

Southwell u3a
Annual Report 2021
Marjorie Bramhill, Chair

Last September I was telling you that you could listen to books from the library during lockdown – now it's open, and we are all wondering whether we will ever be able to meet up again at the Leisure Centre for our Monthly Meetings. I think we all want to get our lives back as they were before, and your committee has tried to keep you all informed about vaccinations, Covid restrictions, help with shopping – and zoom. Some of the Interest Groups have had successful online meetings and we also enjoyed Monthly Meetings online with a variety of speakers – but it is not the same as being together in one room. Newslines appeared every month with a variety of photos, quizzes, recipes and reports from members and groups. Towards the end of the year – some groups tried meeting outdoors in small numbers. We eventually held our AGM in October last year – and decided to extend membership for all members by six months – and eventually, another six months. We upgraded our zoom membership and were able to hold larger meetings without a time limit. In October we moved our Office at Minster Chambers to the first floor which is more accessible than the top floor room we had before. In April we welcomed Nadina Lincoln as our Secretary and Jan Clarke-Humphries as our Treasurer. We also have a new Web Administrator – Rik Ludlow -waiting to take over from Paul Wilkinson.

During the past year some groups were able to have meetings either on zoom or in small numbers with risk assessments carried out to ensure that they were following current Government restrictions. We held a virtual Christmas party on zoom with some of our members performing songs, playing instruments and reciting poems. Newslines gave advice on scam emails and phone calls. The Astronomy Group viewed the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the skies above Woodborough. Some groups decided that zoom was not suitable for their subjects and decided to wait until face-to-face meetings could commence. Our webmaster advised Group Leaders that they could keep their website up to date themselves, and check that the information there was up to date. There were some new groups, including Patchwork, Mah-Jong and Cycling. A Tai Chi Group was set up in conjunction with Newark u3a. The long-awaited Holiday in Northumberland was rescheduled to be on 21st-24th September 2021. A Flower Arranging Group was announced – on zoom. Family History Group continued all through lockdown, led by Roger Hancock. Roger also threw one of his meetings open to all members. February 2021 saw an announcement that Southwell u3a now had a Facebook page -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwellu3a>.

I would like to thank Mike and Anne Broadley who send out Newsletters to those members who do not have email addresses. It obviously makes a difference to some members' lives. Thanks also to Richmond Kingsbury, our Membership Secretary for keeping our records up to date and making sure that all memberships are recorded safely. The members who help out at Monthly Meetings have had a rest during lockdown, but we look forward to seeing them all again soon.

Despite being locked down, we achieved a lot of activity, one way or another.

The committee decided it was time to review our recruitment activity – after lockdown. We need to encourage existing members to return in person and attract some new members from the newly retired members of our community. We have planned a Southwell u3a Open Day in the market square on Sunday 15th August.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Committee for their support during the past three years, and all of you. It has not been an easy task but meeting members in the town and at various meetings has

been a great experience. I have learnt a lot about u3a and technology. I look forward to seeing Southwell u3a continuing to thrive under a new Chair – I will be staying on the committee for next year, and hope that we all continue to Learn, Laugh and Live!

Marjorie Bramhill

August 2021