



## The Chair's Report

06th December 2020

Dear Friends,

I trust you are keeping safe and well. Unfortunately, as I write, we are in Second Lockdown with further restriction to our way of life. As I have mentioned earlier, a majority of our members are in an “at risk” category, and therefore, however tempting, we mustn’t drop our guard, and should remain vigilant at all times. I hear people say that we must get on with life regardless. This is not without consequences. We know more about Long COVID-19 and the devastation it causes to affected individuals. A recent drop in death rate from Covid-19 has raised a sense of false security. Until a safe and effective vaccine is available to all, Human Behaviour will remain the best deterrent against Covid-19. During the lockdown your committee has been working hard to keep the u3a connected and active.

**Web Site:** This is now a primary focus for communication and interaction and also for sharing your thoughts and views and photographs. A variety of pages are now on display on our web site to keep us informed and entertained. It is good to see that these initiatives are well supported by our members but our long term success will depend upon your continued support and involvement.

**‘Drop In’ for Chat on Zoom:** This weekly programme seems popular amongst some of our members. I would like to see this opportunity fully utilised by more of our members. This is an ideal opportunity to stay in touch and also to break the gloomy monotony of a dull and grey winter morning.

**Zoom Tutorials:** I am pleased to note that a number of our members have taken up this offer. This should help Convenors and Interest Group members to re-start their group activity.

**Thursday Guest Lectures:** We have successfully re-launched our Thursday afternoon Guest Lectures on Zoom. We have had 5 Zoom meetings so far with a maximum attendance of 65. A series of Guest Lectures are being planned. As in the past this is an opportunity for me as your Chair to speak to you in person and I look forward to welcoming you at these meetings. Our Committee members, John Munson and Keith Taylor, have put in an enormous amount of work in these Zoom initiatives and on behalf of the Committee I would like to record our appreciation.

**Newsletter:** June and Rosie are working on an electronic version of our newsletter. (Herewith! Editor). A copy will be posted to members who have no access to the internet. With the support from our convenors and members we hope to produce the newsletter on a regular basis. May I take this opportunity to invite members to contribute to our future editions with any item you might consider of general interest.

**Convenors’ Survey:** I am pleased to report that 52/64 convenors responded to this request to provide us with information on activity of their Interest Groups under Covid-19 restrictions. This is on the website. I would like to thank them for their co-operation and support. A detailed observation will be made available to you in due course. Finally I would like to thank our members for their support to the committee in these difficult circumstances.

Looking forward to better times ahead.  
With best wishes to you and your family.

Paul Poulouse. Chair