

Chair's Annual Report

WOW! What a year! Who could have predicted this time last year we would all be in lock down, not allowed to mingle with our friends, definitely not allowed to meet with our nearest and dearest, or shop without fear of becoming seriously ill. Our General Meetings, and more importantly our Group Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. But most have rallied and formed WhatsApp groups, others keeping in touch by email. Wonderful! BDU3A Committee are continuing, (along with two co-opted members, Gwen, who will continue to plan our Speakers programme and Peter who will coordinate our Groups), to plan and work towards a reunion for all our members as soon as we are allowed to resume our normal lives. For now, Stay Safe, Stay Well.

Below please find a relatively sane report!

After a slight delay Bolsover District U3A members approved and welcomed our New Committee at an EGM in May 2019. Committee have, throughout the year, worked relentlessly to move forward and improve BDU3A.

The 18th May dawned to windy wet weather. However we were determined to carry out our plans and promoted ourselves at what became known as "The Yard Event", it was great fun and despite the dreadful weather we managed to recruit several new members.

In July we hosted the Derbyshire Network U3A picnic at Hardwick Hall and we made our mark in the Network. October we hosted the Network meeting, again we made a good impression. We can take pride in two successful events.

We have launched several new Groups this last year all have flourished and developed and continue to grow.

The behind the scenes work has been relentless.

Various policies have been adopted and some are still a work in progress.

A new Financial protocol has had to be written and put into practice.

The above three statements reflect new legislation sent to us from National Office.

We have improved membership numbers.

A new members' pack has been developed.

Then, of course, September saw us move to our new "home" at Hillstown Village Hall. There have been some slight problems, but nothing we have not been able to overcome.

Hours upon hours have been spent producing promotional material, redesigning the web pages banners and the production of wonderful news letters and other publicity material.

October brought us another unwelcome surprise. Our good friend Michelle, proprietor of the Beehive, decided she would be retiring in December. Michelle has accommodated several of our Group meetings, Committee Meetings and Coffee Mornings every month for about 3 years and although we wished her well we were left with the problem of finding "new homes" for some groups. Thanks to Rose and Sarah's hard work we accomplished what seemed impossible at the time. Most are now based at our new headquarters, Hillstown Village Hall. Others have been able to return to our old venue now known as The Coffee Cup.

A new constitution has been produced and all members should have received a copy, we asked for questions to be submitted, to date no questions have been posed. However, the constitution, although approved by National Office, requires the approval of our membership. The vote will take place when Government restrictions allow.

We have had some amazing speakers; who can forget that fabulous Butler?

Our Christmas Party was well attended and very much appreciated.

So the New Year dawned with a fabulous quiz written by Gene, it certainly got the grey cells working.

February's promo was so successful, and thank you for all the positive feedback. Everyone attending seemed to enjoy the opportunity to mingle and have a good old natter with friends.

Who would have thought our next challenge would have been something the whole world is dealing with, the dreadful Coronavirus? As I write we are still wondering, what next? I hope and pray that all our members come through this unscathed.

I want to thank every single member of BDU3A for your contribution in making us the success we are, no matter how small, what you offer matters. Our committee have worked relentlessly in our endeavours to make BDU3A one of the best, and a happy, fun organisation. A place to continue our learning, to discover new skills and to

Live Laugh and Learn

Above all else we have had great fun - Long may it continue.

Thank you for your support.

Stay Safe, Stay Well

We will be back!!!

Bev Crofts

Chair