



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

### **Chairman's Report – Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

It is only six months since our last AGM which had been delayed due to the Covid restrictions, but we are now back to our normal cycle. And things are slowly getting back to normal – the majority of our groups are meeting again face to face and monthly meetings, which are back at the Assembly Rooms, are very well attended.

Sadly, a few groups have decided not to continue. Enthusiasm waned during Covid and, in some cases, the coordinator has stepped down. Italian has disappeared altogether and will be missed; 19C and 20C novels, German beginners, horology, modern fiction, social history, writing and history of art have fallen by the wayside. In the main those groups simply lack a coordinator – they all had active memberships. New groups started up in creative piano and Latin.

We had a total of 531 members at the end of 2021, with a surprising number of new members joining during the year, and despite losing a total of 135 who left for one reason or another. But although we have gained 45 new members since the beginning of this year – to whom we extend a very warm welcome – there are still around 70 or so who have not renewed yet.

It is inevitable that after the vicissitudes of the last two years, membership would decline. But signs are encouraging. However, we do have a problem in encouraging people to take on the role of coordinator of a group. It is not an onerous task, and the committee is looking at ways to encourage people to come forward and resurrect some of the groups which have folded – as well as setting up second groups where existing groups are 'full'. A survey is planned to find out from members what topics they are interested in and whether new groups can be established.

The previous committee was re-elected and after appeals for new blood, was joined by Jackie Hodgson: I have to say that the committee works very well together. There is still room for more members, and anyone interested should get in touch. I have now completed the maximum of three years that is allowed under the constitution as chairman and will be stepping down from that role, which has been a great pleasure and a privilege to fill. The constitution allows me to stay on the committee until the next AGM, but given my other commitments, I have decided to step down after five and a half years.

u3a in Ludlow has been hugely successful since being founded in 1997. Member number one is still active, and we look forward to celebrating 25 years this autumn. u3a in Ludlow has made a significant contribution not just towards its objectives of the advancement of education of older people in Ludlow and the surrounding locality, but in greatly enhancing the social wellbeing of its members. *Learn, laugh, live* is a good way of looking at life!

*Dr Robert HODGE*  
*Chairman*