



Chairman's Update Letter

20th August 2020

Dear Friends,

I trust you are keeping safe and well. I would like to assure you that in these difficult and uncertain days, your Committee and Convenors are working hard to keep our U3A alive and active. After five long months of restricted life resulting in frustration from social isolation, it is tempting to challenge or even ignore the Government Health Guidelines. Sometimes we must sail against the wind a little longer. The unseen virus is still out there! Having come this far, we cannot afford to drift. We cannot heed the call of some who say it is time to furl the sail. Even though it is sad to see our economy currently in a decline; our priority should be to stay alive. Safe Distancing, Face Covering and frequent hand washing should help us see through this crisis.

In my last letter to you I reported that 10 of our Interest Groups had returned to their activities via e-mail and Zoom. I am happy to report that on account of our enthusiastic Convenors and members, this number has now increased to 20 interest groups taking part in activities via e-mail and Zoom. This constitutes a third of our Interest Groups back in action. Well Done to those groups!

As face to face meetings indoor in large numbers are not practicable under current Health Guidelines, the Committee have decided to organise these meetings on Zoom. You would have received notification of two excellent speakers who have kindly agreed to share their experiences with us.

The first talk on 27th August '20 will be delivered by Liana Hill, daughter of our Hon: Treasurer, Jim Munday, who will share her experience with us as a Forensic Nurse in the United States.

The second talk on 3rd September will be delivered by the Community banker Amanda Smith from Nat West, on "How to keep us safe from Fraud and Scam". For a detailed biography of our speakers please visit our website. A lot of hard work have gone into organising these Zoom Talks and I do hope that you will be able to support your U3A by joining us at these meetings. Both meetings will start at 2.00 pm.

I am grateful to John Munson and Keith Taylor for their efforts in making this possible. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, please don't let this put you off. John and Keith are happy to offer you help and advice and their contact details are as follows.

John Munson. e-mail: john_munson@hotmail.co.uk Mob no: 07871826476

Keith Taylor. e-mail: swanlandu3awebmaster@gmail.com Mob no: 07989896204

You will have received notification of our re-scheduled Annual General Meeting by Zoom on 17th September '20 at 2.00 pm. As I wrote you, it is our obligation to hold this general meeting annually and I do hope that you will make the effort to attend.

More than at any other time, the future of Swanland U3A as we have known it, lies in our hands. It is up to us to rise to the occasion and show our loyalty and dedication to our U3A. The rewards of U3A are laid bare by our experiences in these last few weeks. I have little doubt that in good times and bad we need the support from a flourishing U3A to take us through our years.

I look forward to seeing you at the Thursday afternoon talks and at the forthcoming Annual General meeting. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

With Best Wishes to you and your family

Paul, Chair