

CHAIR'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

What a difference a year makes. Through necessity, we are holding our AGM this year via Zoom although you will be receiving all the usual information prior to the meeting.

We have tried our utmost in 2020 to provide as much as we can for our members via Zoom, more newsletters, which have been extended to include quizzes, funnies, recommendations for on-line talks, concerts, virtual walks etc in addition to updates on our groups. Group leaders have also kept in touch with their members via email, WhatsApp and phone calls. Various online tutorials, classes and talks have been shared and there have been virtual social get togethers. The few members who do not have email have not been forgotten, their newsletter is delivered and we have been in contact with them all. We had a short period of some groups being able to meet before going into the second lockdown, and even now being in Tier 2 means that our plans to move forward have been thwarted. We can however look forward to the coming year with a glimmer of hope as the vaccines begin to roll out. No doubt we will still see constant changes for the first half of the year but we will try our best to offer what we can when we can.

The message is: If we are allowed to do it, we will!

Thank you so much to you all for embracing our new online payment system for renewing your membership and we are delighted with the response. We are now working hard to look to the coming year to ensure we can continue to offer as much as we can in any way we can until we are able to meet again. We will also be looking to the future and planning how we can continue to develop our U3A so that it remains vibrant and thriving for our current members and appealing and welcoming to new members. No time for resting on our laurels!

My thanks to the committee who have needed to work especially hard this year in these testing times. A special vote of thanks to Margaret Green and Philip Nash who stepped down from the committee in June and Myra Dalton who is also leaving the committee (although she is going to continue organising the teas and coffees at the Cross Barn when we eventually get back there!). Thanks also to Group Leaders for trying to keep their groups going in such a variety of ways, and to those who work behind the scenes and of course to you, our members, who have continued to support us throughout this difficult year and I know will continue that support in 2021.

Until we can see each other in the future, my very best wishes to you.

Helen