

HELLO FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

4th December 2020

Dear u3a Members

What good news everybody. There is a vaccine. More than one. We are all going to be able to return to a new normal. We will meet again.

You might have noticed the “u3a” above, this is the new national Third Age Trust branding and not a typo.

With this email you will receive a Christmas card and all the AGM papers. We have reluctantly had to decide to hold the AGM on line by using Zoom. It is at **2.15 pm on Monday 8th February 2021**. Do you Zoom? If you do we need your help. Our constitution requires at least 115 members (5% of our membership) to be present. Will you join us? Please put the date in your diary or record it now.

If you personally, or your group, would like to learn how to Zoom, our new co-opted Vice Chair, Linda Young is offering some training. You can contact her on by email at:

Vice_chair@swindonu3a.org.uk

Please consider nominating someone for any of the roles on the committee. Check that they agree first. Or, get someone to nominate you if you would like to serve. There are ten roles. In particular we need to appoint a new Chair, as I step down at the end of March 2021, and a General Secretary. Margaret Goldie is stepping down at the same time. She will be a significant loss. You can do this on the SUCAS website.

During the course of the pandemic, the management committee have spent time discussing the future of the Swindon u3a, and its membership model. At the last meeting we concluded that we should keep the status quo, and not dismantle our central structure. What we have now allows a u3a member to attend a group regardless of the cost of the venue, and everyone pays £32 per annum. You can join as many groups as you like. Other u3as have their members individually pay the Group Organiser for the venue. To change would mean restructuring our central set up, and more responsibility for Group Organisers – and they have enough to do. Also we would not be able to buy equipment.

Instead we are going to focus on a Recovery or reset plan for Swindon u3a – supporting all our groups to get going again, safely. You will be receiving another “On the Bright Side” newsletter from us in the meantime. Our reserves continue to sustain us.

We have also agreed a ‘Succession Plan’ for the committee. This sets future dates for action, to recruit new committee members, as people finish their three year term of office. All good charities have one. For example, we have found a new Treasurer for next year.

I wish all of you a happy and safe Christmas, especially those of you on your own, and a healthy New Year.

With warm regards

Wendy