

Chair's Annual Report to AGM November 15th 2021

Thinking back over the last year , I think it has been one of revival and learning .

Accepting the inevitable , many of us embraced Zoom. Who would have thought that we could learn to use it , but we did !

We moved our monthly talks to Zoom , covering a diverse range of topics from Paris in the time of Toulouse Lautrec , through trekking in Nepal , to the history of a Gloucester village. Many thanks to Lawrence and Anita , who made this possible.

Attendance at the talks was good. We tried to replicate the social aspects of our Goods Shed monthly meetings with virtual chatrooms after the talks- not the same as face to face , but at least an opportunity for some social interaction.

Quite a number of groups kept going through Zoom and later through meeting outside. Who could forget Spanish in a stable ! Many thanks to the many group leaders who kept things going . We couldn't have functioned without you.

We have all had to adapt and look at other ways of living , learning and laughing together. Our priority was initially keeping the social interaction going , keeping in touch through phone, on-line and the website , supporting members to use Zoom and other tools to get together, producing a regular short bulletin so that members still felt in touch. Learning in the digital age became more important than ever.

In summer, as lockdowns started to end and we started to be able to meet again , we wanted to get together again and rekindle the enthusiasm of those early days in 2019. To kick start this , we held an open morning in August to showcase what Tetbury and District u3a offers , to learn from you what else you would like to see and most importantly to give you , our members the opportunity to chat and enjoy being together.

I hope that we succeeded! Attendance was good , membership has increased significantly from a low of 177 to the present level of 241. Ten new groups have started . Tetbury and District u3a is thriving !

Before I hand over to our treasurer to take you through our accounts , I would just like to say a few thankyou's.

Firstly, to the steering committee members, past and present.

They have all given much time, knowledge and enthusiasm to Tetbury and District U3A. Many thanks for your contribution.

To our Group Leaders who have done a sterling job. Many thanks! Without you there would not be a U3A. Your contribution is invaluable. You kept things going when it was not easy – to say the least!

A particular vote of thanks to Jeremy North and Stephanie Dale from the play reading group , whose play writing skills generated a significant donation to Tetbury and District u3a funds, really helpful in supporting our Open Morning.

But finally , to you , the members of Tetbury and District U3A. U3A is an organisation of equals, there are no teachers , only learners. We are all learning together. Many thanks for your input. I would love to hear from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions , please contact me.

Many thanks, Carmel.