



## Chair's Report 2020/21

This is my final AGM of Melbourne Area Derby U3A. We celebrate a very different year for all our members from 2019/20. The whole of 2020 and the start of 2021 has been very challenging for most, if not all of us, due to covid and the imposed restrictions.

The year started with the cancellation of meetings in March and the AGM in May. What followed was a very steep learning curve for most of us learning how to use Zoom. The membership number was 106 which although down from the previous year, reflected the fact that lockdown happened just as memberships were being renewed.

The committee began to meet via Zoom and a number of groups continued to meet using Zoom such as Current Affairs, Art Appreciation, TV Art, Family History, Reading Groups, Talking Technologies, Laughter Therapy and a new Photography Group. Thanks to Frances for co-ordinating the groups.

The Members' meetings also moved over to Zoom and quizzes were held at the beginning of lockdown. Speakers were then brought in to give talks on various subjects via Zoom such as:

- Tollgate Brewery (thanks to Pat Brearley)
- Fishmonger Tales
- Author Jane Isaac
- Sign Language

Thanks to Diana for co-ordinating the talks and to Linda for the posters.

The committee were concerned that members may become very isolated during lockdown and four members of the committee, Alison, Frances, Lyn and myself shared the membership and contacted each member to check on everyone's wellbeing and to find out if we could do more. The feedback was very positive. Thanks to the committee members involved in this.

As a result of talking to members, over 60 people were registered with the Trust U3A which is a totally online U3A with over 50 groups. Thanks to Lyn for co-ordinating this.

A recent innovation has been a virtual coffee morning. Two committee members held a Zoom drop-in coffee morning for any member who wished to join in on a Friday at 10.30-11.30. These have been very successful and the committee is looking at ways to continue them. Thanks to Sharon for co-ordinating them.

Two other recent developments are the new MAD U3A Facebook page and the revamp of our website. Thanks to Jackie, Margaret, Geoff, Mary and Diana for all their hard work.

Vicky has continued to produce the newsletter and I'd like to thank her for all her continued hard work.

The renewal of membership for the coming year has been co-ordinated by Alison and so far we have over 100 members renew their membership. Thanks to Alison for all her hard work.

Melbourne Area Derby U3A has now been in existence for over 3 years and a number of committee members are either stepping down from their role or leaving the committee altogether.

I'd like to thank Mary, who was a founder committee member, for all her hard work over the past three and a half years. Mary started as Membership Secretary and then took on the development of the website. Mary is stepping down from the committee.

I'd also like to thank Geoff who joined the committee in 2019 for all his hard work getting the Beacon system up and running. Geoff is also stepping down from the committee but will retain his role as data manager.

Sharon Clarke has been Vice Chair since the beginning and comes to the end of her tenure. However, Sharon hopes to remain on the committee. I'd like to thank Sharon for all her support and hard work.

Lyn Hackett also comes to the end of her tenure. Lyn has been Business Secretary since our U3A began and she has been a tremendous support to me as Chair and other members of the committee. I'd like to thank Lyn for her hard work and support through some challenging times. Lyn is also hoping to remain on the committee.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the committee over the years for their help and support and all of the members of MAD U3A who have made our U3A a great success. I hope whoever takes over the position of Chair will have the same support from everyone to continue to develop our u3a.

Marjorie