

Dear Hope Valley U3A member,

You will be aware that our AGM should have been held on Thursday 21st May but, at time of writing, we were still held in a state of 'suspended animation'. The HVU3A Committee felt that, pending a face to face AGM, we needed to furnish you with the following information in order to keep you up to date with our current situation:

1. The 2019-20 Trustees' Report;
2. The Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 2019-20;
3. The minutes of a brief 'Digital AGM' held on 7th May 2020 pending the formal AGM to be held when we are able to meet face to face.

Trustees' Report.

The year, I am sure that you will agree, has been a strange one for HVU3A and for me personally. After several years of successful operation, we have been forced to place ourselves in 'suspended animation' due to the advent of Coronavirus / Covid-19. This has obviously resulted in the suspension of most of the group's activities; our open meetings have been cancelled, our interest groups have been suspended and social activities been postponed. The same fate has befallen every U3A in the country and probably throughout the world.

I am, though, pleased to report that some of our members are continuing to engage in learning and mutual support through the employment of digital means be they email, WhatsApp or Zoom and I want to express my gratitude to all of the interest group convenors and other members who have assisted in establishing these informal support groups.

Our interest **group convenors** have been key to the success of HVU3A, it is they who are the backbone of our organisation and without whom we couldn't function. In normal times they recruit members, deal with the various elements of interest group administration and manage attendance and programmes at the venues that we use around the Valley and they do it very, very well! The venues themselves are extremely welcoming to our interest groups; I'd like to take this opportunity to thank particularly The **Anglers Rest** in Bamford and express my Hopes that they are able to survive the current problems associated with the discontinuation of business in the hospitality sector. Rest assured – we will be back as soon as we are able. We are also indebted to the management committees of the **Loxley Hall in Hope and the Memorial Hall in Hathersage** for their continued support.

Personally, this year has been a tale of two viruses one being Coronavirus and the other? Some of you will be aware that in July 2019 I returned from Tanzania following a bout of Dengue Fever and that took me a little time to recover fully. I'd like to thank all of the committee members and other HVU3A members for their help, support and good wishes in those first few, difficult, weeks following my return to the UK; I know that he will not be happy to be singled out, but I want to thank **Brian Salisbury** in particular for taking on the role of Chairman during my travels and for managing the committee during my convalescence. Having said that all of the committee members and other helpers need to be aware of my gratitude and, no doubt, the gratitude of all HVU3A members for their hard

work. HVU3A could not survive without the hard work of all of these wonderful people. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Cath Allwood** for her work on the committee over the last year or so, particularly during my absence.

The committee and helpers facilitated the running of open meetings throughout by absence and recovery. A range of speakers / performers were presented, these being: Paul Howden-Leach, Marjory Boon, Zee-Zee Hine, Fran Betteridge, Sandie Andrews, John Lower Oliver Hill and Joanna Collins. Thank you to all of them for interesting and engaging presentations.

May 2020 would have been our AGM but, unfortunately, this has had to be postponed until we are able to meet in sufficient numbers again; when this happens, we hope to arrange an EGM in order to formalise the business that is normally conducted at the AGM. One item of business will be a request for nominations of people who would be willing to serve on the HVU3A Committee. We are always keen to recruit new committee members in order to add new blood and fresh initiative to our management team – if you are interested in becoming a member then please email me directly, (chair.hvu3a@gmail.com), or contact me through the HVU3A website. I am, as always, indebted to **Andy Smith** for his continued efforts to keep the HVU3A website up to date.

Looking to the future, (and there will be a future), we want to re-start our activities as soon as possible; this will require some serious thought and sensitive management. I would ask existing members to give us your full support in those potentially difficult re-start weeks. We are keen to recruit new members, so pass on the good HVU3A news, and as with all existing members there will be no requirement for any membership fee until we resume our activities; the committee have decided that there will be no charge for our 'idle months' and that upon re-start membership fees will be at the rate of £1.50 for each remaining month of the financial year. I do hope that you are able to continue with your support when that time comes.

In the meantime, remember that the chief purpose of the U3A is to encourage lifelong learning, fitness and laughter; please keep yourselves healthy wise and amused. Here's a photo to provide material evidence that your chairman making an effort on all three counts:



The Chairman tests his new social separation equipment.