

HELLO FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

4th January 2021

Dear u3a Members,

Happy New Year to you all. This is my 4th “Hello” already and although I am writing this before Christmas, it will be going out to you all in the New Year. The management committee met on December 15th and approved two key documents. First a **Recovery Plan** for 2020/21, that is based on three broad aims:

- Ensure Members Well Being
- A well run u3a (good governance)
- The Organisation Recovers from the Pandemic and Thrives

Some of our objectives are: Public relations work to attract new members and new committee members; supporting groups to Zoom, and when possible to meet again in person; having at least 1,500 members renew their membership (we were at 2,250); contacting those members who do not email; another ‘On The Bright Side’; some Zoom lectures/experiences; and getting a Climate Change plan to be energy neutral. Ongoing are risk assessments for individual groups, and monitoring our reserves. We will agree this January **when** to start collecting membership fees again. Watch this space.

Secondly we agreed an **Exit Plan** to prevent us gradually failing as a charity and running out of reserves, or not getting people on the committee to run the u3a. Hopefully we will never have to use it, but we have something to follow if we do.

The most important meeting coming up is our Annual General Meeting. It is on **Monday 8th February at 2.15 pm**, and will be on Zoom. Please decide to join us now. We need over 115 people there to be quorate, or we will have to have a second attempt. Please do two things. Put the date in your diary, and then please register that you can attend on the u3a website SUCAS. Here is the website address: **swindonu3a.org.uk** There is a link on the front page. It is easy to do, - honest.

If you cannot Zoom but want to learn, you can. Contact our new Vice Chair, Linda Young on Vice_Chair@swindonu3a.org.uk. She will talk you through it.

Finally, if you have any questions for the AGM we need them in advance.

Does anyone out there have some knowledge about how committees work, and charities? Could you liaise with the Third Age Trust for the committee? Then you could be our new General Secretary. Please get someone to nominate you. Just use the u3a website. If you want more information email Margaret Goldie on secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk

We need a person to support our Groups Co-ordinator, Mick Hughes. This is not a committee role but will be an essential person to help us get back up and running again. Email Mick if you want more information on group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk

We said goodbye to Gill McKinnon at the meeting. Gill has been the Groups Co-ordinator, and took the Chair’s role mid year. Our gratitude goes to her for all she has done.

I know that we will all be gradually getting our vaccination appointments. My arm is ready! We are all going to be able to get back to our u3a activities. Won’t that be good?

With warm regards
Wendy