

AGM Malvern U3A - 2020 Chair's Annual Report

I offer this report on behalf of the Trustees of Malvern U3A.

The year 2020 had every indication of being highly vibrant and active. Our membership numbers had topped 1700 and the diversity of groups was ever widening. The VIP group for members with visual impairment was set fair to be a success and numbers attending the monthly speakers' meetings were also rising.

2020 marked the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Malvern U3A and in February an approach was made to U3A Malvern nr. Melbourne, Australia to mark the occasion by the simultaneous planting of a tree in both countries.

However, the February speakers' meeting proved to be the last held in person in 2020. The spread of the Covid-19 virus increased and as the country entered a mandatory lockdown it followed that further communication with virtually all members had to rely on e-mail.

A Trustee meeting of 20/3/2020 confirmed the temporary cessation of all U3A activity and in June, members were informed via e-mail, of the following significant decisions:

- Current Membership to be deemed valid for one year without a subscription fee, with the proviso that those who wished to withdraw their personal data could do so.
- The affiliation fee to The Third Age Trust would be paid from current funds and the accounts audited as normal.
- The Registration Day/Group fair was cancelled and the AGM to be postponed to a provisional date in February 2021.
- The Autumn Newsletter to be published online.
- A Zoom licence be purchased to be used both for Speakers meetings and for all groups wishing to utilise it.

This information was sent by letter post to all non email members.

I wish to emphasise how fortunate Malvern U3A has been to have benefited from the efforts of **Roger Hunt**, in enabling so many groups to benefit from Zoom. Thanks are also due to **Jeff Thorogood** for organising via Zoom such excellent monthly speakers.

Three Trustees step down at the AGM. **Angie Cantrell**, **Val Fare** - secretary, and **John Elkington** - webmaster and I must offer my heartfelt thanks for their support over the years. John has agreed to continue as web manager outside the trustee committee - a great relief. Thankyou.

I end my term as Chair after a very unusual final year, which has proved both challenging and extremely rewarding. Malvern is fortunate in having received nominations for both Secretary and Chair, whom I trust will be voted into these roles at the AGM.

The pandemic situation remains volatile and caution is ongoing with no personal contact meetings taking place and thus the Malvern U3A AGM will take place via Zoom.

Happily, our financial stability remains assured and a statement, from the Treasurer, **David Oliver**, to be presented for approval at the AGM, is attached.

I am certain that although our physical activities have been much reduced this year, the wish to learn, communicate, reinforce friendships, perhaps to gossip and to enjoy life remains as vigorous as ever. Ultimately, vaccination will vanquish the virus and Malvern U3A will flourish in 2021.

Sue Lamberton, Chair