

Chair's Report 2020

This year started well, with me unexpectedly becoming Chair, not something I ever thought would happen. We had our usual Showcase for groups in January then two meetings with speakers. Then it all exploded, nothing, all trips, arranged holidays and theatre visits cancelled. A u3a Day was arranged twice but then postponed, now due to take place in June 2021, who knows. We have struggled through the year socially distancing, or shielding in some cases. We had an outdoor meeting in August at Preston Park where 45 members turned up. Unfortunately the September meeting was drizzly and we only had 20. So, no AGM with mince pies and carols this year.

We had 416 fully paid members, we might not reach this figure in 2021 as some members are still reluctant to mix with others, until we have a vaccine. So put the word out there that we are still open, although not fully functioning and may not be for some time, but one day normality will return.

I have to thank all the committee for their support and thank those who are standing down for all their hard work.

Mary Ahmad has been Business Secretary for three years; she will be staying on the committee.

Julia Clark for all the various jobs she has carried out, is leaving the committee.

Rose Stratton who has helped everywhere and in the background, is leaving the committee.

Anne Dale is unable to carry out her SUN duties at present, we hope she recovers soon.

I would like to thank Roger and Fiona Luther for sending out all the updates this year.

The convenors who have managed to carry out some zoom meetings and the strollers, cycling and book groups.

Also, all of you who help at the General meetings, getting out the chairs and tables and putting them away again. The members who sit around the hall arranging trips, theatre visits, holidays and garden visits. I know how time consuming this is, I would like to thank those of you who took over our bookings, as I could not sit at a table this year. We must not forget the all-important Refreshment team who produce the tea, coffee and biscuits then clear it all up afterwards. Let's hope we are able to have our Tea Party in 2021.

We approach our fourteenth year with unfortunately the same situation as the previous nine months. So please support us for when we can get back to some normality.

Thank you
Caroline Beebe