



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Chairman's Report – Year ended 31st December 2020

Many of you will remember the television program, TW3 – “That was the week that was”. Last year may well come to be known as “That was the year that wasn’t”.

Things came to a grinding halt on 23 March. Long standing study groups stopped meeting, our AGM and planned monthly talks were cancelled. I had just held an inaugural meeting of a new group for Latin beginners but we had no time to have our first proper meeting before everyone retreated indoors. Although there was some easing of restrictions during the summer months, people were quite rightly concerned about meeting in groups. Then we discovered Zoom!

Not everyone was in favour, but a number of groups took to it with enthusiasm and the committee took out a subscription so that groups get round the time restrictions on the ‘free’ accounts. Not just for u3a, but for many other meeting needs, Zoom became a way of life and will no doubt feature in a later edition of the Oxford English Dictionary as a verb.

Despite the difficulties, many members managed to stay in touch and the committee decided to extend the membership year to the end of June 2021. We came through the last year with all but a small handful of groups still continuing.

Our delayed AGM took place in November and December via Zoom and the committee was joined by Grace Wilkins as Treasurer and Barbara Ball as Secretary.

This year, Stuart McLaren having spent six years on the committee – the maximum allowed as a continuous term – steps down from the committee. Stewart was study group adviser, vice chairman and then chairman and we owe him a great deal of thanks for his advice and guidance. My thanks also go to my fellow committee members who keep me on the ‘straight and narrow’.

Covid restrictions have now eased and there are tentative signs that things are getting back to normal. I very much look forward to being able to meet many of you again face to face.

Dr Robert HODGE
Chairman