



The Chair's Report

17th May 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope that during this period of Lockdown you are staying safe and well. Like me I am sure You too are concerned of the future of Swanland U3A and U3A in general. The epidemiological and political uncertainty of the current situation make it difficult for us to plan. I have little doubt that with so many dedicated members across the country, the U3A will eventually overcome this crisis. Until we can resume face to face meetings, we have the task to keep the U3A alive.

With the Lockdown in place, it is frustrating that we are unable to help and support our friends in need as much as we would like to. I know some of our members are visiting and shopping for our friends in isolation. On behalf of Swanland U3A I would like to thank them for their kind efforts.

I am Happy to report that despite lockdown some of our Interest Groups have managed to continue with their activities. On the other hand, many groups found it difficult to continue due to the nature of their special interests.

With the support from our Committee members, I am organising a Committee meeting on Zoom. I feel it is important for the committee to stay in touch whilst we are in lockdown. This should be an inspiration to our members whilst we remain separated. I shall update you on it in due course. We may not be able to do or achieve much but it is worth a try. I would like to report to you on our U3a activities whilst we are in lockdown. The report on the Interest Groups is based on feedback I received from the Convenors following a request I made previously. I am sorry if I have missed out on any of your feed backs.

1 Interest Groups.

- A) Creative Writing [Convenor, John Munson] This group is continuing to swap work every month on-line. The group also tried an on-line working group with Hull Truck. They have also tried Zoom meetings.
- B) Badminton. [Convenor, Ann Berriman] reported that all practice matches were cancelled until further notice due to lockdown.
- C) Photography Group 2 [Convenor Jan Webster] reported that a free photography e-mail tutorial was picked up by Alison Peck on the internet and links were forwarded to members to access this programme. John Knox posted some pictures taken whilst out and about and invited the group to follow his lead. Formal monthly meetings were cancelled.
- D) Ancient Civilizations. [Convenor, Allan Rymer] reported that the Group were carrying on despite the lockdown and all are clubbing together with their research and staying in touch.
- E) Literature Group 1 [Convenor, Pauline Dennison] reported that the group were continuing with book reading once a month. Feedback, comments and further discussions took place via e-mail.
- F) French Conversation group 1. Pauline reported that this group continued with their work via e-mail during lockdown.
- G) Latin. Pauline again reported that this group's activities were cancelled initially due to the tutor's ill health. However, as this programme was considered unsuitable to continue on-line, it was cancelled until further notice.
- H) Literature Group 2. [Convenor, Ros Billington] reported that the group were continuing with their programme via e-mail sessions and hope to complete this session of "Reading Via E-mail" in July '20.

- I) Choir Group. [Convenor, Brenda Wilson] reported that their regular practice sessions were cancelled until further notice. Previously arranged concerts at St Mary's, Cottingham [6th June], and at Sewerby Hall [18th June] were also cancelled.
- J) Wine Appreciation. [Convenor, John Peck] reported that on account of the lockdown a wine appreciation visit arranged for 14th April '20 to the Townend Cellar Door in Melton was cancelled. John kept the group engaged and entertained with a weekly wine related quiz via e-mail. Monthly meetings were cancelled until further notice.
- K) Visiting Churches. [Convenors, Hilary Johnson and Di Wordly] Both Hilary and Di, Convenors for the past 3 years were due to retire in August '20. However, their retirements were brought forward by Covid -19 related restrictions. Under their guidance ably assisted by John Barrett, we visited 30 wonderful churches across East Yorkshire. Their thorough preparation including arranging local guides made each visit a pleasure in both good weather and bad. On behalf of the group I would like to thank both Hilary and Di for their hard work and dedication. I am grateful to John Barrett for kindly taking over the role of Convenor for this group.
2. The Third Age Trust. Our U3A is kept abreast with all new developments via e-mail from the Third Age Trust. These communications were forwarded to the members when appropriate. Unfortunately, due to practical difficulties under the current circumstances, we are unable to communicate with our members by post.
3. Swanland U3A Accounts. Whilst we are in lockdown, our new Treasurer, Jim Munday has been active behind the scene overhauling the system and updating of accounts.
4. Interest Group Brochure. Following an excellent response to a request from Peter Dickinson to Convenors for details on Interest Groups, Peter and Rosi [our Newsletter Publisher] have put together a draft copy of the Interest Group Brochure. Final publication was delayed until we had resumed our fortnightly meetings.
5. Swanland U3A Group Facebook. This was set up by Keith Taylor, our enthusiastic Web Administrator. So far only 17 members have registered in this group. This is an excellent opportunity to stay connected whilst we are in lockdown. Keith had used this medium for quiz including interesting photographic quiz where members post their holiday shots with the caption "where are we"? Additionally, This platform could be used for sharing our thoughts and reflections on life in lockdown. I hope more of our members will consider joining the group and make this endeavour a success.

Finally, I wish you all good health and look forward to seeing you hopefully soon.
Meanwhile, stay safe.

Yours in u3u.
Paul. Chair