



Jottings

August 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Members of Church Stretton U3A,

We are all living in unprecedented times but how lucky we are to live where we do and where most of us have benefitted from the support and care of neighbours, friends and the local community. Everything has changed from how we shop to how we access health care and activities. Life has become contracted. The U3A is no exception. Following national guidance we have postponed the AGM until further notice but in the meantime the committee is eager to keep the membership up to date with what we have done and to that end we have produced the Chair's report and the accounts for the period 2019-2020.

However, lockdown is being eased and some U3A special interests groups have already been operating and others have expressed an interest in getting up and running. Obviously Covid-19 restrictions have to be in place and the National Office have issued comprehensive instructions on how this might be achieved. Also local facilities have been looking at how they can safely open to allow activities to be reinstated. I think it is beholden upon all of us to look 'outside of the box' in order to facilitate this, for example groups splitting into smaller groups, meeting in gardens, moving from people's homes into community accommodation and generally allowing ourselves more space. The knock-on effect may well be that there are cost implications, facilities may have to charge more because of extra cleaning and as numbers are reduced costs to individuals may be increased. Also in this crisis, handling of money is to be minimised so we may have to look at alternative methods of payment ie. by cheque for a term or quarter. None of these issues are insurmountable, we just have to be a little more flexible. In September the committee will be revising the general meeting situation in the hope that we have something up and running before Christmas.

One thing that has become apparent during these difficult times is that we have had the opportunity to stand back and review what we do and what we perhaps no longer want to do. It is also an opportunity for people who haven't been involved in organising to become more involved. I cannot stress hard enough that without group leaders groups are unlikely to function; similarly without committee members certain roles will not be fulfilled. The U3A is important to many people and I would urge any would be candidate to step up to the plate and volunteer - new challenges keep us young, apparently.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who have volunteered for roles within the U3A over the years but have decided to step down. We hope that they will continue to enjoy activities in the U3A and perhaps try new ones.

Lesley Dench (Chair)

VERY URGENT VACANCIES

General Meetings Organiser / Groups Coordinator

We are looking for replacements to take on these roles. Anyone interested please contact the Chair, Imdench@googlemail.com in the first instance for further information.

AGM

As we continue to follow Government and National U3A guidance it has become apparent that we will not be able to hold the Church Stretton U3A AGM within the time frame required. No local Covid-19 Secure venue is available to hold the quorum necessary (10% of membership) and we feel a virtual AGM would not be sufficiently inclusive. Consequently please find attached annual reports from the Chair and the Treasurer. If anyone has any comments or questions please contact Lesley Dench (Chair), Imdench@googlemail.com.

Also you can contact any committee member via the website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact>