



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 14th May 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Limebrook u3a.

A particular welcome to those of you joining us for the first time, either as new members or those who are experiencing their first ZOOM meeting.

Due to the continuing pandemic, we are not able to gather at the WMCC therefore 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 have arranged for those on email to receive everything prior to the meeting. Those members who are not on email will be receiving this information either by post or by hand delivery by one of your Committee Members.

The last year has been busy, and the Committee has worked hard behind the scenes with the normal day to day running of our u3a together with some projects that needed to be addressed.

We have effectively been operating in a Virtual World with very few opportunities for face-to-face meetings. I am immensely proud of the way our Interest Group Leaders have kept in touch with their Groups using video linking on Zoom, WhatsApp Groups, emails and of course the telephone. The very successful Keeping in Touch Project has allowed members who are not on email to be kept up to date by Committee Members who have been telephoning to keep in contact with them and have either posted or hand delivered notices and Newsletters to their door.

Thank you to the Interest Group Leaders who have risen to the challenges of the pandemic. They have used their innovation, commitment, and enthusiasm to arrange meetings that have been so important to our Members. Without these volunteers, Limebrook would not be the organisation that we all enjoy.

During the year, a major project was to obtain Charity status. Keith Parrott our Treasurer was heavily involved in this and we thank him for getting us successfully through this process. We are now able to operate the Gift Aid Scheme and I would like to thank the Members who have agreed to take part. This will enable us to benefit from the advantages of the Gift Aid Scheme while providing additional money being received by your u3a.

Thank you to the Members who generously decided to gift an extra £5.00 above the Membership Fee for the coming year.

Keith is currently working on another project to move us to internet banking.

Christine Steel who has been our Secretary is standing down from this office today. I am pleased to say that she is going to stay on the Committee, and we will continue to benefit from her knowledge and experience.

During the year, Maureen Leatherdale stood down from the Committee and her role as the Interest Group Coordinator. I am pleased to tell you that she is going to continue running her Interest Groups.

Thank you both for the support and the help you have given to me since I became Chairman.

Normally at an 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.

I am therefore going to thank them on your behalf, and in no particular order mention the other Committee Members.

John Salisbury our Vice Chairman who has dealt with the detailed work on the Constitution and guiding me through year.

Howard Corlett our Minutes Secretary has kept detailed records and I am pleased to tell you is also taking on the role of Secretary in the coming year.

The Newsletters and our Website are organised and edited by Paul Madge. He is also arranges the Zoom facility for the meetings.

Tim and Sandra Stubbings are our Membership Secretary Team. They organise the renewal of Memberships and run the contact system for emails and newsletters.

Jo Madge has taken on the role of Interest Group Coordinator. She has prepared a Welcome Pack for new members and we shall be launching this in

June. I am pleased to confirm that Jo is also continuing her role as leader of the Social Group and Walking Group.

During the year Jess Patient our Speaker Secretary has arranged another successful and varied range of topics for the Monthly Meetings. This has been a difficult and different task to normal as we needed to use the Zoom platform.

Edwina Ord has been involved in the Keeping in Touch Project. Her professional experience has also been helpful when reviewing the Covid requirements.

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

In addition, I would like to thank you the Membership for your loyalty and support. The committee is delighted that so many have renewed for the 2021 / 2022 year.

I have enjoyed being your Chairman working with the Interest Group Leaders and the Committee. They continue to make **Limebrook the friendly u3a**. A happy friendly, and vibrant organisation where everyone can enjoy the u3a ethos,

Learn, Laugh, Live.

Brian Harris

Chairman

Limebrook u3a