

## **SOUTHWELL U3A**

### **Annual Report**

**August 2020**

**Marjorie Bramhill, Chair**

My thanks to our Committee, and Group Leaders. Our Treasurer, Tony Key, is moving away from Southwell. Beryl Rimmer (Welfare Officer), Ellie Gascoigne (Group Coordinator) and Anne Greenaway (Secretary) are all standing down from the committee. They have all worked hard to keep Southwell U3A a part of our lives, and I would like to thank them for their efforts. The internet has been a great help in lockdown – and we have zoomed together and tried to keep all of you in touch, by electronic methods, by post and by phone. At this present time, we are not having a monthly meeting – and do not foresee this happening for some time. But phone calls, Newline Extra, National U3A Newsletters, and Zoom have kept us in touch. The internet can be explored, with the possibility of seeing orchestras, theatre performances, and films being available online. Our gardens have had a lot more attention. And we extended Membership for an extra 6 months this year. The membership has been stable – some leaving to live elsewhere – but new members joining us too. Next year we aim to welcome more of those who are newly retired.

#### **Monthly Meetings and Group Meetings**

Throughout the year, we saw some Groups being represented at the Monthly Meeting. Members were able to talk to Group members and find out what actually went on at their meetings. Some Groups had to be closed down because finding a new Leader was not successful, but, luckily, other Groups were formed. There have been problems with parking at the Leisure Centre from time to time. There are plans to improve the carpark and extend some facilities at the Leisure Centre in 2020/21.

The concert coach trips to the Royal Centre in Nottingham have been popular, as have trips to Theatres, Films, Gardens and Stately Homes, Church Visiting and How do They Do That. We have had successful Groups - Family History, Creative Writing, Latin, Greek, Drawing, Country Dancing, Music Lovers – in fact too many Groups to mention all of them. We held a very successful New Members' Meeting and started a drop-in coffee morning. The Holiday to Northumberland was re-scheduled for next year, and it's something to look forward to. But some planned trips, and the chocolate making workshop had to be cancelled. Our first Burns Night at Trebeck Hall was a sell out event. As was the Murder, Mystery event at the Library.

#### **The future?**

Coronavirus put a stop to all our face-to-face meetings, but it did encourage some of us to explore the internet more fully. The possibility of Monthly Meetings at the Leisure Centre and Group Meetings at venues around the town – that is all uncertain. But we do look forward to being able to start up again when the time is right. In the meantime – be assured

that the committee will continue to discuss ways of keeping you all in touch. And now we are holding our AGM – a paper exercise. Hopefully we can soon pick up where we left off.

**Marjorie Bramhill**