own members and you cannot tell the difference in quality. Our members are so talented. Christine is working very hard to find speakers for us and I really recommend that you give the talks a try on Zoom if you have not already done so.

### **Publicity and Groups Organiser**

Lyn Holmes has continued doing our publicity and gradually taken over as Group Organiser from Nigel Day who is helping her with this role. Nigel continued to produce the Monthly Groups News until the Lockdown. We now have over a hundred groups and many are finding ways of keeping in touch and continuing to develop. Lyn is reminding Group Organisers of many factors in the way to operate during this time. The National U3A gives us guidance on how to operate during the Lockdown which we adhere to.

Thank you to Nigel and Lyn for their hard work.

### **Newsletter**

During his time as Newsletter Editor Chris Woodward developed a style of his own which was hugely successful but had to relinquish the post at the end of last year. We are very grateful for all the work he put into the newsletter. At the Entertainment I thought that John Hunt was someone who might step in to do it so he came to a committee meeting. He did not know why he had been invited but he soon found out and was "hooked" so he was quickly co-opted to the committee. Thank you John for carrying on Chris's good work and for developing your own style as well.

### **New Members' Meetings**

The meetings for new members have been organised by Sheila Clarkson who soon developed her own style as well by pairing up members and getting them to chat about the topic she gave them. These meetings were real icebreakers and very enjoyable to attend. Other members of the committee helped as well. This has had to be suspended for now but we are still getting new members joining.

### **Exmouth and District U3A Website**

Marion Ricketts has been managing the website since it first started so a big thank you to her for this dedication. Thousands of people visit it every year. Many members

contribute with articles on their groups and others who participate in group activities. It is your website so your contributions are important.

## **Equipment**

Melanie Parker looks after the equipment that is available for Group Organisers to use and has to be available to log it in and out from her home so thank you Melanie for doing this for us.

## **Meeters and Greeters**

This team of people, who are not necessarily part of the committee, are always a smiling face to greet members and visitors when they enter the Pavilion for meetings. They also set up the Link- Up table in the middle of the Pavilion Cafe for new members and anyone who attends alone and wants to chat.

## **Secretary**

Keith Phillips has worked extremely hard during his three years as Secretary and is always totally reliable producing accurate minutes and all the paperwork we need for our meetings as well as introducing the weekly bulletin during Lockdown. So thank you Keith who is now standing down as three years is the maximum time for being Secretary.

When I gave out one of my pleas at the Pavilion for new members to come forward for the committee Ian McLauchlin saw me afterwards and said that he would like to give something back to the U3a and so joined the committee. He is giving back in spadefuls and is likely to take over as secretary on the new committee.

## **Treasurer**

Richard Morgan keeps up to date on any changes that come the way of being treasurer and does a brilliant job for us in keeping all the finances just as they should be. Thank you Richard. John Ward has agreed to be our Independent Examiner again. So thank you John.

## **The Future?**

Who has an accurate Crystal Ball?

There are some events that are certain. In 2022 Exmouth and District U3A will be 10 years old. It is not too soon to be planning for this special event and the committee already has ideas. The National U3A hopes that there will be a U3A Day on June 2nd 2021 during National Volunteers so that could be in the pipeline too.

## **Finally**

It has been a great privilege to be Chair of this fantastic organisation, and I thank my husband Ian for putting up with my expletives when I use a computer, and my “no I can do it” when he tries to help me.

I thank Keith for guiding me through the meetings when I joined as Chair and a new committee member, and all the committee members who are, without doubt, magnificent. Thank you to all of you who have stayed with us during this difficult time. I know you will all support your new Chair and Committee in the same way as I have felt supported. They will, I know, take the group forward into what is going to be a different world from anything we have ever known.

Sandy Macqueen  
Chair  
13th August 2020