

## MELTON MOWBRAY U3A

### Chairman's Annual Report 2021

At the AGM on 19 March 2020 I was elected chairman with Kathy Slack (vice chairman), Brenda Jones (Treasurer), Debbie Adams (Business Secretary), Christine Bluett (Groups Co-ordinator), Christopher Rupp (IT Advisor), Diane Cherryman (Editor), Joan Allen (Speaker Secretary), and Christopher Hartney-Mills (Membership Secretary). Christopher Hartney-Mills resigned his position on 15 June 2020. The committee thanked him. We were fortunate we were able to co-opt Eric Faulconbridge as Membership Secretary at our meeting on 16 July. Brenda Jones was thanked for covering the Membership Portfolio for the intervening period.

This year both Brenda Jones and Christine Bluett are standing down from the committee having completed their 3 year terms of office, in Christine's case her second. Both have worked hard and contributed greatly to the success of our U3A. Debbie Adams (Business Secretary) is also standing down from the committee, she also deserves thanks for her work in support of the committee and all our members.

This has been an unprecedented year for our U3A. Within four days of the 2020 AGM the entire country was in lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been unable to meet indoors since that date. Initially we joined members in hoping the first lockdown would successfully reduce viral spread and enable a gradual resumption of Covid-secure meetings. The committee starting holding the monthly committee meeting on-line via Zoom in April and various plans to restart meetings, celebrate National U3A day and make new members welcome were developed. In practice, there was a brief period in the summer when some of our outdoor activities and groups could restart Covid-19 secure meetings - my thanks to the Group Leaders and Members concerned, but by later autumn we had the tier system and subsequent lockdowns introduced - halting again all our face to face social activity.

In anticipation of this the Committee has worked hard to develop our on-line presence with Zoom Meetings and speakers. All members of the committee contributed, but especial mention must go to Christine Bluett and Diane Cherryman for getting so many members and groups online, and to Joan Allen for her very successful speaker programme. Diane also worked hard to fill the blank pages of the newsletter with interesting and humorous contributions. Our thanks go to all those who submitted material.

Membership numbers this year are at present below those of 2020. I believe this reflects the continuing presence of Covid and uncertainty about resuming our normal face to face meetings. I thank Eric Faulconbridge for his efforts to ensure our membership details are secure and correct and his dedicated running of the 2021 membership renewal programme has been very much appreciated.

In late summer the trustees took the decision to keep membership subscriptions at the same level as 2020. At the time Covid restrictions were being lifted and we needed to be certain we had sufficient funding to be able to restart all previous club activities. Other U3A's were reporting membership renewals to be significantly lower. We also anticipated costs are likely to be higher in 2021. We will also have to invest both to retain members and to attract new members. Our financial position remain satisfactory at present, but yes, there is a shortfall in our membership subscriptions in 2021(our only source of income). Our thanks go to Brenda Jones who has been an exemplary guardian of our monies and to the examiner of our accounts, Chris Lawman.

## MELTON MOWBRAY U3A

A U3A is only as strong as it's members enthusiasm, participation and contribution. It is a pleasure to recognise the continuing number and strength of our groups. Much credit must go to our group leaders and members. Groups are the backbone of our organisation - when they are strong then we are strong. We look forward to a year of rebuilding and refocusing our U3A. There is much to be done and all of us have a part to play. We have been going for 25 years! Why stop now?

Graham Cherryman

Chairman

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### Membership Secretary's Annual Report 2021

At the end of 2020 we had 801 members on the books, but with only 712 paid up members.

The decision was reluctantly made at the end of January 2021 to remove 79 members from the books for non-payment of subscriptions for 2020 and not having renewed by the end of January 2021.

At the end of February 2021 there were 718 members on the books of whom 517 had renewed membership, leaving 201 still to renew for 2021. I am pleased that so many members have confidence in the way that we are progressing in these difficult times by their continued support.

Having been co-opted onto the Committee in June 2020 to take over the reins as Membership Secretary, the role has been very challenging having to make changes to the well-established systems involved. I am sure that we will be Zooming to an improved position during 2021.

Eric Faulconbridge

Membership Secretary