

Chairman's Report 13th May 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Limebrook u3a, and a particular welcome to those of you who are joining us for the first time.

Since our last AGM we have all lived through a period of change. You may remember that in May last year we were holding this meeting via Zoom and were still not able to run our meetings on a face-to-face basis.

The year has seen the Committee and the Interest Group Leaders maintaining contact with our members, by email, WhatsApp, telephone, and virtual meetings via Zoom. The Keeping in Touch Project continued until we were able to return to our "live events." Thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm that has enabled Limebrook to continue as a vibrant and important part of the Maldon Community.

Jess Patient our Speaker Secretary has arranged a wide range of interesting subjects and presentations for our Monthly Meetings and has managed to maintain the very high standards set in her previous 5 years in the role. This was a challenge as we had to use virtual meetings which eventually moved to Hybrid Meetings in September 2021. The Hybrid meetings with people in the Hall and others at home on Zoom brought new demands on Paul Madge and Tim Stubbings as they mastered the technology.

The Annual Quiz was our first Monthly Meeting that was "live" with Paul Madge as our Quiz Master hosting the event.

The return to face-to-face meetings has been a huge success with all our Interest Groups now back to normal activities. Attendance at our Main Meetings is now back to pre-pandemic levels, and we welcome new members at WMMC every month.

Our membership has increased, and the number of active people is above the level of March 2020. A sign that we are offering a wide range of activities and opportunities to meet and socialise with likeminded people.

Keith Parrott our Treasurer has managed to move our Bank Account and arranged Internet Banking facilities. The task was not straight forward, and I thank him for his persistence in getting this completed. He has also arranged a card payment system. By bringing us in to the 21st Century these two changes have set the scene for our u3a to run our finances in a more efficient manner.

Jo Madge our Interest Group Leader Co-ordinator has produced a Welcome Pack and an Interest Groups Guide. The full colour brochures are complemented by three articles that were printed in the Maldon Life magazine and in the online local edition of Maldon Nub News. These give our new members information about Limebrook and contact details of the Interest Groups and Committee. The first impressions for our new members is so important as we welcome them and I believe the pack does this to a very high level.

Tim and Sandra Stubbins have seen the number of active members grow again this year and all their work as Joint Membership Secretary has enabled us to get in our Gift Aid submissions and obtain the valuable tax credits which enable us to maintain our fees at only £20.00. The annual membership has not increased since our inception, 10 years ago.

Each month Paul Madge produces the Newsletter and maintains the website. The newsletter now has a full version on the website and is sent to everyone on email. A printed digest version is provided at the main meetings.

Howard Corlett our Secretary has kept very detailed records and Minutes of the Committee Meetings and the Interest Group Leader Meetings, as well as keeping your Chairman on track with events, both local and national.

Edwina Ord and Christine Steel have provided valuable information and advice to me and helped with some detailed work behind the scenes.

David Sansom joined Limebrook in the Autumn of last year and has joined us on the Committee and he has agreed to take on a role in the new committee.

Ten years ago, when we were established, John Salisbury became our Vice Chairman. He has continued in that position and been very active in all that has happened in that period. John is standing down from the role of Vice Chairman at this AGM and I wanted to thank him for all that he has done and contributed to Limebrook u3a. I am very pleased that John is going to continue as a member of the Committee.

We have an Open Day on the 14th of May at the Maldon Town Hall and I thank all those involved in arranging this. We will have volunteers taking care of the refreshments, members of the Committee and the Interest Group Leaders in attendance and are looking to spreading the word about Limebrook u3a. Five years ago I was walking down Maldon High Street with Linda my wife, when

John Salisbury asked us to come to the Town Hall to learn about the u3a.
Perhaps a future Chairman will be wandering in Maldon?

The backbone of any u3a is the Interest Groups. These vary in size from 4 to 50 people. Some meet in members homes, others hire halls or rooms. Many arrange speakers, trips, outings, meals and coffee meetings. The Interest Group Leaders share their enthusiasm and knowledge with great commitment, and I thank them all for everything they do.

On your behalf, I thank the Committee and the Interest Group Leaders for their support and expertise that they give so freely.

I would also like to thank all of you, the Membership for your loyalty and support throughout the 2021 / 2022 year and over the last two challenging years as we have continued to **Learn, Laugh, Live** as part of Limebrook , the friendly u3a.

Brian Harris

Chairman

Limebrook u3a