



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

July 2021

Hi Everyone,

I am sure you have heard the comment "Where has the time gone," perhaps you have said it yourself. Well, I can hardly believe it that my tenure of three years plus, as your chairman, will come to an end at our Annual General Meeting in September. My tenure should have ended last March, but as we all know, Covid-19 well and truly 'threw a spanner in the works' of so many plans, not least, your u3a's programme!

However, it has been a great privilege, to serve you as your chairman and to be supported by an amazing Committee. Each Committee Member has sought to bring their experience and expertise to help maintain your u3a. Let me also pay tribute to you as members for your loyal support especially during these very unusual and difficult times!

For many of you, Covid-19 has brought the challenge of loneliness, ill-health, and bereavement in varying degrees. Sadly, in our own u3a we have experienced this sense of loss too. Some members are no longer with us and others are unable to continue with us due to ill health. My thoughts and prayers are with the families that have been bereaved, as well as a deep sense of appreciation for members who have given many years to the u3a and are no longer able to do so due to the deterioration of their health. Let me say it again – THANK YOU!

The Pandemic has certainly interrupted our rhythm of life. Before the Pandemic, we all had our routine; our diaries that were marked with appointments suddenly reduced to perhaps one appointment — our daily walk, that the Government allowed us to take!

Now that the Government is lifting the restrictions and 'normality' is in sight (whatever that is) we are taking our tentative steps towards it. I suspect that many are not as confident as they were before the Pandemic. One of the issues that charities, churches, social clubs, shopping malls, etc, are having to face is a reduction in their membership and footfall — some have placed this reduction as high as 20%.

Your u3a is no exception. So, now the challenge begins! Do you remember JF Kennedy making his appeal to the people of the USA — *"Don't ask what your Country can do for you, but what can you do for your Country"*. His words have never been more apt for us as a u3a. In our AGM in September, you will be electing a new Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Publicity Secretary and Lecture Secretary. Now I know that your initial response could well be; "Well I have had responsibility all my life, the last thing I want is to be saddled with being a member of a committee." Of course, I can understand that sentiment, but let me echo JF Kennedy's words: *"Don't ask what the u3a can do for you, but what can you do for your u3a"*. At this point, let me say a big thank you, to all group conveners who have taken up responsibly for your group without a word of complaint, and have been the life-blood of Llanelli u3a.

Now Llanelli u3a needs you, your membership renewal, skills and expertise to help rebuild after Covid-19. Society in general seems to have an attitude of a 'taker' rather than a 'giver' — maybe that is a slight exaggeration. What I have found most heartening is that some members have come

forward with new ideas and thoughts on how to improve what we are doing, not just giving suggestions but willing to take responsibilities to put their suggestions into practice.

With this letter are some nomination slips. These slips are for you to nominate a new chair, vice-chair, lecture secretary, and publicity secretary. Before you nominate someone, please make sure they are willing to stand and that they have wifi and are computer literate. Please, send the completed forms to our Secretary, Sarah Dew before August 15th.

I have always felt that having new people on the Committee refreshes it, and brings new and innovative ideas, preventing us from becoming `stuck in the mud`. Also, as I have said on many occasions, if you have an idea for a new group and you can attract four or five to join you then go ahead and as a committee, we will do our utmost to support and help you.

Let me remind you that our Boules Group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.30 am at the Pwll Grounds (Conveners: Julian and Maria Chidzoy), Snooker Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Cowell Street at 10.15 am (Convener: Archie Richards). Table Tennis Group also meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Llanelli Leisure Centre at 3.00 pm. (Convener: Lis Glanville) The Light-Hearted Look at History Group recommences in Llanerch Community Centre at 2.30pm on Friday 2nd July. This group meets on the 1st Friday of the month. (Mrs Julia Evans is the Convener), Discussion Group meets at Llanerch Community Centre at 2.30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Monthly Lecture is held in Felinfoel Community Resource Centre at 2.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. On July 14th Iris Spencer is our speaker, her talk is entitled: "On Safari". Note, there will be no lecture in August but we will resume in September, Michael Williams will give his talk on "Carmarthen Jail". The Book Group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10.30am at 9, Beech Grove, Pwll (Convener: Sandra Ivinson) The next Group will be on the 19th July. The Crafts Group meets in Felinfoel Community Resource Centre at 2.00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (Convener: Sue Court). This Groups will resume on 21st July. Details of the Cycling Group will be announced on WhatsApp and our u3a website (Convener: Paul Cullen). The Sunday Lunch Group meets on the 4th Sunday of the Month (Convener: Rhuddwen Thomas) – this will resume in September. We hope to recommence some of the other groups in September. More information concerning these groups will be given at our AGM in September. On November 8th – 11th Maria Chidzoy is arranging a 4-day Autumn Break with Warner Holidays to Holme Lacy House Hotel, Herefordshire, 4 days half-board in £239 and B/B is £139. For more information contact Maria: Home number 01554 752374, Mobile 07745 938889.

If you paid your membership fee in March 2020, or paid since, you have nothing further to pay till March 2022, but if you were not at the March 2020 AGM and therefore didn't pay, the Committee have decided on a £10 fee for the remainder of the period till March 2022. This will be payable at the September AGM, if not before, thank you.

Once again, thanks to the Committee Members and to you all for your amazing support and I have every confidence that you will give the same level of support to the newly elected Committee Members.

Bob bendith,

John