

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 12th JUNE 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Limebrook U3A.

Due to the unusual circumstances where we are not able to gather at the WMCC, this meeting will be held using the ZOOM platform. In order that all our members can see the various Reports and participate in the event, we are arranging for those on email to receive everything prior to the meeting. Those members who are not on email will be receiving this either by post or by hand delivery by one of your Committee Members.

On the 12th April last year, I took on the role of your Chairman. The last 14 months have been busy, and the Committee have worked hard behind the scenes with the normal day to day running of our U3A together with some projects that needed to be addressed.

The last Monthly Meeting held at the WMCC was on the 13th March. Since that day we have effectively been operating in a Virtual World. I am immensely proud of the way our Interest Group Leaders have kept in touch with their Groups. Using video linking on Zoom, setting up WhatsApp Groups, emails and of course the telephone. The Keeping in Touch Project has also included members who are not on email. Committee Members have been telephoning to keep in contact with them and have either posted or hand delivered notices to their door.

Thank you to the Interest Group Leaders for their innovation, commitment, and enthusiasm. Without these volunteers, Limebrook U3A would not be the organisation that we all enjoy.

During the year I made a request for volunteers to step forward and join the Committee. Edwina Ord and Howard Corlett approached me and I am pleased that they have both been co-opted on to the Committee and have made valuable contributions to several projects.

Our U3A is growing and as a result our income from activities such as the Theatre Group, the Social Group and the History Group has now exceeded £25,000. The challenge brought to the Committee is we must now register with the Charities Commission and provide a more detailed sets of accounts.

Your Committee decided that while we were applying to the Charities Commission that we would bring our Financial Year in line with the

Membership Year. Keith Parrott our Treasurer has also found that we need to improve our banking arrangements and provide internet banking and other changes to help us operate more efficiently. An additional advantage of obtaining full Charity Registration is the ability of Limebrook U3A to operate the Gift Aid Scheme. Those Members, who are taxpayers, will be able to complete a form that allows us to reclaim 28 pence of every £1.00 of your annual membership fees. This will enable us to keep the maintain the current level of subscription fees

In order that we can arrange these changes it was found to be necessary to make changes to our Constitution. An Appendix 1 has been added to allow the arrangement of internet banking. At our meeting today we shall be voting to adopt the New Constitution. I recommend that we vote for this change.

Thank you to John Salisbury, Christine Steel and Edwina Ord for preparing the New Constitution and ensuring it meets the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Barbara Roe was a Founding Member of Limebrook U3A and has been an active Member who previously was on the Committee and Interest Group Co-ordinator. She set up and ran the Flower Arranging Group for 8 years and has now decided to hand over the role to the Group members. Thank you, Barbara, for the help and support you have given.

Brian Rivers is another Founding Member of Limebrook U3A. At this AGM Brian will be standing down from his role on the Committee. He has been providing valuable support at the Monthly Meetings as he keeps the Audio System working, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Brian had been on the WMCC Committee and provided a valuable link with them for Limebrook. I am pleased that he is going to continue being the Interest Group Leader for the Music Appreciation Group. Thank you for support and the help given to me since I became Chairman.

At a normal AGM the Committee would be asked to come to the front of the meeting and allow the Membership to see them and to thank them for their work and commitment to the smooth running of Limebrook U3A.

In no particular order, I am going to thank them on your behalf.

John Salisbury our Vice Chairman for helping in the detailed work on the Constitution and guiding me through my first year.

Christine Steel as our Secretary for keeping me informed and taking the Minutes.

Keith Parrott who in his first year as Treasurer has set the scene for a move to modern banking and obtaining Gift Aid.

Paul and Jo Madge for the Newsletters and helping set up the ZOOM meetings for our Committee Meetings. Jo also organises the refreshments for the monthly meetings.

Tim and Sandra Stubbings our Membership Secretary Team who have welcomed everyone at the Monthly Meetings, renewed Memberships and run the Beacon System.

Jess Patient our Speaker Secretary has arranged a varied and interesting range of topics for the Monthly Meetings.

Maureen Leatherdale our Interest Group Leader Coordinator who has kept in touch with the IGLs in what has proved to be interesting times.

Brian Rivers for his support mentioned earlier.

And then our two latest additions to the Committee, Howard Corlett for his eye for detail and taking Minutes at some meetings. Edwina Ord who assisted with the Constitution and was a part of the Keeping in Touch Project.

On your behalf, I thank them all for their support, their time and expertise that they give so freely.

It has been a privilege to be your Chairman and to work with the Interest Group Leaders and the Committee. They continue to make Limebrook U3A what it is. A happy friendly, and vibrant organisation where everyone can enjoy the U3A ethos,

Learn, Laugh, Live.

Brian Harris

Chairman

Limebrook U3A